

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon or a hymn

Stand

**Behold, our Lord will come with power,
to enlighten the eyes of his servants, alleluia.**

All make the Sign of the Cross as the Priest says:
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Priest greets everyone present.
The people respond:
And with your spirit.

*The Priest gives an introduction using these or
similar words:*

Dear brethren (brothers and sisters),
forty days have passed since we celebrated
the joyful feast
of the Nativity of the Lord.
Today is the blessed day
when Jesus was presented in the Temple by
Mary and Joseph.
Outwardly he was fulfilling the Law,
but in reality he was coming to meet his
believing people.
Prompted by the Holy Spirit,
Simeon and Anna came to the Temple.
Enlightened by the same Spirit,
they recognized the Lord
and confessed him with exultation.
So let us also, gathered together by the Holy Spirit,
proceed to the house of God to encounter Christ.
There we shall find him
and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,
until he comes again, revealed in glory.

The Priest blesses the candles and the people

Reply: Amen

*Then the Priest receives the lighted candle and
the procession begins, with the Deacon, or the
Priest, announcing:*

Let us go in peace to meet the Lord.

*The procession begins, during which the
following or another appropriate chant is sung:*

Antiphon:

**A light for revelation to the Gentiles
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace,
In accordance with your word.

Ant. **A light for revelation**

For my eyes have seen your salvation.

Ant. **A light for revelation**

Which you have prepared in the sight of all peoples.

Ant. **A light for revelation**

Entrance Antiphon or a hymn *Stand*

Cf. Ps 47:10-11

Your merciful love, O God,

we have received in the midst of your temple.

Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth;

your right hand is filled with saving justice.

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,

we bless you,

we adore you,

we glorify you,

we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father,

have mercy on us.

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
we humbly implore your majesty
that, just as your Only Begotten Son
was presented on this day in the Temple
in the substance of our flesh,
so, by your grace,
we may be presented to you with minds made pure.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the Prophet Malachi.

Malachi 3:1-4

Thus says the LORD God: Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his Temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and /23-refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Sit

Psalm

Psalm 24(23):7. 8. 9. 10. R.10bc

R. The LORD of hosts, he is the king of glory!

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors.
let him enter, the king of glory!

R.

Who is this king of glory?
The LORD, the mighty, the valiant;
the LORD, the valiant in war.

R.

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

R.

Who is this king of glory?
He, the LORD of hosts,
he is the king of glory.

R.

Second Reading

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Hebrews 2:14-

18

Since the children share in flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Acclamation, before the Gospel

Stand

Alleluia, alleluia.

Luke 2:32

**A light for revelation for the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.**

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord') and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves, or two young pigeons.' Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the Temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, 'Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.'

And his father and his mother marvelled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed - and a sword will pierce through your own soul also - so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.'

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the Temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of THE CHILD to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned

into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favour of God was upon him. The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Homily

Sit

The Nicene Creed

Stand

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of
the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

All bow

The Prayer of the Faithful

Response example: Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

After the concluding prayer all say: Amen.

Sit

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The offerings are brought to the altar.

A hymn may be sung.

If the Priest says the two prayers of offering aloud, the response both times is:

Blessed be God for ever.

The people rise as the Priest says:

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father

The people reply:

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice
at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

May the offerings made with exultation by your
Church
be pleasing to you, O Lord we pray,
for you willed that your Only Begotten Son
be offered to you for the life of the world
as the Lamb without blemish.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

*The Priest continues with the Preface and
concludes with the people, singing or saying
aloud:*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of
the Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Kneel

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues until the
priest says:*

The mystery of faith.

*And the people continue acclaiming one of
the following:*

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

Or:

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.**

Or:

**Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.**

*The Priest concludes the Eucharistic Prayer
saying alone:*

Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
for ever and ever.

The people acclaim: Amen.

The Communion Rite

Stand

The Priest invites all to join in the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

The Priest continues alone:

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

**For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

The Priest says:

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And with your spirit.

The Deacon, or the Priest, adds:

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

The Priest takes the host and breaks it.

Meanwhile the people say or sing:

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

Kneel

The Priest shows the host to the people and says:

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper
of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

The Priest or other minister says to each communicant

The Body [Blood] of Christ.

Each communicant answers: Amen.

Communion Antiphon

Lk 2:30-31

**My eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.**

*After the distribution of the Holy Communion a
sacred silence may be observed or a psalm,
hymn or canticle of praise may be sung.*

Prayer after Communion

Stand

By these holy gifts which we have received,
O Lord,
bring your grace to perfection within us,
and, as you fulfilled Simeon's expectation
that he would not see death
until he had been privileged to welcome the
Christ,
so may we, going forth to meet the Lord,
obtain the gift of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Announcements may be made.

Then:

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and
remain with you for ever.

Amen.

Then the Deacon, or the Priest, says:

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

Or:

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

Or

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

Or

Go in peace.

Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia