STAND

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON ***Cf. Is 66: 10-11***

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Entrance Hymn

R: *The light of Christ has come into the world,*
The light of Christ has come into the world.

We all must be born again
to see the kingdom of God;
the water and the spirit
bring new life in God's love. (R)

God gave up his only Son
out of love for the world
so that ev'ryone who believes in him
will live for ever. (R)

The Light of God has come to us
so that we might have salvation,
from the darkness of our sins, we
walk into glory with Christ Jesus.

Priest: In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And with your spirit.

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,
Striking your breast as you say:
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 absolution by the Priest follows:

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins
and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**
Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Fourth Sunday of Lent

COLLECT

O God, who through your Word
reconcile the human race to yourself
in a wonderful way, grant, we pray,
that with prompt devotion and eager
faith the Christian people may hasten
toward the solemn celebrations to come.
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.

The Liturgy of the Word

SIT

FIRST READING ***36:14-16.19-23***

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, the laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no futher remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, "Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation."

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: "Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia. 'The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM ***Ps136.R.v.6***

R. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

1. By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps. **R.**

2. For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
"Sing to us," they said,
"one of Zion's songs." **R.**

3. O how could we sing
the song of the Lord on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! **R.**

4. O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem,
above all my joys! **R.**

SECOND READING ***2:4-10***

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ — it is through grace that you have been saved — and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

STAND

ACCLAMATION ***Jn3:16***

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ:
God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son;
everyone who believes in him
has eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

GOSPEL ***3:14-21***

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy
Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:
The Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.
Yes, God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost
but may have eternal life.
For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be saved.
No one who believes in him will be condemned;
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,
because he has refused to believe
in the name of God's only Son.
On these grounds is sentence pronounced:
that though the light has come into the world
men have shown they prefer
darkness to the light
because their deeds were evil.
And indeed, everybody who does wrong
hates the light and avoids it,
for fear his actions should be exposed;
but the man who lives by the truth
comes out into the light,
so that it may be plainly seen that
what he does is done in God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

STAND

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,**
(All bow during the next 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.**

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

SIT

Raising the host, the priest says:

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands,
it will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.

The priest pours wine and a little water into the chalice, saying quietly:

By the mystery of this water and wine
may we come to share in the divinity
of Christ,
who humbled himself to share in our
humanity.

Raising the chalice, the priest says:

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all
creation, for through your goodness
we have received the wine we offer
you: fruit of the vine and work of
human hands,
it will become our spiritual drink.
Blessed be God for ever.

Bowing the priest says quietly:

With humble spirit and contrite heart
may we be accepted by you, O Lord,
and may our sacrifice in your sight this
day be pleasing to you, O Lord.

Then the priest washes his hands, saying quietly:

Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity;
and cleanse me from my sin.

STAND

Facing the people the priest says:

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

**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

We place before you with joy these
offerings, which bring eternal remedy,
O Lord, praying that we may both
faithfully revere them
and present them to you, as is fitting,
for the salvation of all the world.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PREFACE: II of Lent
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II

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.

It is truly right and just, our duty and
our salvation, always and everywhere
to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and
eternal God.
For you have given your children a
sacred time for the renewing and
purifying of their hearts,
that, freed from disordered affections,
they may so deal with the things of
this passing world as to hold rather to
the things that eternally endure.

And so, with all the Angels and
Saints,
we praise you, as without end we
acclaim:

**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

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,
the fount of all holiness.

The Priest joins his hands and, holding them extended over the offerings, says:

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we
pray, by sending down your Spirit
upon them like the dewfall, so that
they may become for us the Body ✠
and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed
and entered willingly into his Passion,
he took bread and, giving thanks,
broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT
OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was
ended, he took the chalice
and, once more giving thanks,
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND
DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY
BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND
ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR
YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith

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

Then the Priest, with hands extended, says:

Therefore, as we celebrate the
memorial of his Death and
Resurrection,
we offer you, Lord,
the Bread of life and the Chalice of
salvation,
giving thanks that you have held us
worthy to be in your presence and
minister to you.

Humbly we pray
that, partaking of the Body and Blood
of Christ, we may be gathered into
one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church,
spread throughout the world,
and bring her to the fullness of charity,
together with Francis, our Pope, N.
our Bishop, his assistant Bishop(s),
and all the clergy.
Remember also our brothers and
sisters who have fallen asleep in the
hope of the resurrection,
and all who have died in your mercy:
welcome them into the light of your
face.
Have mercy on us all, we pray,
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of God, with blessed Joseph,
her Spouse, with the blessed Apostles
and with all the Saints who have
pleased you throughout the ages,
we may merit to be coheirs to eternal
life,
and may praise and glorify you
through your Son, Jesus Christ.

The Priest takes the chalice and the paten with the host and, elevating both, he says:

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.
Amen.

Communion Rite

STAND

At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:
Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

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.

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 priest may add these or similar words.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

The priest places a small piece of the host in the chalice saying quietly:

May this mingling of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
bring eternal life to us who receive it.

Meanwhile the people sing or say:

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 says quietly:

May the receiving of your Body and Blood,
Lord Jesus Christ,
not bring me to judgement and condemnation,
but through your loving mercy
be for me protection in mind and
body, and a healing remedy.

Raising the host the priest 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.

And together with the people he says once:

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

May the Body of Christ
keep me safe for eternal life.

The Priest reverently consumes the Body of Christ.
Then he takes the chalice and says quietly:

May the Blood of Christ
keep me safe for eternal life.

The Priest raises a host slightly and shows it to each of the communicants, saying:

The Body of Christ.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Cf. Jn 9: 11, 38

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

Communion Hymn

I am the Bread of life;
You who come to me shall not hunger;
and who believe in me shall not thirst.
No-one can come to me unless the Father draw him.

R: *And I will raise you up,*
and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.

The bread that I will give
is my flesh for the life of the world,
and if you eat of this bread,
you shall live forever,
you shall live forever. ***R.***

I am the Resurrection, I am the Life,
If you believe in me,
even though you die,
you shall live forever. ***R.***

Yes, Lord, I believe
that you are the Christ,
the Son of God
who have come into the world. ***R.***

Private Prayer after Communion

My Jesus, I adore you present in my soul.
Your being with me is the greatest proof I have that the Father loves me.
You have come to me not to condemn me, but to save me and bring me to life with you.
I thank you with all my heart.
My Jesus, I believe in you: I thank you for the gift of faith.
That I have the faith is not my own doing, but the result of your great love and mercy.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

STAND

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world,
illuminate our hearts, we pray,
with the splendour of your grace,
that we may always ponder
what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Concluding Rites

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

Bow head for the blessing – short silence

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Look upon those who call to you, O Lord, and sustain the weak;
give life by your unfailing light
to those who walk in the shadow of death, and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil to reach the highest good.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn

How lovely on the mountains
are the feet of him
who brings good news, good news,
announcing peace,
proclaiming news of happiness:
Our God reigns, Our God reigns.
Our God reigns, Our God reigns.
Our God reigns, Our God reigns.

Ends of the earth, see
the salvation of our God!
Jesus is Lord, is Lord!
Before the nations,
he has bared his holy arm.
Our God reigns, Our God reigns.
Our God reigns, Our God reigns.
Our God reigns, Our God reigns.

Imprimi Potest: Concordat Cum Originali: ✠ Most Rev. Bishop of Down and Connor. Nihil Obstat: Excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy corporation. Origination and printing by Shanway Press; email: info@shanway.com T: 028 90 222 070