

Christ prayed in the Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is the source of the prayer and praise of the whole Church. The Spirit of God is resting on us as we offer this sacrifice of praise today.



I know some people whose work is never finished. They always seem to have something more to do – more tidying the house, more cleaning, more office work to be brought home. Sometimes we long for

the day St John Newman talks of: 'when our work is done'. Jesus was something like that. He says that 'the work you gave me is finished', and ascended to heaven. The gospel around Ascension time shows that it is not finished. He will be with us all days, still helping, consoling and the centre of our faith community.

Another sign of the unfinished work is that he prays for us: he will pray for his apostles and later for all those who will believe through their work. We are constantly in his thoughts and prayers, the one who is our lifelong companion. The apostles prayed after his going to his Father with Mary and several others.

Prayer is a work of Jesus now, and of the church. In bad times we have turned to prayer in confusion while we struggle to stay on the path of trusting in God. As we await the coming of the Spirit, we value prayer, the gift of the Spirit to us. If we have taught anyone to pray, or helped them to pray, we have given a great gift, as prayer is one of the sources of life of God and our neighbour.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger

NICENE CREED

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,

All bow for following three lines: 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.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters,

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.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.

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

CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Go in peace,

Thanks be to God.



1. The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; before whom shall I shrink? [R]

2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord, to behold his temple. [R]

3. O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer.
Of you my heart has spoken; 'Seek his face.' [R]

SECOND READING 1 Peter 4:13-16

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

If you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed. It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ, because it means that you have the Spirit of glory, the Spirit of God resting on you. None of you should ever deserve to suffer for being a murderer, a thief, a criminal or an informer; but if anyone of you should suffer for being a Christian, then he is not to be ashamed of it; he should thank God that he has been called one.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 17:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

'Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you; and, through the power over all mankind that you have given him, let him give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him. And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do. Now, Father, it is time for you to glorify me with that glory I had with you before ever the world was. I have made your name known to the men you took from the world to give me. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now at last they know that all you have given me comes indeed from you; for I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have truly accepted this, that I came from you, and have believed that it was you who sent me. I pray for them; I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they belong to you: all I have is yours and all you have is mine, and in them I am glorified. I am not in the world any longer, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face; hide not your face from me, alleluia.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to the Father: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you have given us the consolation of the truth: Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd, leading us into everlasting life: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us..... Amen.

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.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 1:12-14

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

After Jesus was taken up into heaven, the apostles went back from the Mount of Olives, as it is called, to Jerusalem, a short distance away, no more than a sabbath walk; and when they reached the city they went to the upper room where they were staying; there were Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of James. All these joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 26:1, 4, 7-8

R. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

or Alleluia!

