

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.

10. The Fourth 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: Endurance

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. ALMIGHTY God, we pray that we may bear within ourselves a calm and steadfast mind, that we may meet the blows of life with courage and with cheerfulness, and ever lift glad hearts to You, who are the fullness of our joy. In Christ's name we pray. **R/. Amen.**

The collect for peace

P. 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 first chapter of the First Epistle General of St. Peter, beginning at the second verse.

GRACE and peace be multiplied! Blessed are you, Most High God of Jesus Christ, who according to your abundant mercy have begotten us again to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for us, who are kept by the power of God through faith to salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein we greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, we are in heaviness through manifold temptations, that the trial of our faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found to praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ, whom, having not seen, we love. In whom, though now we see Him not, yet believing,

we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. For we are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a special people, that we should show forth the praise of the one who has called us out of darkness into God's marvelous light.

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 sixteenth chapter of the Gospel according to St. John, beginning at the twentieth verse.

C: Glory be to you, O Holy One.

Jesus said, "You shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A little while, and you shall not see Me, and again a little while, and you shall see Me. You now therefore have sorrow, but I will see you again, and your hearts shall rejoice, and your joy no one takes from you. Hitherto have you asked nothing in My Name. Ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that you lay down your life for your friends. You are My friends, if you do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants, for the servant knows not what his lord does, but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard of the Most High I have made known to you. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."

R/Praise be to you, O Christ.