

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Let my prayer come into your presence.  
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done  
and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.



May almighty God have mercy on us..... Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**THE GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father  
you take away the sins of the world:

have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer; you are seated  
at the right hand of the Father

have mercy on us;  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us  
all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body  
alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things  
that are yours. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING** *Wisdom 6: 12 -16*

**A reading from the book of Wisdom**

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.  
By those who love her she is readily seen,  
and found by those who look for her.  
Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes  
herself known to them.

Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;  
you will find her sitting at your gates.  
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;  
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly  
leave you.

She herself walks about looking for those who are  
worthy of her

and graciously shows herself to them as they go,  
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 62:2-8**

**R. For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.**

1. O God, you are my God,  
for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting.  
My body pines for you like a dry,  
weary land without water. [R]

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary  
to see your strength and your glory.  
For your love is better than life,  
my lips will speak your praise. [R]

3. So I will bless you all my life,  
in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,  
my mouth shall praise you with joy. [R]

4. On my bed I remember you.  
On you I muse through the night  
for you have been my help;  
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. [R]



**SECOND READING**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (\*Shorter form 4:13-14)**

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.**

\*We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about  
those who have died, to make sure that you do not  
grieve about them, like the other people who have  
no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again,  
and that it will be the same for those who have died  
in Jesus: God will bring them with him.\* We can tell  
you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of  
us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not  
have any advantage over those who have died. At  
the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will  
call out the command and the Lord himself will come  
down from heaven; those who have died in Christ  
will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are  
still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with  
them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay  
with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these  
you should comfort one another.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready,  
because you do not know the hour when the Son  
of Man is coming. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** *Matthew 25: 1-13*

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom  
of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their  
lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them  
were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones  
did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas  
the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their  
lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew  
drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a  
cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him."  
At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed  
their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible  
ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going



**focus on sunday**

*(Prisoners' Sunday)*

We are called to follow Jesus. We are called in a way that will  
prepare us for heaven and our eternal life of friendship with God.



out." But they replied, "There may  
not be enough for us and for you;  
you had better go and buy some for  
yourselves." They had gone off to  
buy it when the bridegroom arrived.  
Those who were ready went in with  
him to the wedding hall and the door  
was closed. The other bridesmaids  
arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they  
said "open the door for us." But he  
replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not  
know you." So stay awake, because  
you do not know either the day or  
the hour.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
All bow for following two lines:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from  
the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God  
the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy  
catholic Church, the communion of  
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the  
resurrection of  
the body, and life everlasting.  
Amen.

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord,  
upon the sacrificial gifts offered here,  
that, celebrating in mystery the Passion  
of your Son, we may honour it with loving  
devotion. Through Christ our Lord.

**AFTER THE CONSECRATION**

*The mystery of faith.*

Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.



Our lives can sometimes be seen like swimming  
in the sea. We set out aiming for a particular  
point but then the current takes hold, we lose  
sight of that point and we get swept off course.  
As Christians what is our focal point?

For the Christian that is Jesus and his love, love of God and of  
others. The gospel today is about waiting for the Lord.

The foolish girls took their eyes off the Master. Like swimming and  
losing their way.

There are many ways of keeping focus in our lives – family, love  
and love of God. Prayer is one way of keeping this depth in our  
lives. In a speedy world it can be hard to find time to pray.

Prayer is more than a Facebook message or a few words on  
twitter. Just like love, it takes time. Just happy sometimes to be  
there; praying a rosary, breathing in the life of God, reading some  
scripture, listening to some music.

Prayer is the oil in the lamp. Love is the flame, the light and the  
energy of our lives. Prayer is keeping the light going. It opens  
us to the greatest gift of all, the gift of God's love, received and  
offered.

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