

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 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

*Class B. (In the LCC: Class C). Green vestments. At least 6 candles at Mass.  
(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: Steadfastness and Diligence

### *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. Most High God, whose never ceasing watchfulness sweetens all the worlds, we crave for steadfastness, that we may eschew sloth, the sin which so easily besets us, and may constantly show diligence in Your most holy service. In Christ's name we pray. **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 Epistle is taken from the sixth chapter of that of St. Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews, beginning at the tenth verse.

GOD is not so unrighteous as to forget your work and labour of love, which you have shown toward God's Name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and still do minister. And we desire that every one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope to the end, that you be not slothful, but imitators of those who through faith and patience are inheriting the promises. Therefore, seeing that we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which does so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race which is set before us, looking to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. Through Him, therefore, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, the fruit of our lips confessing His name. But be not forgetful of goodness and of sharing, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. Therefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight the paths for your feet, so that what is lame be not turned aside, but rather let it be healed. Follow peace with all, and holiness (without which no one shall see the Most High), looking diligently lest any lack the grace of God. Now, O God of peace, make us perfect in every good work to do Your will, working in us that which is well pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

*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 twenty-fifth chapter of that according to St. Matthew, beginning at the fourteenth verse.

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

THE realm of the heavens is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his servants, and delivered to them his goods. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to them all according to their own ability, and immediately took his journey. Then the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise the one who had received two, also gained other two. But the one that had received one went and dug in the earth, and hid the money. After a long time the master of those servants came and took account with them. And so the one who had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, "Master, you delivered to me five talents. Behold, I have gained five talents more." His master said, "Well done, you good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your master." The one also who had received two talents came and said, "Master, you delivered to me two talents. Behold, I have gained two talents more." His master said, "Well done, you good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received one talent came and said, "Master, I knew that you are a hard man, and I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the earth. See, you have what is yours." But his master answered and said to him, "You wicked and slothful servant, you ought to have put my money with the money changers, and then at my coming I should have received my own with interest. Take therefore that talent and give It to the one who has ten talents. Indeed, to all who have, shall be given, and they shall have in abundance, but from those who have not, shall be taken away even that which they have.

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