

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.

## **The Sunday next before Advent**

*Class B. Red vestments. In the MESFC at least 6 candles at Mass. (In the LCC:, third division, "Fewer extra candles"). The MESFC authorises the use of the Gradual and Preface of Whitsunday, as is prescribed by some jurisdictions. (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.)*

Intent: The Dispelling of Ignorance; a day of devotion to the Holy Spirit.

### *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 Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your 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. O HOLY SPIRIT, Breath of Life and Fire of Love, touch our cold hearts, we pray You, with the glow of that celestial flame, that by Your indwelling power we may shine forth as the sun to enlighten and encourage those of our sisters and brothers who are lost in the darkness of ignorance, and guide them to You, Who with the Creator and the Word are worshipped and glorified for ever. **R/. Amen.**

### *The collect for peace*

Teach us, Most High, to see your life in all the peoples of your 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 seventh chapter of the Book of the Prophet Daniel, beginning at the ninth verse.

DANIEL said, "I saw in my vision by night, and the Ancient of Days did sit, Whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of Whose head like the pure wool, Whose throne was like the fiery flame, and Whose wheels as burning fire, from before Whom, a fiery stream issued and came forth, unto Whom thousand thousands ministered, and before Whom stood ten thousand times ten thousand. And behold, one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven, and came and they brought Him near before the Ancient of Days, and there was given Him dominion and glory and a realm, that all people, nations and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His realm that which shall not be destroyed. The saints of the most High also shall take the realm, and possess it forever and ever. And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great Prince who stands for the children of Your people, and they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, but they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars forever and ever."

Here ends the Epistle.

*The epistle ended, all stand and sing:*

**Thanks be to God.**

*EITHER: The Ordinary 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.**

*OR: The Gradual for Whitsunday*

1. P: The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters:  
**C: and God said, Let there be light; and there was light.**
2. **Know you not that you are the temple of God: and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?**
3. **The Spirit is life, because of righteousness: and as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the children of God.**
4. **The Most High is that Spirit: and where that Spirit is, there is liberty.**

*Munda Cor Meum*

D. Cleanse my heart and my lips, O God, who by the hand of your 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 eighth chapter of that according to St. Luke, beginning at the fourth verse.

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

WHEN many people were gathered together Jesus spoke to them by a parable. "A sower went out to sow seed; and some fell by the wayside, and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock, and as soon as it had sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bore fruit a hundredfold. Those who have ears to hear, let them hear." And His disciples asked Him, "What might this parable be?" And He said, "To you it is given to know the mysteries of the realm of God, but to others in parables, that seeing they might not see, and hearing, they might not understand. The parable is this. The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are those that hear. Then comes the adversary, and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should understand and be saved. Those on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but these have no root, and for a while believe, but in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are those who with an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."

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

*The Preface for Whitsunday, (where used.)*

P. It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto you, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ, who, going up above all the heavens, according to His most true promise sent forth the Holy Ghost, who came down from heaven with a sudden great sound, as it had been a mighty wind, in the likeness of fiery tongues, lighting upon the Apostles, to teach them, and to lead them to all truth.

Therefore, we pray that with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones, Dominations, Princedoms, Virtues, Powers, with Cherubim and Seraphim and with all the company of heaven, we too may laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying: