

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 First Sunday in Lent

Intent: Self-Examination

Class B. Violet vestments. 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.)

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. Sovereign Christ, who for our solace hast appointed divers seasons unto Your Church, grant us so justly to examine ourselves that, discerning clearly our faults, we may truly amend them, and thus prepare ourselves fitly to celebrate Your holy Feast of Easter, O risen Christ, to whom be praise and adoration for evermore. **R/. Amen**

The Collect for Ash Wednesday

P. Precede us, Most High, in all our doings with Your most gracious favour, and further us with Your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in You, we may glorify Your holy Name. 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 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 Epistle is taken from the fifth chapter of the Second Epistle of St. Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians, beginning at the ninth verse.

WE labour that we may be accepted of Christ, before whose judgment seat we must all appear, so that we all may receive the things done in our body, according to that we have done, whether it be good or bad. The love of Christ constrains us. Therefore if any of us are in Christ,

we are new creatures. Old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new. Give no offence in anything, in all things approving your selves by pureness, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, by the word of truth, by the right hand and on the left. Examine yourselves, whether you are in the faith. Prove your own selves. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace and the God of love and peace shall be with you. 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 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 third chapter of that according to St. John, beginning at the sixteenth verse.

C: Glory be to you, O Holy One.

GOD so loved the world as to give the alone-born Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. They who believe in Him are not condemned, but they who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the Name of the alone-born Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. All those who do evil hate the light, and do not come to the light, lest their deeds should be exposed. But they who practice the truth come to the light so that their deeds may be revealed, that they have been done in God.

R/Praise be to you, O Christ.