

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.

St. John Baptist's Day. June 24

MESFC AND LCC. Class C. White vestments. (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.) CANDLES: MESFC RULES, Celebrations of class C require the use of at least two candles on the altar at Mass, and preferably six. LCC RULES, third division, fewer extra candles

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 SOVEREIGN CHRIST, Who as at this time sent forth Your servant John the Baptist to prepare Your way before You, accept us now, we pray You, unworthy though we be, as heralds of Your glorious Coming, that by devotion, steadfastness, and gentleness we too may win the hearts of all to You, Whom we confess as Ruler and Teacher, now and evermore. **R/. Amen.**

The collect for peace

P. 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 fortieth chapter of the Book Of the prophet Isaiah, beginning at the third verse.

THE voice of the one who cries in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Holy One, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made

low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain. The glory of the Most High shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of our God has spoken it. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God shall stand for ever. O Holy One, you will come with strong hand, and your arm shall rule for you. Your reward is with you, and your work before you. You shall feed your flock like a shepherd. You shall gather the lambs with your arm, and carry them in your bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

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 first chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke, beginning at the sixty-eighth

C: Glory be to you, O Holy One.

BLESSED are you, O God of Israel, for you have visited and redeemed your people, and have raised up a mighty salvation for us in the house of your servant David, as you spoke by the mouth of your holy prophets, who have been since the world began, that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hands of all that hate us, to show mercy towards our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant, that we, being delivered out of the hands of our enemies, might serve you without fear, in holiness and righteousness before you, all the days of our lives.

And you, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, for you shall go before the face of the Holy One to prepare the way, to give knowledge of salvation to God's people in the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of the Most High, whereby the day-spring from on high has visited us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

R/Praise be to you, O Christ.