

CHAPTER V

**RITUAL
MASSES**

Chapter V

RITUAL MASSES

174. *These formularies can be used on any day, with the exception of Holy Week, the days within the Easter octave, solemnities, the Sundays of Advent, Lent and Paschal Time, Ash Wednesday, and the Commemoration of all the faithful departed (cf. Introduction, n. 21).*
175. *The liturgical colour is white, and the Gloria is said.*
176. *If there is only one candidate for profession, or for the celebration of the silver or golden jubilee, the singular form is used.*

A – FOR FIRST PROFESSION

177. *Entrance Antiphon* (Ps 39: 8-9)

**Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.
Your law is written on my heart. (T. P. Alleluia).**

178. *Opening Prayer*

**Lord, you have inspired our brothers
with the resolve to follow Christ more closely.
Grant a blessed ending to the journey
on which they have set out,
so that they may be able to offer in your praise
the perfect gift of their loving service.**

**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.**

179. *Prayer over the Gifts*

**Lord,
receive the gifts and prayers which we offer to you
on the day of the religious profession of our brothers.**

**By the grace of your Spirit
grant that these first fruits of their consecration
may be followed by the abundant fruits
of eternal life.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

180. Preface

“Christ the model of consecrated life”

℣. The Lord be with you.

℟. And also with you.

℣. Lift up your hearts.

℟. We lift them up to the Lord.

℣. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

℟. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**He came, the Son of a Virgin Mother,
named those blessed who were pure of heart,
and taught by his whole life the perfection of chastity.
He chose always to fulfil your holy will
and became obedient even to dying for us,
offering himself to you as a perfect oblation.**

**He consecrated more closely to your service
those who leave all things for your sake
and promised that they would find a heavenly treasure.**

**And so, with all the angels and saints
we proclaim your glory
and join in their unending hymn of praise:**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
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.

181. *Communion Antiphon* (Mk 3, 35)
He who has done the will of God
is my brother, my sister, and my mother.
182. *Prayer after communion*
Lord,
may the sacred mysteries we have shared bring us joy.
By their power grant that your servants
may constantly fulfil the religious duties they now take up
and freely give their service to you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
183. *Solemn Blessing: cf. chap. II, n. 86.*

B – FOR RENEWAL OF PROFESSION

184. *Entrance Antiphon* (Ps 121, 1-2)
I rejoiced when I heard them say:
let us go to the house of the Lord.
Jerusalem, we stand as pilgrims in your courts. (T. P. Alleluia).
185. *Opening Prayer*
God our Father,
guide of mankind and ruler of creation,
look upon these your servants
who wish to confirm their offering of themselves to you.
As the years pass by,
help them to enter more deeply into the mystery of the Church
and to dedicate themselves more generously
to the good of mankind.
We ask you this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

186. *Prayer over the Gifts*

**Father,
accept the gifts of your people
together with the renewed commitment of our brothers
to the service of the obedient, poor and chaste Christ;
change our offering into a sign of eternal life
and renew us all in the image of your Son,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

187. *Preface as in the preceding Mass (cf. n. 180).***188. *Communion Antiphon****(Ps 33, 9)*

**Taste and see the goodness of the Lord;
blessed is he who hopes in God. (T. P. Alleluia).**

189. *Prayer after Communion*

**Father, you have nourished us at your holy table;
look upon these our confreres
who put their trust in your love:
by the grace of the risen Christ
and the power of your Spirit
guide them in the arduous way of the evangelical counsels.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

C – FOR PERPETUAL PROFESSION

190. *Entrance Antiphon*

(Ps 65, 13-14)

**I will offer sacrifice in your temple;
I will fulfil the vows my lips have promised.**

191. *Opening Prayer*

**O God,
you have caused the grace of baptism
to bear such fruit in these your sons
that they now strive to follow your Son more closely.
Let them rightly aim at evangelical perfection,
increase the holiness of your Church
and spread Christ's kingdom with apostolic zeal.
We ask this 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.**

192. *Or*

**Lord, holy Father,
confirm the resolve of these your sons.
Grant that the grace of baptism,
which they wish to strengthen with new bonds,
may work its full effect in them
in a life consecrated to your praise
and to the spreading of Christ's kingdom.
He is God,
and lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**

193. *Prayer over the gifts*

**Father,
accept the prayers and offerings of your rejoicing people
and confirm by the gift of your Spirit
these our brothers in their definitive commitment**

to live the evangelical counsels.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

194. *Or*

Father,

**accept the offerings of your servants
and make them a sign of salvation.**

**Fill with the gifts of your Holy Spirit
these our brothers whom you have called
to follow your Son more closely.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer

195. *Preface*

"Called to holiness for the salvation of men"

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

V. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**It is truly right and fitting that we should give thanks
and raise our voices in praise and blessing
to you, holy Father, who sent your Son,
born of the Virgin Mary,
to reveal to the world the evangelical way to holiness,
through the supreme gift of himself and his word.**

**Proclaiming to all that your kingdom
is for the poor and lowly,
he has shown us the way to salvation for all men;
and by inviting some to follow him more closely
he has indicated the more radical way
of the evangelical counsels.**

**He continues to call others
to follow him on the way of the Cross
by the free and complete offering of themselves
as living witnesses of your plan of salvation.
Your Spirit consecrates them
to make themselves a gift to their fellow men
and to make of their life a sacrifice pleasing to you,
after the example of Christ, our Lord and Saviour.
Through him we experience the wonders of your fatherly love;
with the angels, the ministers of your glory,
we sing with joy and gratitude
our hymn of praise and adoration.
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
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.**

Or: cf. n. 180.

196. *Particular intercessions*

In the Eucharistic Prayers the newly professed may be remembered by the following embolisms:

In the Eucharistic Prayer I, the principal celebrant says

**Father, accept and sanctify this offering
from your whole family and from these your servants,
which we make to you on the day of their profession.
By your grace
they have dedicated their lives to you today.
When your Son returns in glory
may they share the joy of the unending Paschal feast.**

In the Eucharistic Prayer II, the first concelebrant says:

**Lord, remember your Church throughout the world;
make us grow in love,
together with N. our Pope,**

N. our bishop, and all the clergy.

**Lord, remember also these our brothers
who have today dedicated themselves to serve you always.
Grant that they may always raise their minds and hearts to you
and glorify your name.**

In the Eucharistic Prayer III, the second concelebrant says:

**Lord, may this sacrifice,
which has made our peace with you,
advance the peace and salvation of all the world.
Strengthen in faith and love your pilgrim Church on earth;
your servant Pope N. , our bishop N. , and all the bishops,
with the clergy and the entire people
your Son has gained for you.
Strengthen also these servants of yours in their holy purpose,
for they have dedicated themselves
by the bonds of religious consecration to serve you always.
Grant that they may give witness in your Church
to the new and eternal life won by Christ's redemption.
Father, hear the prayers of the family
you have gathered here before you.
In mercy and love unite all your children
wherever they may be.
Welcome into your kingdom our departed brothers and sisters,
and all who have left this world in your friendship.
We hope to enjoy for ever the vision of your glory,
through Christ our Lord, from whom all good things come.**

197. Communion Antiphon

(Gal 2, 19-20)

**I am nailed with Christ to the cross;
I am alive, not by my own life, but by Christ's life within me.**

198. Prayer after Communion

**Father, as we share your Word
and the body and blood of Christ,
fill with the gift of your Spirit these your sons,**

**consecrated for ever to your service;
grant that they may bring to fulfilment the special covenant
which today you have established with them in Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

199. *Or:*

**Father,
may the reception of the sacrament of life
and the solemnizing of this profession bring us joy.
Let this twofold act of devotion
help your servants to serve the Church and mankind
in the spirit of your love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

200. *Solemn Blessing: cf. chap. IV, nn. 172-173.*

D – FOR THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF PROFESSION

201. *To render more evident the relationship between the memorial of profession and the continuing and perfecting of the baptismal covenant, solemnity may be added to the rite by using the “Asperges” with holy water in place of the penitential act, following the indications given in the Roman Missal.*

202. **Entrance Antiphon** (Cf. Lk 11, 27-28)

**Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it:
they will bring forth fruits of everlasting life. (T. P. Alleluia).**

203. **Opening Prayer**

**Lord, our ever faithful God,
you give to our brothers (N. and N.)
the joy of renewing after twenty-five years
the offering of their life to your service;
accept our humble gratitude,
and confirm them in their holy resolve
to dedicate themselves with renewed enthusiasm
to the praise of your name
and the salvation of their fellow men.**

**Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who is God,
and lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.**

204. **Readings**

When it is possible to choose readings from the Lectionary for professions, particularly suitable are nn. 232, 233, 234, 235, 240, 243, 244, 246, 248, 251, 252, 254, 259, 261, 263, 264, 265, 266, 268, 269, 270, 271, 273, 274, 275, 281, 282, 287. In paschal time all the readings are taken from the New Testament.

205. *At the end of the homily the assembly spends a brief period in silent reflection. If it be thought appropriate, the gesture of the presentation of*

the lighted candle may be repeated, as in the rite of perpetual profession (cf. chap. IV, nn. 156-157).

Then, the one who presides or some other suitable person introduces with well chosen words the renewal of profession by the jubilarians:

**God my Father,
 You consecrated me to yourself
 on the day of my baptism.
 In response to the love of the Lord Jesus your Son,
 who calls me to follow him more closely,
 and led by the Holy Spirit
 who is light and strength,
 I renew the total offering of myself to you.
 I pledge myself
 to devote all my strength
 to those to whom you will send me,
 especially to young people who are poorer;
 to live in the Salesian Society
 in communion of spirit and action with my brothers,
 and in this way to share in the life
 and mission of your Church.
 And so, in the presence of my brothers
 I renew the vow for ever
 to live obedient, poor and chaste,
 according to the way of the Gospel
 set out in the salesian Constitutions.
 Father, may your grace,
 the intercession of Mary Help of Christians,
 of St Joseph, of St Francis de Sales,
 and of St John Bosco,
 together with the assistance of my brother salesians
 keep me faithful day by day.**

206. *The principal celebrant says:*

**Let us thank the Lord for the infinite goodness he
 has always shown in the life of our brothers (N. and N.),
 and let us invoke him with faith as we make our
 common prayer.**

The prayer intentions are then announced; they may be suitably adapted from among those given in chap. II, n. 81; to each invocation the assembly responds with a sung (if possible) refrain.

207. *The presiding celebrant concludes with the following invocation:*

**S. Father, hear the prayers of your people
and confirm the gift of the Holy Spirit
to these our brothers
who today willingly renew with joy
the offering of their whole life to you;
help them to continue to fulfil in the Church
the pastoral plan of St John Bosco
until the day of Christ the Lord
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

208. *Prayer over the gifts*

**Father,
together with the gifts we present to you,
accept the offering of our brothers (N. and N.),
and by the power of your Holy Spirit,
make them ever more conformed
to the image of your beloved Son,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

209. *Preface*

"Praise of God is his gift"

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

V. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**Father, all powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.**

You have no need of our praise,

yet our desire to thank you is itself your gift.
Our prayer of thanksgiving adds nothing to your greatness,
but makes us grow in your grace
and in renewed fidelity to the building of your Kingdom
through Christ our Lord.

And so with all the angels and saints
we proclaim your glory
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
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.

210. *Communion Antiphon*

(Cf. *Jn 15, 5*)

I am the vine, you are the branches, says the Lord;
he who abides in me bears much fruit. (*T. P. Alleluia*).

211. *Prayer after Communion*

Father,
you have welcomed us to the table of the eucharist
on the happy occasion of our brothers' jubilee;
grant that, being strengthened
by the body and blood of your Son,
we may continue joyfully on our pilgrim way,
and so come to gaze upon your face
in the glory of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

212. *Solemn Blessing: one of the formularies given in the Roman Missal may be chosen, according to the liturgical season.*

E – FOR THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF PROFESSION

213. *Penitential act; cf. above, n. 201.*

214. *Entrance Antiphon*

(Eph 5, 19-20)

**Sing and make music to the Lord
with all your heart,
always and for everything giving thanks
to God the Father
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (T. P. Alleluia).**

215. *Opening Prayer*

**God and Father of all gifts,
the source of all we have and are,
we humbly thank you
for the fifty years of religious profession
of our brothers (N. and N.).
You have given them the joy
of renewing the total offering of their life;
strengthen them by the gift of your Spirit,
that they may persevere in the building of your kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who is God,
and lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.**

216. *Readings*

When it is possible to choose readings from the Lectionary for professions, particularly suitable are nn. 232, 244, 246, 248, 251, 252, 254, 259, 261, 263, 264, 265, 266, 268, 269, 270, 271, 273, 274, 275, 281, 282, 287. In paschal time all the readings are taken from the New Testament.

217. *Renewal of profession (cf. above, nn. 205-207)*

218. *Prayer over the gifts*

**Father, accept this sacrifice
which we offer in thanksgiving for your blessings,**

**and grant that we may respond to your kindness
with the generous commitment of our life
in the service of your glory.
Through Christ our Lord.**

219. *Preface* (cf. above, n. 209)

220. *Communion Antiphon*

(Ps 115, 12-13)

**How can I repay the Lord
for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the Lord's name. (T. P. Alleluia).**

221. *Prayer after Communion*

**Lord our God,
may the sacrifice we have offered you in thanksgiving
transform us by the power of your Spirit,
that we may serve you with renewed zeal
and continue to experience your blessings.
Through Christ our Lord.**

222. *Solemn Blessing: one of the formularies given in the Roman Missal may be chosen, according to the liturgical season.*

CHAPTER VI

**LECTIONARY
FOR
RELIGIOUS
PROFESSION**

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LECTIONARY

- 223.** *The Lectionary contains a wide choice of readings for the different celebrations in the Ritual for Religious Profession, from the rite of admission to the religious life to the celebration of the twenty-fifth and fiftieth anniversaries of profession.*
- 224.** *The readings are arranged in the order in which they are proclaimed: first those of the Old Testament, then those of an Apostle, then the Gospels. In the case of the first reading, the special pericopes for Paschal Time are indicated.*
The overall arrangement of the texts has been adopted to emphasize and facilitate the possibility of choice, in the light of the pastoral requirements of the assembly taking part in the celebration.
- 225.** *The pericopes are provided with headings taken from the texts as they appear in the "editio typica altera" of the Ordo lectionum missae (1981) and of the Nova Vulgata (1986).*
- 226.** *On solemnities and Sundays there are three readings; on other days there are normally only two: in this case the first reading is chosen either from the Old Testament texts (except in Paschal Time), or from those for before the Gospel.*
To facilitate matters in the second case a responsorial psalm is provided, but is enclosed in horizontal parentheses to indicate that it is to be used only when the pericope concerned is used as the first reading.
- 227.** *The verse before the Gospel is purposely linked with the Gospel itself; in this way its sense and function are emphasized.*
*The verse is always accompanied by the **Alleluia**, except in Lent when Alleluia is replaced by an acclamation chosen from the following or similar phrases: **Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory; Praise and honour be to you, Lord Jesus; Glory and praise to you, O Christ; Glory to you, O Christ, Word of the Father; Great are you, O Lord, and wonderful are your works; To you be glory, honour and power, Lord Jesus.***
There is nothing to prevent the acclamation (without the verse) being repeated after the Gospel has been proclaimed.

READING I OUTSIDE EASTER SEASON

228. *FIRST READING*

A reading from the book of Genesis

Gen 12, 1-4a

Leave your country and your father's house, and come:

The Lord said to Abram,

“Go forth from your country and your kindred
and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

And I will make of you a great nation,
and I will bless you, and make your name great,
so that you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,
and him who curses you I will curse;
and by you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
So Abram went, as the Lord had told him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From Ps 23

℟. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. ℟.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. ℟.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord,
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. ℟.

229. **FIRST READING**

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

*Deut 7, 6-11****The Lord loves you and has chosen you***

Moses said to the people: "You are a people holy to the Lord your God; the Lord has chosen you to be a people for his own possession, out of all the peoples that are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love upon you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples; but it is because the Lord loves you, and is keeping the oath which he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, and requites to their face those who hate him, by destroying them; he will not be slack with him who hates him, he will requite him to his face. You shall therefore be careful to do the commandment, and the statutes, and the ordinances, which I command you this day."

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*From Ps 32*

℟. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;

for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

Give thanks to the Lord upon the lyre,

with a ten-stringed harp sing him songs. ℟.

For the word of the Lord is faithful

and all his works to be trusted.

The Lord loves justice and right

and fills the earth with his love. ℟.

His own designs shall stand for ever,
the plans of his heart from age to age.

**They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own. R.**

**The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. R.**

**Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
In him do our hearts find joy.
We trust in his holy name. R.**

230. FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Samuel

1 Sam 3, 1-10

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim, so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down within the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. And the Lord called again, "Samuel!" And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call my son, lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for thy servant hears'." So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the Lord came and stood forth, calling

as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for thy servant hears."

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From Ps 39

R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

I waited, waited for the Lord,
and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. R.

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocausts and victim.
Instead, here am I. R.

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.,
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. R.

Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord.
O Lord, you will not withhold your compassion from me.
Your merciful love and your truth will always guard me. R.

231. FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Kings *1 Kings 19, 16.19-21*

Elisha rose and followed Elijah

The Lord said to Elijah: "Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place." So Elijah departed from there, and found Elisha, the son of Shaphat, who was ploughing, with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his mantle upon him. And he left the oxen, and ran after

Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again; for what have I done to you?" And he returned from following him, and took the yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen, and gave it to the people and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah, and ministered to him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM cf. n. 230

232. *FIRST READING*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Is 44, 1-5

He will say: "I am the Lord's"

"But now hear, O Jacob my servant,
Israel whom I have chosen!

Thus says the Lord who made you,
who formed you from the womb and will help you:

Fear not, O Jacob my servant,
Jeshurun whom I have chosen.

For I will pour water on the thirsty land,
and streams on the dry ground;

I will pour my spirit on your descendants,
and my blessing on your offspring.

They shall spring up like grass amid waters,
like willows by flowing streams.

This one will say, 'I am the Lord's,'
another will call himself by the name of Jacob,
and another will write on his hand, 'The Lord's,'
and surname himself by the name of Israel."

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 124

R. Those who trust in the Lord abide for ever.

**Those who put their trust in the Lord
are like Mount Sion, that cannot be shaken,
that stands for ever. R.**

**Jerusalem! The mountains surround her,
so the Lord surrounds his people
both now and for ever. R.**

**For the sceptre of the wicked shall not rest
over the land of the just
for fear that the hands of the just
should turn to evil. R.**

**Do good, Lord, to those who are good,
to the upright of heart;
but the crooked and those who do evil,
drive them away!
On Israel, peace! R.**

233. FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Is 61, 9-11

I exult for joy in the Lord

**Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.**

**I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my soul shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.**

**For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sewn in it to spring up,**

so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring forth before all the nations.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From Ps 32

R. Sing to the Lord a new song

or

R. You, Lord, are my song of joy.

Give thanks to the Lord upon the lyre
with a ten-stringed harp sing him songs.
O sing him a song that is new,
play loudly, with all your skill. **R.**

For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

His own designs shall stand for ever,
the plans of his heart from age to age.
They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own. **R.**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. **R.**

234. FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Is 63, 7-9

Let me sing the praises of the Lord

I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord,
the praises of the Lord,
according to all that the Lord has granted us,
and the great goodness to the house of Israel

which he has granted them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

For he said, Surely they are my people,
sons who will not deal falsely;
and he became their Saviour.

In all their affliction he was afflicted,
and the angel of his presence saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From Ps 144

R. I will sing for ever the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.

The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. **R.**

Age to age shall proclaim your works,
shall declare your mighty deeds,
shall speak of your splendour and glory,
tell the tale of your wonderful works. **R.**

They will speak of your terrible deeds,
recount your greatness and might.
They will recall your abundant goodness;
age to age shall ring out your justice. **R.**

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. **R.**

235. FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah *Is 66, 10-14c*

You will be filled with his consolations

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,
for all who love her;
rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her;
that you may suck and be satisfied with her consoling breasts;
that you may drink deeply with delight
from the abundance of her glory.

For thus says the Lord:

“Behold I will extend prosperity to her like a river,
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream;
and you shall suck, you shall be carried upon her hip,
and dandled upon her knees.

As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you;
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;
your bones shall flourish like the grass;
and it shall be known that the hand of the Lord
is with his servants.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From Ps 65

R. Great are the works of the Lord.

or

R. To you our praise is due, O God of salvation.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: ‘How tremendous your deeds!
Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!’ R.

Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men.

He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. R.

Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul.
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. R.

236. *FIRST READING*

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah *Jer 1, 4-9*

Go to those to whom I shall send you

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,
“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”
Then I said: “Ah, Lord God! Behold I do not know how to
speak, for I am only a youth.”

But the Lord said to me,
“Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’;
for to all to whom I send you you shall go,
and whatever I shall command you you shall speak.
Be not afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you.”
says the Lord.

Then the Lord put forth his hand and touched my mouth;
and the Lord said to me:
“Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From Ps 95

R. I will sing, O Lord, of your salvation.

or

R. Praise be to you, Lord, king of eternal glory.

**O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.**

O sing to the Lord, bless his name. R.

**Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. R.**

**Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king'.
The world he made firm in its place;
he will judge the peoples in fairness. R.**

237. FIRST READING.

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel *Ezek 34, 11-16*

I myself will look after and tend my sheep

Thus says the Lord God: Behold I, I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when some of his sheep have been scattered abroad, so will I seek out my sheep; and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

And I will bring them out from the peoples, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the fountains, and upon the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture.

I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed; I will bind up the crippled, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will watch over; I will feed them in justice.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

or

R. You guide me, Lord, along the right path.

Fresh and green are the pastures where the Lord gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. He guides me along the right path, he is true to his name. R.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness, no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. R.

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. R.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. R.

238. FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel *Ezek 36, 23-28*

A new spirit I will put within you

Thus says the Lord God: I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them; and the nations will know that I am the Lord, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.

For I will take you from among the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give

you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. You shall dwell in the land which I gave to your fathers; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From Ps 138

R. I thank you, Lord, for the wonder of my being.

O Lord, you search me and you know me,
you know my resting and my rising,
you discern my purpose from afar.
You mark when I walk or lie down,
all my ways lie open to you. **R.**

Before ever a word is on my tongue
you know it, O Lord, through and through.
Behind and before you besiege me,
your hand ever laid upon me.
Too wonderful for me, this knowledge,
too high, beyond my reach. **R.**

For it was you who created my being,
knit me together in my mother's womb.
I thank you for the wonder of my being,
for the wonders of all your creation. **R.**

Already you knew my soul, my body held no secret from you
when I was being fashioned in secret
and moulded in the depths of the earth. **R.**

Your eyes saw all my actions,
they were all of them written in your book;
every one of my days was decreed
before one of them came into being. **R.**

To me, how mysterious your thoughts,
the sum of them not to be numbered!
If I count them, they are more than the sand;
to finish, I must be eternal, like you. **R.**

239. **FIRST READING**

A reading from the book of the prophet Hosea *Hos 11, 1.3-4.8-9*

I led them with bands of love

Thus says the Lord:

“When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.
Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk,
I took them up in my arms;
but they did not know that I healed them.
I led them with cords of compassion,
with the bands of love,
and I became to them as one
who eases the yoke on their jaws,
and I bent down to them and fed them.
How can I give you up, O Ephraim!
How can I hand you over, O Israel!
My heart recoils within me,
my compassion grows warm and tender.
I will not execute my fierce anger,
I will not again destroy Ephraim;
for I am God and not man,
the Holy One in your midst,
and I will not come to destroy.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From Ps 102

R. Let us see, Father, the light of your countenance.

or

R. I will bless the name of the Lord all my days.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

**The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. R.**

**For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. R.**

**As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him;
when they keep his covenant in truth,
when they keep his will in their mind. R.**

READING I
DURING EASTER SEASON

240. **FIRST READING**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 2, 42-47

All who believed were together and had all things in common.

At that time the disciples devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need.

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 99

℟. Serve the Lord with gladness.

or

℟. We thank you, God, for the gift of your love.

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. ℟.

Go within his gates, giving thanks.

Enter his courts with songs of praise.

Give thanks to him and bless his name. R.

Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.

He is faithful from age to age. R.

241. *FIRST READING*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 4, 32-35

One heart and one soul

Now the company of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common.

And with great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet; and distribution was made to each as any had need.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From Ps 32

R. Happy the people united in the name of the Lord.

Give thanks to the Lord upon the lyre
with a ten-stringed harp sing him songs.

O sing him a song that is new,
play loudly with all your skill. R.

For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.

The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. R.

His own designs shall stand for ever,
the plans of his heart from age to age.

**They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own. R.**

**Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
In him do our hearts find joy.
We trust in his holy name. R.**

242. FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Revelation

Rev 3, 14b. 20-22

I will eat with him and he with me

The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

He who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From Ps 83

R. Blessed are they who are invited to the marriage feast of the Lamb.

or

R. In your house, Lord, we exult with joy.

**How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.**

**My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God. R.**

The sparrow herself finds a home
and the swallow a nest for her brood;
she lays her young by your altars,
Lord of hosts, my king and my God. R.

They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.
They are happy, whose strength is in you,
in whose hearts are the roads to Sion. R.

One day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.
The threshold of the house of God
I prefer to the dwellings of the wicked. R.

For the Lord God is a rampart, a shield;
he will give us his favour and glory.
The Lord will not refuse any good
to those who walk without blame. R.

243. **FIRST READING**

A reading from the book of Revelation. *Rev 22, 12-14. 16-17. 20*

Come, Lord Jesus!

I, John, heard a voice from heaven that said to me:

“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense, to repay every one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

“I Jesus have sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star.”

The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let him who hears say, “Come.” And let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the water of life without price.

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From Ps 135

**O give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
For his love endures for ever!**

**Give thanks to the God of gods,
For his love endures for ever!**

**Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
For his love endures for ever!**

**Who alone has wrought marvellous works,
For his love endures for ever!**

**Whose wisdom it was made the skies,
For his love endures for ever!**

**Who fixed the earth firmly on the seas,
For his love endures for ever!**

**He snatched us away from our foes,
For his love endures for ever!**

**He gives food to all living things,
For his love endures for ever!**

**To the God of heaven give thanks,
For his love endures for ever!**

READING II

244. **SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans *Rom 5, 15*

Faith will not leave us disappointed

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From Ps 33

℟. He who trusts in the Lord will not be put to shame.

**I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. ℟.**

**Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. ℟.**

**Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. ℟.**

**The angel of the Lord is encamped
around those who revere him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him. R.**

245. SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans *Rom 6, 3-11*

Let us walk in newness of life

Brothers, do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: cf. n. 237

246. SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Rom 5, 28-32.35.38-39

Those whom he predestined he also called

Brothers, we know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him?

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: cf. n. 235.

247. SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans. *Rom 12, 113*

Be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God.

I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to

this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I bid every one among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith which God has assigned him. For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practise hospitality.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: cf. n. 230

248. **SECOND READING**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

1 Cor 1, 22-31

We preach Christ crucified

Brethren, Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks,

Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For consider your call, brethren; not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth; but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption; therefore, as it is written, "Let him who boasts. boast of the Lord."

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 130

R. You, Lord, are the strength of the weak.

**O Lord, my heart is not proud
nor haughty my eyes.**

**I have not gone after things too great
nor marvels beyond me. R.**

**Truly I have set my soul
in silence and peace.**

**As a child has rest in its mother's arms,
even so my soul. R.**

**O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and for ever. R**

249. **SECOND READING**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

1 Cor 3, 9-11.16-17

Let each one take care how he builds

Brethren, you are God's building. According to the commission of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From Ps 107

R. With God we shall do great things.

My heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready:

I will sing your praise.

Awake, my soul; awake, lyre and harp.

I will awake the dawn. R.

I will thank you, Lord, among the peoples,

among the nations I will praise you,

for your love reaches to the heavens

and your truth to the skies. R.

O God, arise above the heavens;

may your glory shine on earth.

O come and deliver your friends;

help with your right hand and reply. R.

Give us help against the foe:

for the help of man is vain.

With God we shall do bravely

and he will trample down our foes. R.

250. SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

1 Cor 9, 24-27

So run that may obtain the prize

Brethren, do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Well, I do not run aimlessly, I do not box as one beating the air; but I pommel my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: cf. n. 230

251. SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

2 Cor 4, 7-15

Transcendent power belongs to God, not to us

Brethren, we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is

all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From Ps 143

℟. Blessed be the Lord, my rock.

or

℟. You, Lord, are my strong support.

Blessed be the Lord, my rock
who trains my arms for battle,
who prepares my hands for war. ℟.

He is my love, my fortress;
he is my stronghold, my saviour,
my shield, my place of refuge.
He brings peoples under my rule. ℟.

Lord, what is man that you care for him,
mortal man, that you keep him in mind;
man who is merely a breath
whose life fades like a shadow? ℟.

To you, O God, will I sing a new song;
I will play on the ten-stringed harp
to you who give kings their victory,
who set David your servant free. ℟.

252. SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

2 Cor 4, 1018

We fix our gaze on what is unseen

Brethren, We always carry in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal

flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From Ps 26

R. I seek you, Lord: let me gaze upon your face.

**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.**

**For there he keeps me safe in his tent in the day of evil.
He hides me in the shelter of his tent,
on a rock he sets me safe. R.**

**Of you my heart has spoken: "Seek his face."
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face.
Dismiss not your servant in anger. R.**

**Do not abandon or forsake me, O God my help!
Instruct me, Lord, in your way; on an even path lead me. R.**

253. SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

2 Cor 5, 14-17

The love of Christ impels us

Brethren, the love of Christ controls us, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once regarded Christ from a human point of view, we regard him thus no longer.

Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From Ps 62

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

**O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.**

**My body pines for you
like a dry weary land without water. R.**

**For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.
So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands. R.**

**On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. R.**

254. SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians. *Eph 1, 3-14*

God has chosen us in Christ to be holy and immaculate in love.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace which he lavished upon us. For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him, according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will, we who first hoped in Christ have been destined and appointed to live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: cf. n. 230.

255. SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians. *Eph 4, 1-6*

Lead a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Brethren, I a prisoner for the Lord beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness

and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 132

R. In your presence, Lord, we shall live in love.

How good and how pleasant it is,
when brothers live in unity! **R.**

It is like precious oil upon the head
running down upon the beard,
running down upon Aaron's beard
upon the collar of his robes. **R.**

It is like the dew of Hermon which falls
on the heights of Sion.
For there the Lord gives his blessing,
life for ever. **R.**

256. SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians. *Eph 4, 11-16*

Until we all attain to mature manhood.

Brethren, Christ's gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the equipment of the saints, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and for and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning

of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From Ps 88

R. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

**With my chosen one I have made a covenant;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages. R.**

**I have found David my servant
and with my holy oil anointed him.
My hand shall always be with him
and my arm shall make him strong. R.**

**My truth and my love shall be with him;
by my name his might shall be exalted.
He will say to me: "You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me." R.**

257. SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Eph 6, 10-20

***Put on the armour of God,
that you may be able to resist temptation.***

Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present

darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Therefore take the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; above all taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that utterance may be given me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: cf. n. 251.

258. **SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians *Phil 2, 1-4*

Be united in spirit, with the same love and sentiments.

Brethren, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each one of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: cf. n. 228.

259. **SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians *Phil 3, 8-14*

I suffered the loss of all things, so as to gain Christ.

Brethren, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, based on law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith; that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: cf. n. 242.

260. **SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians *Phil 4, 4-9*

Rejoice in the Lord always.

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have

no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: cf. n. 239.

261. **SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians *Col 3, 12-17*

Above all put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

Brethren, put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: cf. n. 241.

262. SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

1 Thess 4, 1-3a.7-12

This is the will of God, your sanctification.

Brethren, we beseech and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you learned from us how you ought to live and to please God, just as you are doing, you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification.

God has not called us for uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

But concerning love of the brethren you have no need to have any one write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another; and indeed you do love all the brethren throughout Macedonia.

But we exhort you, brethren, to do so more and more, to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we charged you; so that you may command the respect of outsiders, and be dependent on nobody.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: cf. n. 252.

263. SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

2 Tim 2, 22b-26

A servant of the Lord must be kind to everyone and gentle when he corrects people.

Beloved, aim at righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call upon the Lord from a pure heart. Have nothing to do with stupid, senseless controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.

The Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kindly to every one, an apt teacher, forbearing, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant that they will repent and come to know the truth, and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From Ps 118

℟. Your word, O Lord, gives me joy.

How shall the young remain sinless?

By obeying your word.

I have sought you with all my heart:

let me not stray from your commands. ℟.

I treasure your promise in my heart

lest I sin against you.

Blessed are you, O Lord;

teach me your commands. ℟.

I will ponder all your precepts

and consider your paths.

I take delight in your commands;

I will not forget your word. ℟.

264. SECOND READING**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews***Heb 12, 1-4**Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.*

Brethren, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or faint-hearted.

In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*From Ps 21*

R. The glory of God is man fully alive.

You are my praise in the great assembly.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.

They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.

May their hearts live for ever and ever! R.

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,

all families of the nations worship before him

for the kingdom is the Lord's: he is ruler of the nations.

They shall worship before him, all the mighty of the earth;

before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. R.

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.

They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,

declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:

"These things the Lord has done!" R.

265. **SECOND READING**

A reading from the first letter of Peter

*1 Pet 1, 13-25**You too must become holy.*

Dearly beloved, gird up your minds, be sober, set your hope fully upon the grace that is coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." And if you invoke as Father him who judges each one impartially according to his deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was made manifest at the end of the times for your sake. Through him you have confidence in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere love of the brethren, love one another earnestly from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "all flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord abides for ever."

That word is the good news which was preached to you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*From Ps 97*

R. Sing to the Lord a new song
for he has saved us by his love.

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.

**His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. R.**

**The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel. R.**

**All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. R.**

266. SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of Peter

2 Pet 1, 3-11

Work all the harder to justify your call.

Dearly beloved, the divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, that through these you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of passion, and become partakers of the divine nature. For this very reason make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these things are yours and abound, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these things is blind and shortsighted and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be the more zealous to confirm your call and election, for if you do this you will never fall; so there will be richly provided for you and entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From Ps 90

R. You are my saviour, Lord; you give me life.

**He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
and abides in the shade of the Almighty
says to the Lord: "My refuge,
my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!" R.**

**For you he has commanded his angels
to keep you in all your ways.
Since he clings to me in love, I will free him;
protect him for he knows my name. R.**

**When he calls I shall answer: "I am with you."
I will save him in distress and give him glory.
With length of life I will content him;
I shall let him see my saving power. R.**

267. SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St John.

1 Jn 2, 12-17

Do not love the world, nor the things of the world.

**I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are
forgiven for Christ's sake.**

**I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is
from the beginning.**

**I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome
the evil one.**

I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

**I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the
beginning.**

**I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the
word of God abides in you and you have overcome the evil one.**

**Do not love the world or the things in the world. If any one
loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For all that is
in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and
the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world.**

And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides for ever.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: cf. n. 236.

268. SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St John.

1 Jn 4, 7-16

If we love one another, God abides in us.

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God; for God is love.

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his own Spirit.

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world.

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God. So we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: cf. n. 240.

GOSPEL

269. *VERSE BEFORE GOSPEL*

Cf. Lk 11,28

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.

R. Alleluia.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.
5, 1-12a

Blessed are you... Rejoice and be glad

At that time Jesus, seeing the crowds, went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

**“Blessed are the poor in spirit
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.**

**Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.**

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.**

**Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.**

**Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.**

**Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.**

**Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and

utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.”

This is the gospel of the Lord.

270. VERSE BEFORE GOSPEL

Cf. 2 Cor 8,9

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus Christ, though he was rich, for your sake became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

R. Alleluia.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.
6, 24-34

Seek first the kingdom of God

At that time, Jesus said to his disciples: “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

“Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life?

“And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the gentiles seek all these things; and your

heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day’s own trouble be sufficient for the day.”

This is the gospel of the Lord.

271. VERSE BEFORE GOSPEL

Cf. 2 Cor 8, 9

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus Christ, though he was rich, for your sake became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

R. Alleluia.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

16, 24-27

He who loses his life for my sake, will find it.

At that time, Jesus told his disciples, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. “For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? For the Son of man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay every man for what he has done.”

This is the gospel of the Lord.

272. VERSE BEFORE GOSPEL

Cf. Phil 3, 8-9

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

**I suffer the loss of all things
and count them as refuse,
so that I may gain Christ.**

R. Alleluia.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

19,16-26

*If you would be perfect,
go, sell what you possess, and follow me.*

At that time, one came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honour your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

The young man said to him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

This is the gospel of the Lord.

273. **VERSE BEFORE GOSPEL**

Cf. Mt 25,21

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Well done, good and faithful servant;
you have been faithful over a little,
enter into the joy of your master!**

R. Alleluia.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

25,14-30

Well done, good and faithful servant.

At that time, Jesus said: "The kingdom of heaven is as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.'

He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you

have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.'"

This is the gospel of the Lord.

274. *VERSE BEFORE GOSPEL*

Cf. Jn 15,5

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the vine, you are the branches, says the Lord;
he who abides in me bears much fruit.

R. Alleluia.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

28,16-20

Go therefore... I am with you

At that time the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

This is the gospel of the Lord.

275. **VERSE BEFORE GOSPEL**

Cf. Mt 19,27,29

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You who have left everything for my sake and the Gospel will receive a hundredfold and inherit eternal life.

R. Alleluia.

✠ A reading from the gospel according to Mark. 10, 24b-30

We have left everything and followed you.

At that time, Jesus said to his disciples: "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God." It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God." Peter began to say to him, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you."

Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life."

This is the gospel of the Lord.

276. **VERSE BEFORE GOSPEL**

Mt 11,25

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have revealed the mystery of your kingdom to the humble and the little ones.

R. Alleluia.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke. 1, 26-38

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.

At that time, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible. And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

277. *VERSE BEFORE GOSPEL*

Cf. Jn 6,64

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Your word, Lord, is spirit and life;
you alone have the word of eternal life.

R. Alleluia.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke. 4, 16-21

He has sent me to proclaim to the poor a message of joy

At that time, Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and he went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the sabbath day. And he stood up to read; and there was given to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

This is the gospel of the Lord.

278. VERSE BEFORE GOSPEL

Cf. Phil 3,8-9

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I have suffered the loss of all things,
and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ.

R. Alleluia.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke. 5, 1-11

They left everything and followed him.

At that time, while the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from

the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

279. *VERSE BEFORE GOSPEL*

Cf. Phil 3,8-9

℟. Alleluia, alleluia.

I have suffered the loss of all things,
and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ.

℟. Alleluia.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke. 9,57-62

No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.

At that time, as Jesus and his disciples were going along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." But he said to him, "Leave the

dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

This is the gospel of the Lord.

280. *VERSE BEFORE GOSPEL*

Cf. Lk 10, 3.9

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves says the Lord;

proclaim to everyone that the kingdom of God is near.

R. Alleluia.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke. *10, 1-9*

Behold, I send you....

At that time, the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to come. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and salute no one on the road.

Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon him; but if not, it shall return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you; heal the sick and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come'."

This is the gospel of the Lord.

281. **VERSE BEFORE GOSPEL**Cf. *Lk 12,37***R. Alleluia, alleluia.****Blessed are you, if the Lord, on his return,
finds you awake.****R. Alleluia.****✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke. 12,32-40*****Fear not, little flock.***

At that time, Jesus said to his disciples, “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms; provide yourselves with purses that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

“Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the marriage feast, so that they may open to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes; truly, I say to you, he will gird himself and have them sit at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the householder had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would have been awake and would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

This is the gospel of the Lord.282. **VERSE BEFORE GOSPEL**Cf. *Jn 13,34***R. Alleluia, alleluia.****I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:
that you love one another.****R. Alleluia.**

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke. 22,24-30

Let the greatest among you become as the least.

At that time, a dispute arose among the disciples, which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For which is the greater, one who sits at table, or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table? But I am among you as one who serves. "You are those who have continued with me in my trials; as my Father appointed a kingdom for me, so do I appoint for you that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

This is the gospel of the Lord.

283. VERSE BEFORE GOSPEL

Cf. Lk 11.28

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.

R. Alleluia.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John. 1,35-44

Master, where do you live? Come and see.

The next day John was standing with two of his disciples; and he looked at Jesus as he walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned, and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying; and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

One of the two who heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him, and said, "So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me". Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

284. *VERSE BEFORE GOSPEL*

Mt 11,28

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.

R. Alleluia.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John. *10,11-18*

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

At that time, Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of

my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again; this charge I have received from my Father.”

This is the gospel of the Lord.

285. *VERSE BEFORE GOSPEL*

Jn 15,5

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the vine, you are the branches, says the Lord;
he who abides in me bears much fruit.

R. Alleluia.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John. *15,1-8*

Abide in me, and I in you.

At that time, Jesus said to his disciples: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that bears no fruit, he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes that it may bear more fruit. You are already made clean by the word I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.”

This is the gospel of the Lord.

286. **VERSE BEFORE GOSPEL**

Cf. 2 Thess 2,14

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

God has chosen us as the first fruits of salvation, and has called us to share the sufferings and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

R. Alleluia.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John. 15, 9-17

You are my friends, if you do what I command you.

At that time, Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

This I command you, to love one another."

This is the gospel of the Lord.

287. **VERSE BEFORE GOSPEL**

Ps 132, 1

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

How good and pleasant it is,
when brothers live in unity.

R. Alleluia.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John. 17, 20-26

*Father, I desire that they whom
you have given me may be with me.*

At that time. Jesus raised his eyes to heaven, and prayed saying: "Father, I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me by their word, that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. The glory which thou hast given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and thou in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that thou hast sent me and hast loved them even as thou hast loved me.

Father, I desire that they also, whom thou hast given me, may be with me where I am, to behold my glory which thou hast given me in thy love for me before the foundation of the world.

O righteous Father, the world has not known thee, but I have known thee; and these know that thou hast sent me. I made known to them thy name, and I will make it known, that the love with which thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them."

This is the gospel of the Lord.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX I

RITE FOR THE CLOTHING CEREMONY

- 288.** *When according to custom or local decisions the cassock is given to those who intend to proceed to the priesthood, and a distinctive medal to candidates who intend to become lay Salesians, a suitably adapted ceremony should be arranged which will include the elements described later in this Appendix.*
- 289.** *If the rite takes place as part of the celebration of first profession, everything proceeds as already indicated in Chap. II, nn. 76-78. Otherwise the ceremony may not take place during Mass.*
If the rite is inserted in the celebration of Morning or Evening Prayer, everything is done as usual until the end of the homily following the proclamation of the reading. After the rite, the celebration continues with the singing of the Benedictus or Magnificat.
If the rite is inserted in a liturgy of the Word, the structure of the celebration indicated in Chap. II, n. 97, should be followed, with the necessary adaptation.
- 290.** *When the rite takes place in separation from that of first profession, it includes the following elements: a dialogue between the Superior and the candidates (cf. nn. 292-293); the prayer of blessing (cf. n. 294); the giving of the cassock and the medal (cf. nn. 295-296); the possible procession of all the novices, carrying lighted candles (cf. n. 297); and the prayer of the faithful (cf. n. 298).*
- 291.** *In addition to whatever else is necessary for the celebration, there should be ready:*
- in the sanctuary: the cassocks and medals (or other signs);*
 - in the sacristy: the candles, if the symbolic gesture described in n. 297 is to take place.*

Dialogue

292. *The Superior turns towards the candidates for the ministerial priesthood, and asks them:*

S. My dear brothers (sons), what do you ask?

R. We ask, Father, to receive the cassock in the Salesian Society.

S. Do you know what it means to put on the cassock, and the obligation it imposes on you?

R. Yes, Father.

To put on the cassock means to embark on the path of formation in view of our work as priests in the Church and the Salesian Society.

It implies a new commitment to the acquiring of all those elements which will enable us to be signs and instruments of the love of the heavenly Father for all we shall meet on our way.

S. May God our Father, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church and Help of Christians, grant that you may achieve your desire.

R. Amen.

293. *The Superior then turns towards the candidates for the lay religious life, and asks them:*

S. My dear brothers (sons), what do you ask?

R. We ask, Father, to receive the medal (. . .) of the Salesian Brother.

S. Do you know what it means to receive this medal (sign), and the obligations it implies?

R. Yes, Father.

To receive this medal is to feel ourselves ever more bound and committed in the particular religious mission of the Salesian Society.

It reminds us each day of our obligation to seek to acquire the virtues and style of life characteristic of the lay Salesian in the education of the young, especially those who are poorer and abandoned.

S. May God our Father, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church and Help of Christians, grant that you may achieve your desire.

R. Amen.

294. *The Superior invokes the divine blessing, saying:*

S. Let us pray.

**Holy Father, you call all your sons,
who are reborn by water and the Holy Spirit,
to the fullness of christian life and perfect charity;
bless ✠ those who will wear these cassocks and medals
as the sign of a life of ever more total donation;
and grant that, supported by the gift of your Spirit,
they may become ever more conformed
to the image of your Son.
He lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

R. Amen.

Presentation

295. *Those who are to receive the cassock come to the Superior one by one; he gives the cassock to each of them, saying:*

**S. Receive this cassock
and keep your heart faithful to the Lord,
who has acknowledged you before all
by this sign of witness and service.**

R. Amen.

If necessary, the novice(s) may withdraw to the sacristy to put on the cassock. If the rite is prolonged a suitable hymn may be sung.

296. *In presenting the medal (or distinctive sign) to the novices aspiring to the religious life as lay Salesians, the Superior says:*

**S. Receive this sign of the salesian brother:
let it remind you of your donation to God,
your bond with the Salesian Society**

and your commitment to the service of the young.

The novices may join the others in the sacristy.

Procession

297. *If this part of the rite is to take place, all the novices move in procession, bearing lighted candles, from the sacristy to the altar where they occupy places assigned to them.*

In the meantime, the whole assembly expresses their joy by singing a hymn of thanksgiving to God (the Magnificat, or other hymn).

Prayer of the faithful

298. *The Superior introduces the prayer of the faithful in the following or similar words:*

S. Let us turn to God in faith, and ask him, the sources of our joy, to hear our petitions:

— For the Pope and all the bishops of the Church; that the Spirit who proceeds from the Father and the Son may enlighten them as they guide the faithful on the path of holiness, we pray to the Lord.

— For vocations to the religious life and priesthood: that the Lord of the harvest may inspire many young people with the courage of generous self-donation for the benefit of their fellow men, we pray to the Lord.

— For these young men who have today received the sign of their mission: that, sustained by divine grace and the example of their salesian brothers, they may follow to its fulfilment the path of life they have chosen, we pray to the Lord.

— For the parents and relatives of these novices; that the Lord may repay with the abundance of his blessing their generosity in giving their sons to the Church and the Salesian Society, we pray to the Lord.

— For the young men and women who feel the desire to serve God in their fellow men: that, sustained by the solidarity of all, they may be able to realize with joy the complete donation of their life, we pray to the Lord.

— . . .

S. Lord, God of joy and consolation, accept our petitions, and in your kindness foster the desires and good intentions you have inspired in the intimacy of our hearts. We entrust them to you through the mediation of Mary, Mother of your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

299. *If there is no procession, after the blessing the assembly may give thanks to God by a hymn of thanksgiving (Magnificat or some other).*

APPENDIX II

FORMULA FOR PROFESSION

300. *The formula for temporary profession, when read individually, is as follows:*

**God my Father,
You consecrated me to yourself
on the day of my baptism.
In response to the love of the Lord Jesus your Son,
who calls me to follow him more closely,
and led by the Holy Spirit
who is light and strength,
with complete freedom
I, N. N.,
offer myself totally to you.
I pledge myself
to devote all my strength
to those to whom you will send me,
especially to young people who are poorer;
to live in the Salesian Society
in communion of spirit and action with my brothers,
and in this way to share in the life
and mission of your Church.**

**And so, in the presence of my brothers
and before Fr N. N., Rector Major
of the Society of St Francis de Sales
(or before Fr. . . . who takes the place
of the Rector Major
of the Society of St Francis de Sales),
although it is my intention to offer myself to you
for all my life,**

**in accordance with the Church's dispositions
I make the vow for . . . year(s)
to live obedient, poor and chaste,
according to the way of the Gospel
set out in the salesian Constitutions.
Father, may your grace,
the intercession of Mary Help of Christians,
of St Joseph, of St Francis de Sales,
and of St John Bosco,
together with the assistance of my brother salesians
keep me faithful day by day.**

The Superior responds:

**In the name of the Church and the Salesian Society,
I welcome you among the Salesians of Don Bosco
as a confrere committed by temporary vows.**

301. *The formula for perpetual profession, when read individually, is as follows:*

**God my Father,
You consecrated me to yourself
on the day of my baptism.
In response to the love of the Lord Jesus your Son,
who calls me to follow him more closely,
and led by the Holy Spirit
who is light and strength,
with complete freedom
I, N. N. ,
offer myself totally to you.
I pledge myself
to devote all my strength
to those to whom you will send me,
especially to young people who are poorer;
to live in the Salesian Society
in communion of spirit and action with my brothers,
and in this way to share in the life
and mission of your Church.**

**And so, in the presence of my brothers
and before Fr. N. N., Rector Major
of the Society of St Francis de Sales
(or before Fr. . . . who takes the place
of the Rector Major
of the Society of St Francis de Sales),
I make the vow for ever
to live obedient, poor and chaste,
according to the way of the Gospel
set out in the salesian Constitutions.
Father, may your grace,
the intercession of Mary Help of Christians,
of St Joseph, of St Francis de Sales,
and of St John Bosco,
together with the assistance of my brother salesians
keep me faithful day by day.**

The Superior responds:

**In the name of the Church and the Salesian Society,
I welcome you among the Salesians of Don Bosco
as a confrere committed by perpetual vows.**

- 302.** *If those to be professed are numerous, they may all recite together one of the two preceding formulas, as the case may be, omitting the words:
I, N. N. and, in the formula of temporary profession the words for . . . years; at the end each one adds:*

**I, N. N.
make the vow for . . . years (or for ever)
to live according to the way of the Gospel
set out in the salesian Constitutions.**

In the case of temporary profession the Superior concludes with the words of acceptance; in that of perpetual profession he invokes God's blessing.

APPENDIX III

RENEWAL OF PROFESSION AT THE END OF THE YEARLY RETREAT

303. *At the end of the yearly retreat the confreres renew their commitment of religious profession, as a meaningful expression of greater fidelity to God.*
304. *Renewal of this kind is an act of private piety, and for this reason the Church does not encourage the custom of inserting it into the Eucharist. A more suitable place therefore would be within Morning or Evening Prayer, where the so-called "souvenir sermon" can also suitably find a place.*
305. *After the scriptural reading, followed by a brief period of silent meditation, the Superior may say the following or similar words:*

S. Brothers, during these days of more intense listening to the word of God, of prayer and conversion, the Lord has given you the joy of discovering once again the wonders he has worked in you, and has enriched you with his grace so that you may live your vocation with greater fidelity.

Endorse now your resolve to follow Christ, and renew with faith and joy your religious profession.

306. *All read the formula of profession as given in Chap. V, n. 205.*
307. *At the end the Superior concludes, saying:*
- S. With the grace of God, the motherly protection of Mary Help of Christians and the intercession of St John Bosco, conduct yourselves now in such a way that your life may be worthy of the vocation you have received.**
- The Lord is faithful. He will strengthen you and protect you from evil, because he has chosen you and loves you.**
308. *The responsory is omitted, and the celebration continues with the singing of the Benedictus or Magnificat.*

APPENDIX IV

**RITE OF PROFESSION
FOR A CONFRERE IN DANGER OF DEATH**

- 309.** *If a novice or temporarily professed confrere becomes so gravely ill that death seems imminent, after taking medical advice and obtaining approval of the Provincial, if time and circumstances permit, the celebration of perpetual profession, the sacrament of the sick and Viaticum, may be joined in a single continuous rite.*
- 310.** *As far as possible the rite should take place within a celebration of the Eucharist. In this case the indications to be followed and texts to be used are those for the celebration of the sacrament "During Mass", as found in the Roman Ritual for the anointing and pastoral care of the sick¹.*
- 311.** *Following a brief homily, the rite of perpetual profession begins following the indications of Chap. IV, n. 135; the fundamental elements, obviously subject to the requirements of the particular circumstances, are:*
- the presence of two witnesses (cf. n. 158);
 - the request of the confrere or question of the Superior (cf. nn. 146-149);
 - the litany (cf. nn. 153-155), with the necessary adaptations in the last part of the invocations;
 - the profession (cf. nn. 158-159) followed immediately by the acceptance by the Superior.
- 312.** *The solemn prayer of "blessing or consecration" is omitted, and the anointing follows immediately.*
It is fitting that the one presiding or some other suitable person recall the text of James 5, 13-16 ("Is any one among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord . . .") or of Matthew 8, 5-10 ("Lord . . . only say the word, and my servant will be healed . . ."), and introduce with suitable words the essential parts of the rite:

¹ Cf. Roman Ritual, Sacrament of the Anointing and pastoral care of the sick, chap. II, nn. 83-84.

- the imposition of hands: *the one presiding and all the priests present impose hands on the head of the sick person in silence*²;
 - the blessing of the oil or prayer of thanksgiving over the oil already blessed³;
 - the holy anointing and prayer⁴.
- 313.** *The celebration of the Eucharistic liturgy then proceeds. At the moment of communion of the sick person the presiding celebrant uses the formula for Viaticum, for both the Body and Blood of Christ*⁵.
- 314.** *The celebration may conclude with the solemn blessing taken from the ritual of the anointing of the sick*⁶, or from the rite of profession (cf. Chap. IV, n. 172-173).

² Cf. *ibid*, n. 76.

³ Cf. *ibid*, nn. 77-77b.

⁴ Cf. *ibid*, nn. 78-80.

⁵ Cf. *ibid*, chap. IV, n. 142.

⁶ Cf. *ibid*, chap. II, n. 96.

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