

The Collects, Epistles and Gospels of the Liberal Catholic liturgy, rendered into gender-neutral, modern language, as an alternative form, by The Mission Episcopate of Saints Francis and Clare,  
a Eucharistic Community in the Liberal Catholic Tradition.

## Saint Francis of Assisi

(from the COMMON OF SAINTS)

*In the MESFC, October 4, White or Gold Vestments. Class A, first vespers, at least 6 candles at Mass. When this celebration does not fall on a Sunday, it may be transferred to the following Sunday or celebrated on both dates. This feast interrupts the Octave of St. Michael and all Angels, which is not resumed.*

*In the LCC, the feast is not listed.*

*(In a small church, white may take the place of all colours, except there should be a violet stole for use where prescribed. Cloth of Gold may always take the place of white, red or green vestments, but not of violet.)*

### *The Collects*

P. Christ be with you  
**C. And with your spirit.**  
P. Let us pray.

### *The collect for purity*

P. Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify holy Name. In Christ's name we pray. **R/.Amen.**

*The priest then intones or says the collect of the day and other collects, if any, and finally the collect for peace:*

### *The collect of the day*

P. WE thank You, Sovereign Christ, and praise You for the encouragement which You have given us by the example of Your holy Saint Francis and we pray for wisdom and for strength from Your most Holy Spirit to serve You even as he did serve, You Who with God the loving Source of all, live and reign in glory in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, one God throughout all ages of ages. **R/. Amen.**

### *The collect for peace*

Teach us, Most High, to see your life in all the peoples of earth, and so guide the nations into an understanding of your laws that peace and goodwill may reign upon earth; In Christ's name we pray. **R/. Amen.**

### *The Epistle*

The portion of Scripture appointed for the Epistle is taken from the forty second chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, beginning at the first verse.

BEHOLD My servant whom I uphold, My elect, In whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon him, and he shall bring forth judgment to My people. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench He shall bring forth judgment to truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he has set judgment in the earth, and the isles shall wait for his

law. I the Most High have called you in righteousness, and will hold your hand, and will keep you, and give you for a light of the Gentiles, to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison-house. I will lead them in paths that they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do for them, and not forsake them.

Here ends the Epistle.

*The epistle ended, all stand and sing:*

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Gradual*

1. P: They that love wisdom love life:  
**C: and they that seek her early shall be filled with joy.**
2. Teach us, O God, the way of your statutes: and we shall keep it unto the end.
3. Give us understanding and we shall keep your law: we shall keep it with our whole heart.
4. The path of the just is as the shining light: shining more and more unto the perfect day.

*Munda Cor Meum*

D. Cleanse my heart and my lips, O God, who by the hand of seraph did cleanse the lips of the prophet Isaiah with a burning coal from your altar and in your lovingkindness so purify me that I may worthily proclaim your holy gospel; In Christ's name .

C. May the Most High be in your (+) heart and on your (+) lips, that through your heart the love of God may shine forth and through your lips God's power be made manifest. **R/. Amen.**

*The Gospel*

P OR D. Christ be with you.

**C. And with your spirit.**

The holy Gospel is taken from the fifth chapter of that according to St. Matthew, beginning at the second verse.

**C: Glory be to you, O Holy One.**

JESUS taught His disciples, saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the realm of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled. 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 the children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the realm of heaven. Blessed are you, when people shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for they so persecuted the prophets who were before you."

**R/Praise be to you, O Christ.**