

MASS

Third Sunday of Easter

In the face of Peter's triple denial of him, the risen Jesus three times asks Peter, "Do you love me?" No amount of personal evil or sin can eradicate from Peter's heart the awareness of the fact that he does love Jesus. Peter was made for this love, and nothing can make him forget it. When Peter tells the Sanhedrin, "Obedience to God comes before obedience to men," he means that he must obey the infallible truth that rules and directs his own heart. The "honour, glory, and power" that the slain Lamb is worthy to receive is this confidence in his love, in spite of our betrayals and the misery they cause.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 65:1-2

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

GLORIA

page 210

COLLECT

May your people exult for ever, O God,
in renewed youthfulness of spirit,
so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our
adoption,
we may look forward in confident hope
to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.
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.

• *We are witnesses of all this, we and the Holy Spirit.* •

A reading from
the Acts of the Apostles

5:27-32, 40b-41

THE HIGH PRIEST demanded an explanation of the Apostles. "We gave you a formal warning", he said, "not

to preach in this name, and what have you done? You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and seem determined to fix the guilt of this man's death on us." In reply Peter and the Apostles said, "Obedience to God comes before obedience to men; it was the God of our ancestors who raised up Jesus, but it was you who had him executed by hanging on a tree. By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins through him to Israel. We are witnesses to all this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him." And they had the Apostles called in, gave orders for them to be flogged, warned them not to speak in the name of Jesus and released them. And so they left the presence of the Sanhedrin glad to have had the honour of suffering humiliation for the sake of the name,
The word of the Lord.

—• PSALM 29 •—

℟ (2a) I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.

Or: Alleluia!

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead,
restored me to life from those who sink into the
grave. ℟

Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him,
give thanks to his holy name.
His anger lasts a moment; his favour all through life.
At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn. ℟

The Lord listened and had pity.

The Lord came to my help.
For me you have changed my mourning into dancing:
O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever. ℟

• *The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given riches and power.* •

A reading from
the Book of Apocalypse

5:11-14

IN MY VISION, I, John, heard the sound of an immense number of angels gathered round the throne and the animals and the elders; there were ten thousand times ten thousand of them and thousands upon thousands, shouting, "The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory, and blessing." Then I heard all the living things in creation—everything that lives in the air, and on the ground, and under the ground, and in the sea, crying, "To the One who is sitting on the throne and to the Lamb, be all praise, honour, glory, and power, for ever and ever." And the four animals said, "Amen"; and the elders prostrated themselves to worship.

The word of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, explain the Scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us. Alleluia!

• *Jesus stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish.* •

A reading from
the holy Gospel according to John

21:1-19

[For the shorter form (21:1-14), omit the text in brackets.]

JESUS SHOWED HIMSELF again to the disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in

Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, "I'm going fishing." They replied, "We'll come with you." They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night.

It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, "Have you caught anything, friends?" And when they answered, "No," he said, "Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something." So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in. The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." At these words, "It is the Lord," Simon Peter, who had practically nothing on, wrapped his cloak round him and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net and the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land.

As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread there, and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, "Who are you?"; they knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead.

[After the meal Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?" He answered, "Yes Lord, you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He replied, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you." Jesus said to

him, "Look after my sheep." Then he said to him a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was upset that he asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" and said, "Lord, you know everything; you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. "I tell you most solemnly, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go." In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, "Follow me."]

The Gospel of the Lord.

CREDO _____ page 212

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, we pray,
these offerings of your exultant Church,
and, as you have given her cause for such great
gladness,
grant also that the gifts we bring
may bear fruit in perpetual happiness.
Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE I-V OF EASTER _____ pages 215 to 217

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Lk 24:35

The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

Optional for Year C:

Cf. Jn 21:12-13

Jesus said to his disciples: Come and eat. And he took bread and gave it to them, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord,
and grant, we pray,
that those you were pleased to renew by eternal
mysteries

may attain in their flesh
the incorruptible glory of the resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.

SOLEMN BLESSING (OPTIONAL)

May God, who by the Resurrection of his Only
Begotten Son
was pleased to confer on you
the gift of redemption and of adoption,
give you gladness by his blessing.
℟ Amen.

May he, by whose redeeming work
you have received the gift of everlasting freedom,
make you heirs to an eternal inheritance.
℟ Amen.

And may you, who have already risen with Christ
in Baptism through faith,
by living in a right manner on this earth,
be united with him in the homeland of heaven.
℟ 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.

• MEDITATION OF THE DAY •

"Do you love me?"

Here is the Lord, again appearing to the disciples after the Resurrection, and questioning the Apostle Peter; and he obliges him three times to confess his love, because three times he had denied him through fear. Christ rose again in the flesh, and Peter in the spirit; because when Christ died in his Passion, Peter died by his denial. Christ the Lord was raised from the dead; out of his love he raised Peter. He questioned him about the love he was confessing, and entrusted him with

joy is this voice which brings us to life. Like the converts whom Paul and Barnabas urged "to remain faithful to the grace God had given them", our happiness depends on our fidelity to the grace that keeps us sensitive, aware, and disposed to the tender voice of the Shepherd. For this Shepherd is also the Lamb who wipes every tear from our eyes.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 32:5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

GLORIA

page 210

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

• We must turn to the pagans. •

A reading from
the Acts of the Apostles

13:14, 43-52

PAUL AND BARNABAS carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats. When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas, urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and

Barnabas spoke out boldly. "We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said: I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth." It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.
The word of the Lord.

—• PSALM 99 •—

℟ (3c) We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Or: Alleluia!

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing for joy. ℟

Know that he, the Lord, is God.

He made us, we belong to him,

we are his people, the sheep of his flock. ℟

Indeed, how good is the Lord,

eternal his merciful love.

He is faithful from age to age. ℟

- *The Lamb will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.* •

A reading from
the Book of the Apocalypse

7:9, 14b-17

I, JOHN, SAW a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said, "These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes."

The Word of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia!

- *I give eternal life to the sheep that belong to me.* •

A reading from
the holy Gospel according to John

10:27-30

JESUS SAID: "THE sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life; they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from me. The Father who gave them to me

is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father. The Father and I are one."
The Gospel of the Lord.

CREDO ————— page 212

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that we may always find delight in these paschal
mysteries,
so that the renewal constantly at work within us
may be the cause of our unending joy.
Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE I-V OF EASTER ————— pages 215 to 217

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd,
and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures
the sheep you have redeemed
by the Precious Blood of your Son.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

A formula of Solemn Blessing (page 81) may be used.

• ————— •
MEDITATION OF THE DAY
• ————— •

Hearing the Voice of the Good Shepherd

The shepherd is everything to his flock; their life, their sustenance, and their care is entirely in his hands, and if the shepherd is good, they will have nothing to fear under his protection, and they will want for nothing.

Jesus is preeminently the Good Shepherd: He not only loves, feeds, and guards his sheep, but he also gives them life at the cost of his own. In the mystery of the Incarnation, the Son of God comes to earth in search of

strength. The second is this: *You must love your neighbour as yourself.* There is no commandment greater than these.

If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

(Jn 15:10)

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (Text, back cover B)

By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples. (Jn 13:35)

INTERCESSIONS

God is love; to Christ we pray:

☩ Show us the path we should choose!

You are the way:

- lead us in your ways today and throughout the coming week. ☩

You are the truth:

- let truth be our guide in every conversation. ☩

You are the life:

- teach us to live according to your love. ☩

Personal intentions

Our Father....

God of mercy and of truth, you sent your only Son to lead us on the way to fullness of life. Through the mystery of his Death and Resurrection, transform our hearts from disobedience to discipleship, and from self-centredness to love, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

MASS

Fifth Sunday of Easter

At the Last Supper, Jesus tells the Eleven: "As I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples." For this kind of love would remain impossible for human beings if it were not for the love of Jesus Christ. The fact that we can and do love each other in such an incomparable way moves others to believe in Christ. Through this communion of love "God lives among men." This is how Paul and Barnabas "put fresh heart into the disciples".

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 97:1-2
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.

GLORIA _____ page 210

COLLECT

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.

• They gave an account to the church of all that God had done with them. •

A reading from
the Acts of the Apostles

14:21-27

PAUL AND BARNABAS went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the

disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. "We all have to experience many hardships", they said, "before we enter the kingdom of God." In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.
The word of the Lord.

—• PSALM 144 •—

R (cf. 1) I will bless your name for ever,
O God my King.

Or: Alleluia!

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. *R*

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God,
to make known to men your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendour of your reign. *R*

Yours is an everlasting kingdom;
your rule lasts from age to age. *R*

• God will wipe every tear from their eyes. •

A reading from
the Book of the Apocalypse

21:1-5a

I, JOHN, SAW a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, "You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make *his home among them; they shall be his people*, and he will be their God; his name is *God-with-them*. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone."

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: "Now I am making the whole of creation new."
The word of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another just as I have loved you, says the Lord.
Alleluia!

• I give you a new commandment: love one another. •

A reading from
the holy Gospel according to John

13:31-33a, 34-35

WHEN JUDAS HAD gone Jesus said: "Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified. If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon. "My little children, I shall not be with you much longer. You will look for me, And, as I told the Jews,

where I am going, you cannot come. I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord.

CREDO _____ page 212

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, we pray, that, as we have come to know your truth, we may make it ours by a worthy way of life. Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE I-V OF EASTER _____ pages 215 to 217

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Jn 15:1, 5
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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

A formula of Solemn Blessing (page 81) may be used.

• _____ •
MEDITATION OF THE DAY
• _____ •

The Commandment of Love

If you don't have love for one another, then how can you love Christ? How can they see Jesus in you? That's

why we need a clean heart, to see Jesus. Love one another. That's all Jesus came to teach us. The whole Gospel is very, very simple. Do you love me? Obey my commandments. He's turning and twisting just to get around to one thing: love one another. He wants us to be really, really loving....

Intense love does not measure; it just gives. To be an apostle of the Sacred Heart, one must be burning with love, intense love for your neighbour....

These words of Jesus, *Love one another, just as I have loved you*, should be not only a light to us, but they should also be a flame consuming the selfishness which prevents the growth of holiness. Jesus *loved us to the end*, to the very limit of love: the cross. This love must come from within, from our union with Christ. It must be an outpouring of our love for God, in one family, a family with the common Father, who is in heaven. Loving must be as normal to us as living and breathing, day after day until our death.

SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Saint Teresa of Calcutta († 1997) founded the Missionaries of Charity and won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Prayer for the Evening

*We adore you, O Lord,
and we praise you, alleluia!*

Glory be to the Father.... Alleluia!

HYMN

Metre: LM

Suggested tune: *I Know that my Redeemer Lives*

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

A reading from
the Acts of the Apostles

15:1-2, 22-29

SOME MEN HAD came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, "Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved." This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them:

"The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us; and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols; from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell."

The word of the Lord.

—• PSALM 66 •—

℟ (4) Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Or: Alleluia!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. ℞

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. ℞

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. ℞

• He showed me the holy city coming down out of
heaven. •

A reading from
the Book of the Apocalypse

21:10-14, 22-23

IN THE SPIRIT, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel of crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The

city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve Apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

The word of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: "If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him." Alleluia!

• *The Holy Spirit will remind you of all I have said to you.* •

A reading from
the holy Gospel according to John 14:23-29

JESUS SAID TO his disciples:
"If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own: it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return. If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, for the Father

is greater than I. I have told you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe."
The Gospel of the Lord.

CREDO _____ page 212

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord,
together with the sacrificial offerings,
so that, purified by your graciousness,
we may be conformed to the mysteries of your
mighty love.

Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE I-V OF EASTER _____ pages 215 to 217

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Jn 14:15-16
If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and
I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete,
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty ever-living God,
who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection
of Christ,
increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal
Sacrament
and pour into our hearts the strength of this
saving food.
Through Christ our Lord.

A formula of Solemn Blessing (page 81), may be used.

• _____ •
MEDITATION OF THE DAY
• _____ •

"My own peace I give you"

It is not rare in the spiritual life to see souls who are trying generously to advance in virtue fall—by reason of their desire to cultivate a delicate conscience and to avoid all deliberate venial sin—into the extremity of

COLLECT

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God,
and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving,
for the Ascension of Christ your Son
is our exaltation,
and, where the Head has gone before in glory,
the Body is called to follow in hope.
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.

Or:

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that we, who believe that your Only Begotten Son,
our Redeemer,
ascended this day to the heavens,
may in spirit dwell already in heavenly realms.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

• *He was lifted up while they looked on.* •

A reading from
the Acts of the Apostles

1:1-11

IN MY EARLIER work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the Apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. "It is," he had said, "what you have heard me speak about: John

baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."

Now having met together, they asked him, "Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth." As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, "Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there."
The word of the Lord.

—• PSALM 46 •—

R. (6) God goes up with shouts of joy
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

Or: Alleluia!

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. *R.*

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. *R.*

God is king of all the earth,
sing praise with all your skill.

God is king over the nations;
 God reigns on his holy throne. ☩

• *He made him sit at his right hand in heaven.* •

A reading from
 the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians 1:17-23

MAY THE GOD of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named not only in this age but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.
The word of the Lord.

Or:

• *Christ entered into heaven itself.* •

A reading from
 the Letter to the Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23

IT IS NOT as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have

to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

In other words, brothers, through the blood of Jesus we have the right to enter the sanctuary, by a new way which he has opened for us, a living opening through the curtain, that is to say, his body. And we have the supreme high priest over all the house of God. So as we go in, let us be sincere in heart and filled with faith, our minds sprinkled and free from any trace of bad conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us keep firm in the hope we profess, because the one who made the promise is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Go, make disciples of all the nations; I am with you always; yes, to the end of time. Alleluia!

• *As he blessed them he was carried up to heaven.* •

A reading from the conclusion of
 the holy Gospel according to Luke 24:46-53

JESUS SAID TO his disciples: "You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

"And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high." Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.
The Gospel of the Lord.

CREDO _____ page 212

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord, to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son: grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms.
Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE I OR II

OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD _____ pages 217 to 218

When the Roman Canon is used, the proper form of the Communicantes (In communion with those) is said.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia. Mt 28:20

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty ever-living God, who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries, grant, we pray, that Christian hope may draw us onward to where our nature is united with you.
Through Christ our Lord.

SOLEMN BLESSING (optional)

May almighty God bless you,
for on this very day his Only Begotten Son

pierced the heights of heaven and unlocked for you the way to ascend to where he is.

R. Amen.

May he grant that, as Christ after his Resurrection was seen plainly by his disciples, so when he comes as Judge he may show himself merciful to you for all eternity.

R. Amen.

And may you, who believe he is seated with the Father in his majesty, know with joy the fulfilment of his promise to stay with you until the end of time.

R. 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.

R. Amen.

Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter

In regions where the Solemnity of the Ascension occurs on the following Sunday.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 67:8-9, 20

O God, when you went forth before your people, marching with them and living among them, the earth trembled, heavens poured down rain, alleluia.

COLLECT

O God, who made your people partakers in your redemption, grant, we pray, that we may perpetually render thanks for the Resurrection of the Lord.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.