

Introduction

Dear Friends in Christ,

In every celebration of the Mass Jesus offers himself to us in word and in sacrament. We're guided and encouraged by the Scripture readings proclaimed during the Liturgy of the Word, and we're nourished and strengthened by Jesus' body and blood in the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

From its earliest days, the Church has followed faithfully the command that Jesus gave his followers at the Last Supper when he broke the bread and blessed the cup of wine, transforming them into his own body and blood: "Do this in memory of me" (Luke 22:19). Afire with their new faith, the first believers "devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers" (Acts 2:42). As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains, "It was above all on 'the first day of the week,' Sunday, the day of Jesus' resurrection, that the Christians met 'to break bread' [Acts 20:7]. From that time on down to our own day the celebration of the Eucharist has been continued so that today we encounter it everywhere in the Church with the same fundamental structure. It remains the center of the Church's life" (1343).

Embracing God's Word

The Scripture texts proclaimed at Mass are contained in the *Lectionary for Mass* (*lectio* is the Latin word for "reading"). In the United States, the official *Lectionary for Mass* makes use of the New American Bible translation.

In this *2010 Sunday Missal*, you will find the complete readings for each Sunday, according to the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar established by the Church for use in the United States. These texts are from Cycle C, which follows

the Gospel of Luke. When the new Church year begins on November 28, the First Sunday of Advent, Cycle A (Gospel of Matthew) is then used. Celebration of some solemnities or other observances particular to your diocese or parish may result in some variation.

Reading and meditating on the Sunday readings ahead of time can be a valuable way to prepare yourself for a more attentive and meaningful participation in the Sunday liturgy. In addition to the liturgical readings, this missal provides a short meditation and reflection question intended to help you grasp God's word and better apply it to your own life. Making use of this resource will enhance your experience of the Mass.

The Unity of the Scriptures in the Liturgy of the Word

On Sundays, the Liturgy of the Word is comprised of three readings as well as a responsorial psalm. The first offers selections from the writings of ancient Israel's prophets and from the historical and wisdom books of the Old Testament. Generally these texts reflect themes that correspond to the gospel reading for that day. The responsorial psalm (or other canticle) and its antiphon complements and expands on the first reading and provides a way for us to voice our prayerful response to God.

The second reading presents selections from the Acts of the Apostles, from the letters written by Paul and others to the early Christians, or from the Book of Revelation, depending on the season. The third reading is from the gospels, since Christ himself is the center of all of Scripture and the entire liturgy.

This arrangement of the Mass readings brings out the unity of the Scriptures. As the General Introduction to the *Lectionary for Mass* points out, "The New Testament lies hidden in the Old; the Old Testament comes fully to light in the New" (5). Furthermore, "Throughout the liturgical year, but above all during the seasons of Easter, Lent, and Advent, the choice and sequence of readings are aimed at giving the faithful an ever-deepening perception of the faith they profess and of the history of salvation" (60).

The Order of the Mass

On Sundays, the readings of the Liturgy of the Word are followed by a homily, the Profession of Faith, and the Prayer of the Faithful (General Intercessions).

The Liturgy of the Eucharist consists of the Preparation of the Gifts (Offertory), Eucharistic Prayer, Communion Rite, and Concluding Rite (Dismissal).

The Entrance Antiphon, Opening Prayer, Gospel Acclamation, Prayer over the Gifts, Communion Antiphon, and Prayer after Communion particular to each Sunday are contained in the main body of the missal, which is organized week by week. The Order of the Mass is included on pages 287–309.

As we are nourished at Mass by the Scriptures and Christ's body and blood, may we find strength for our journey through life—the journey that one day will bring us to the heavenly banquet table, where we will feast with God forever.

The Word Among Us Press

Sunday, January 3

The Epiphany of the Lord

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power. (See Mal 3:1; 1 Chr 19:12)

OPENING PRAYER

Father,
you revealed your Son to the nations
by the guidance of a star.
Lead us to glory in your heaven
by the light of faith.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

ALTERNATIVE OPENING PRAYER

Father of light, unchanging God,
today you reveal to men of faith
the resplendent fact of the Word made flesh.
Your light is strong,
your love is near;
draw us beyond the limits which this world imposes,
to the life where your Spirit makes all life complete.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth,
and thick clouds cover the peoples;
but upon you the LORD shines,
and over you appears his glory.
Nations shall walk by your light,

and kings by your shining radiance.
Raise your eyes and look about;
they all gather and come to you:
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see,
your heart shall throb and overflow,
for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out
before you,
the wealth of nations shall be brought to you.
Caravans of camels shall fill you,
dromedaries from Midian and Ephah;
all from Sheba shall come
bearing gold and frankincense,
and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, with your judgment endow the king,
and with your justice, the king's son;
He shall govern your people with justice
and your afflicted ones with judgment. **R.**

Justice shall flower in his days,
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.

May he rule from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth. **R.**

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts;
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.

All kings shall pay him homage,
all nations shall serve him. **R.**

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out,
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.

He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;
the lives of the poor he shall save. **R.**

SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 3:2-3A, 5-6

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

ALLELUIA

Alleluia, alleluia.

We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage. (Mt 2:2)

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL OF THE LORD

MATTHEW 2:1-12

WHEN JESUS WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM OF JUDEA, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

*And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
since from you shall come a ruler,
who is to shepherd my people Israel."*

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to

Bethlehem and said, “Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage.” After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
accept the offerings of your Church,
not gold, frankincense and myrrh,
but the sacrifice and food they symbolize:
Jesus Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We have seen his star in the east, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord. (See Mt 2:2)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Father,
guide us with your light.
Help us to recognize Christ in this eucharist
and welcome him with love,
for he is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FOR REFLECTION

GIFTS FOR THE KING

After humanity’s devastating fall from grace into sin, after centuries of preparation, war, exile, prophecy, and longing, the eternal Son of God manifested himself to the

nations through a lowly birth to a humble Jewish couple. As the light of salvation dawned on the earth, wise men from other nations came to pay homage to the one in whom all wisdom and dominion and power is found.

This revelation of Christ in the world must have been powerful indeed. Sages from the East, men of learning, were drawn to him! What could have induced them to leave their homes and positions of prominence to go on such a long journey? Only a work of God in their hearts could have moved them to recognize the one they came to worship.

The Fathers of the Church held that the sages' gifts revealed their full recognition of Jesus. They brought gold as tribute for a king, incense to burn in praise of God, and myrrh to soothe the sufferings of humanity. These three gifts signal Jesus' authority, deity, and future suffering and death, which would bring about the salvation of all God's people.

What fruit was borne from the journey of these wise men! In their wake, generations of wise people continue to bow down before the humble child of Nazareth. Like the wealth of the nations in the prophet's words (see Isaiah 60:5), men and women from every age have laid their treasures before Christ, renouncing the apparent wealth of this world to embrace the real wealth that is found in repentance, humility, and faith.

What worldly treasure do you feel compelled to give away to Jesus? What spiritual treasure do you wish to offer him?

Sunday, January 10

The Baptism of the Lord

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When the Lord had been baptized, the heavens opened, and the Spirit came down like a dove to rest on him. Then the voice of the Father thundered: **This is my beloved Son, with him I am well pleased.** (See Mt 3:16-17)

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty, eternal God,
when the Spirit descended upon Jesus
at his baptism in the Jordan,
you revealed him as your own beloved Son.
Keep us, your children born of water and the Spirit,
faithful to our calling.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

ALTERNATIVE OPENING PRAYER

Father in heaven,
you revealed Christ as your Son
by the voice that spoke over the waters of the Jordan.
May all who share in the sonship of Christ
follow in his path of service to man,
and reflect the glory of his kingdom
even to the ends of the earth,
for he is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

OR

Father, your only Son revealed himself to us by
becoming man.
May we who share his humanity
come to share his divinity,

for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 42:1-4, 6-7 (OR ISAIAH 40:1-5, 9-11)

Thus says the LORD:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one with whom I am pleased,
upon whom I have put my spirit;
he shall bring forth justice to the nations,
not crying out, not shouting,
not making his voice heard in the street.
A bruised reed he shall not break,
and a smoldering wick he shall not quench,
until he establishes justice on the earth;
the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice,
I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you
as a covenant of the people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to bring out prisoners from confinement,
and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**PSALM 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 (OR PSALM 104:1B-2, 3-4, 24-25,
27-28, 29-30)**

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Give to the LORD, you sons of God,
give to the LORD glory and praise,
Give to the LORD the glory due his name;
adore the LORD in holy attire. **R.**

The voice of the LORD is over the waters,

the LORD, over vast waters.
The voice of the LORD is mighty;
the voice of the LORD is majestic. **R.**
The God of glory thunders,
and in his temple all say, “Glory!”
The LORD is enthroned above the flood;
the LORD is enthroned as king forever. **R.**

SECOND READING

ACTS 10:34-38 (OR TITUS 2:11-14; 3:4-7)

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, saying: “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.”

ALLELUIA

Alleluia, alleluia.

John said: One mightier than I is coming;
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
(Cf. Lk 3:16)

Alleluia, alleluia.

OR

Alleluia, alleluia.

The heavens were opened and the voice of the
Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, listen to him. (Cf. Mk 9:7)
Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL OF THE LORD

LUKE 3:15-16, 21-22

THE PEOPLE WERE FILLED WITH EXPECTATION, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
we celebrate the revelation of Christ your Son
who takes away the sins of the world.
Accept our gifts
and let them become one with his sacrifice,
for he is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

This is he of whom John said: I have seen and have given witness that this is the Son of God. (Jn 1:32, 34)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
you feed us with bread from heaven.
May we hear your Son with faith
and become your children in name and in fact.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

FOR REFLECTION

THE FATHER'S BELOVED SON

“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased” (Luke 3:22). These words were heard at Jesus’ baptism, when he began his public ministry. They were also heard at Jesus’ transfiguration (see 9:36; Mark 9:7). Perhaps these words were also even more poignantly repeated at the end of Jesus’ ministry, when he “breathed his last” (Luke 23:46). Throughout his life Jesus was beloved of the Father.

This love that the Father has always had for his Son links the New Testament with the Old. Long before the words the Father spoke to Jesus were recorded in the gospels, the prophet Isaiah had eloquently pointed to the Messiah as God’s chosen one in whom he delighted (see Isaiah 42:1).

We too should delight in Jesus, center our lives on him, and know him. Too often we center our lives on ourselves, hoping to make ourselves better, more joyful. But the Father’s joy resides in Jesus. The Spirit’s joy, too, focuses on teaching us about our Lord, Jesus. In Jesus alone will we find true and full spiritual life as beings created in the image and likeness of God!

John the Baptist knew that Jesus was different, but it took the Holy Spirit to teach him that “he is the Son of God” (John 1:34). It was only after the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples at Pentecost that they had the full conviction of Jesus’ divinity with the courage to spread the good news about him. As the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus at his baptism, the Holy Spirit will descend upon us anew today, if we just ask. When we do, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit delight in our request.

It was while Jesus was praying after his baptism that the heavens opened and the Father spoke. What role does prayer play in your life in both pleasing God and being beloved by him?

Sunday, January 17

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

May all the earth give you worship and praise, and break into song to your name, O God, Most High. (Ps 66:4)

OPENING PRAYER

Father of heaven and earth,
hear our prayers,
and show us the way to peace in the world.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

ALTERNATIVE OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and ever-present Father,
your watchful care reaches from end to end
and orders all things in such power
that even the tensions and the tragedies of sin
cannot frustrate your loving plans.
Help us to embrace your will,
give us the strength to follow your call,
so that your truth may live in our hearts
and reflect peace to those who believe in your love.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not be silent,
for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her vindication shines forth like the dawn
and her victory like a burning torch.

Nations shall behold your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;