

**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.

**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.

**COLLECT**

Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord,  
so that we, who believe that the Saviour of  
the human race  
is with you in your glory,  
may experience, as he promised,  
until the end of the world,  
his abiding presence among us.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**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 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.

**PSALM**

Psalm 26

Response:

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land or the living.  
or  
Alleluia!

- 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.)
- 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.)

- 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 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 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 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 coming to you."

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

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
*(all bow during the next two lines)*

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the  
Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living  
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.  
Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful  
with the sacrificial offerings,  
that through these acts of devotedness  
we may pass over the glory of heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Father, I pray that they may be one  
as we are also one, alleluia.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Hear us, O God our Saviour,  
and grant us confidence,  
that through these sacred mysteries  
there will be accomplished in the body of the  
whole Church  
what has already come to pass in Christ her  
Head.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**THE WORD**

On this Sunday between the feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost, the Church puts before us the final prayer of Jesus from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus is aware that his departure is imminent, as his first words are, "Father, the hour has come". His leaving the disciples will be by way of the cross, but this is the means by which he and the Father will be glorified. For John, all the aspects of the paschal mystery take place at the crucifixion, and the crucial meaning of the resurrection is not that Jesus comes back to life (as Lazarus did), but that his existence is radically transformed and glorified.

Jesus' work of revealing God is nearing its end. He prays for his disciples, that God will be a Father to them and care for them in the midst of a hostile world. He has made known God's name, that is, all that can be known about God: it is this which makes possible the gift of eternal life. He asks that they be kept in the Father's name and so experience the unity that Jesus and the Father enjoy. Jesus' prayer ends with his declaration that he is returning to the Father, which is the meaning of the ascension, but there is still the final act of the paschal (or Easter) mystery to come – the sending of the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete. ■

**LEARN**

For John, the Fourth Evangelist, eternal life consists in knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent.

No one has to believe in any particular apparition of a supernatural figure.

In biblical thought, to know the name of a person is somehow to have access to that person's deepest being: hence the name of God YHWH is never pronounced in the Hebrew Bible.

**DO**

Look up at the sky: then look at a crowded street; where do you think Jesus is more likely to be found today?

**SAY**

Eternal life is this:  
to know you, the only  
true God, and Jesus  
Christ, whom you  
have sent

(John 17:3)

**REFLECT**

In the Gospel passage, Jesus says that he has made God's name known: that is, he has revealed all we can know about God. The tradition of the Church is the reflecting of the people of God on the word and what it means for the life of Jesus' disciples today. Our understanding of what the word signifies develops: the manner in which it is expressed has to adapt to changing circumstances while preserving the essential teaching; this is what we mean by tradition. In the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, we find that the most frequent references to the Holy Spirit occur in the chapter on tradition.

The same document teaches officially that no new public revelation is to be expected before the glorious manifestation of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Throughout the history of the Church, there have been groups which have claimed secret or mystical knowledge which is denied to run-of-the-mill Christians. Individuals have alleged that they have been given privileged information through visions or other experiences. The Church always treats such assertions of personal supernatural communications with a high degree of caution, if not suspicion.

No one, and no particular group, has any advantage over anyone else when it comes to knowledge of God. The teaching of Jesus is available to anyone who is open to accepting it: in this way, eternal life is offered to all. It is the Holy Spirit who will lead us into the complete truth. ■