

Order for Liturgy of the Word

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Entrance Antiphon: Leader

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia. Cf. Ps 33 (32): 5-6

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Sisters and Brothers, God invites us to hear his Word. Let us bless him for his goodness. Blessed be God forever. **Response:** Blessed be God forever.

Introduction: Leader

We gather today to celebrate the Lord's Day. One with our sisters and brothers and with the entire Church, we will listen to God's Word and join in prayer. As we prepare to hear of God's love in Christ, let us acknowledge that the Lord is the source of pardon and strength.

All: *The Confiteor*

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace to men 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 the 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.

Leader: Let us pray

Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

For today's scriptural readings go to: usccb.org or cut and paste:

<http://cms.usccb.org/calendar/index.cfm?showLit=1&action=month>

First reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second reading

Gospel acclamation:

R. Alleluia, alleluia

I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel proclamation

All—Profession of Faith:

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 accord-
ance 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.

Prayers of the Faithful—Leader

Introduction: From our inner rooms we lift up our prayers:

Intentions: For the Church: that we may live as God's chosen people and follow Jesus who is our Way, our Truth, and our Life; we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all mothers and those who have shown a mother's love: that God will watch over them, bless them, and fill their hearts with peace; we pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who serve the poor and marginalized: that God will strengthen their resolve to continue to reach out to those in need; we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who are burdened by worry, anxiety, and restlessness: may they find in Jesus hope, freedom, direction, and courage; we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sick: may they remember that Jesus always reached out to them and is with them now and so find strength in their suffering; and may those who have died - be carried home where Jesus has prepared a place for them and rest in his never ending peace; we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayer: Father, work through your Church so that the nations of the world may see the salvation you have offered to all people through your Son, Jesus Christ; for this and all the prayers we have offered, we ask through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Leader: Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:

All: 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.

Leader: In the love of Christ, let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Leader: Communion Antiphon: I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

All—Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Leader: Prayer After Communion

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those who you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord. **Response:** Amen.

Blessing—making the sign of the cross:

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us, and bring us to everlasting life.

Response: Amen.

Leader: Let us go in peace, alleluia, alleluia.

Response: Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

In the makeup of the human person there is always the progression or movement from idea to action, from charism to structure, from spirit to flesh. A group might get together with an idea or because of an interior sense of need. This shores up the reality that human beings need some kind of form, some rules, some ways of proceeding. The early Christian community, inspired at Pentecost, felt unified, fortified, and eager to continue Christ's mission but also recognized the need to organize in order to effectively evangelize. What we hear in today's first reading from Acts is the beginning of organization or structure. The early apostles prayed devotedly and had communal gatherings to "break bread." But there arose a pastoral problem. Things were held in common but the Greek Jews, the "Hellenists," observed that their needy ones were not getting as much as the needy ones of the Hebrew Jews; there was an inequality in distribution. We hear in today's first reading the solution to this problem: seven Hellenists were chosen to meet the increasing need. As often has happened in the history of the Church, a pastoral problem required some reflection and discussion resulting in a pastoral response.

The reading ends with a description of a kind of liturgy or ceremony of ordaining persons for specific tasks. Their labors for the poor and neglected resulted in the community's growth, structurally and communally, because of their care for the needy.

We will be listening over the next few weeks to verses from the Gospel of John and from what is called, "The Last Discourse." On Holy Thursday we heard from this section which begins with the washing of the feet. These nine chapters are known as the "Book of Glory," because in John's Gospel the death and Resurrection of Jesus are the final and greatest display of God's love for us in and through Jesus.

Jesus begins the four chapter discourse with the consoling words of today's Gospel reading. In the previous chapter Jesus had announced that he was leaving his disciples but they could not follow him. And, if that were not enough, when Peter boasted that he would lay down his life for Jesus, he—Peter—heard the words about his yet-to-occur betrayal of Jesus. What we hear today is the very next verse, "Do not be troubled . . ." Imagine hearing those two verses together. A prediction of betrayal precedes these verses we hear in the Gospel, that it is not very easy to believe.

Many people find reading John's Gospel confusing with all the "who's who" and "Mine are yours" passages. It does take some pondering and study for sure but there are some wonderful images and in today's passage we hear one of them—God's "house". Jesus is going to make a place for his believing followers. Those who have entered through the "gate" of baptism (4th Sunday of Easter) and believe that he is "sent" into this world as the "way, the truth and the life" will find room in the eternal home.

In the previous chapter as well, Jesus encouraged them to "love one another" as he will do in the next chapter. Making room for each other will be a continuing sign of what God's love means. In short, Jesus tells Philip, and us, that to have seen the roominess of the love of Jesus, even for his betrayers, is to have seen the expansive person of the commodious God.

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

[Psalm 33](#)

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