

Mass for Mission Sunday

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Mass for the Universal Church [D, page 792]

Entrance Antiphon

Proclaim his glory among the nations,
his marvellous deeds to all the peoples;
great is the Lord and worthy of all praise. [Psalm 95:3-4]

Theme: Together in Faith

Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you came to show us the ways of justice and peace:
Lord have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you came to heal us and forgive us our sins:
Christ have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you came that we might have life in its fullness:
Lord have mercy.

Gloria ...

Opening Prayer

Almighty and eternal God,
in Christ your Son
you have shown your glory to the world.
Guide the work of your Church;
help it to proclaim your name,
to persevere in faith
and to bring your salvation to people everywhere.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

[Readings: Lectionary I: except Gospel: Lectionary II: 172 or 624]

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Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus [22:20-26]

The Lord said to Moses, “Tell the sons of Israel this, ‘You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.’

“If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.’

“If you take another’s cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.”

This is the word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM [Psalm 17:2-4, 47, 51; R/. v 2]

R/. I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. **R/.**

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. **R/.**

SECOND READING

A Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians [1:5-10]

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you.

This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere.

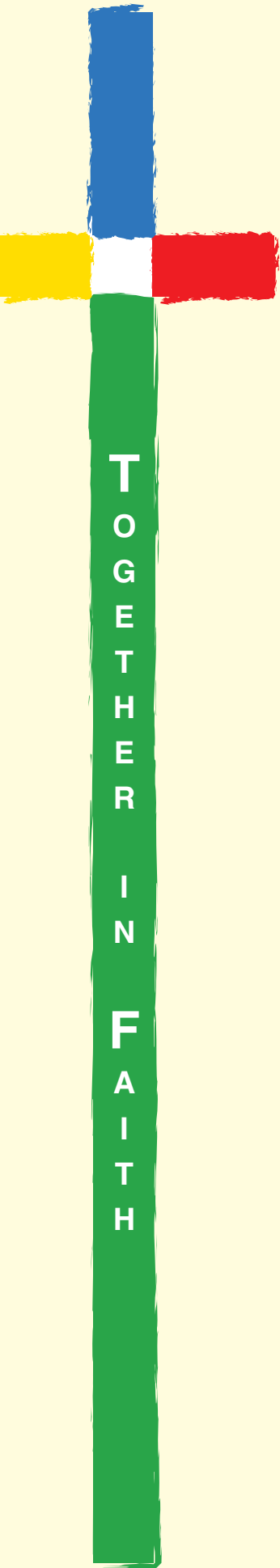
We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

This is the word of the Lord

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GOSPEL ACCOLAMATION [c/f Acts 16:14]

Alleluia, Alleluia

Open our hearts, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [9:1-8]

Jesus got back in the boat, crossed the water and came to his own town. Then some people appeared, bringing him a paralytic stretched out on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Courage, my child, your sins are forgiven.”

And at this some scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” Knowing what was in their minds Jesus said, “Why have you such wicked thoughts in your hearts? Now, which of these is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven’, or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? But to prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,” – he said to the paralytic – “get up and pick up your bed and go off home.” And the man got up and went home. A feeling of awe came over the crowd when they saw this, and they praised God for giving such power to men.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: The love of Christ gathers us *together in faith* so that we might be renewed in our baptism and its commitment to mission. We make our prayer to our Father.

1. On this World Mission Sunday, we offer our love, our support and prayers to all the Christian communities throughout the world. We ask God to pour out his choicest blessings on this one great family gathered *together in faith*. Lord, hear us.
2. We pray for all missionaries: for the Christian communities that sent them and for all those who received and welcomed them. We ask God to bless all our missionaries and to bless all those who are missionaries to us. Lord, hear us.
3. We pray for the people of South Sudan. May they rejoice in the freedom they achieved this year: may they be blessed in their efforts at nation-building and may they be healed from the wounds of their long civil war. Lord, hear us.
4. We pray for our own families: we thank God for them and we ask God to bless them, especially those who are sick, troubled or in any need; and also to bless all those who reach out to people in need. Lord, hear us.
5. We pray for our deceased missionaries and for all our dead. Welcome them into the light of your kingdom, Lord and grant them eternal life. Lord, hear us.
6. We pray for this community gathered *together in faith*. We are grateful for our friends in faith who, like those who carried the paralytic in today’s gospel, support us on our journey to Jesus – the source of comfort, healing and life. Lord, hear us.

Celebrant: God our loving Father, on this World Mission Sunday send us out as heralds of gospel joy to all we meet. We make this and all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

Profession of Faith

Liturgy of the Eucharist

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS [Mass for the Universal Church A, Page 790]

God of mercy,
look on our offering,
and by the power of this sacrament
help all who believe in you
to become the holy people you have called to be your own.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

PREFACE OF CHRISTIAN UNITY [Preface 76, Page 479]

Father, all powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ you bring us to the knowledge of your truth,
that we may be united by one faith and one baptism
to become his body.
Through Christ you have given the Holy Spirit to all peoples.

How wonderful are the works of the Spirit,
revealed in so many gifts!
Yet how marvellous is the unity
the Spirit creates from their diversity,
as he dwells in the hearts of your children,
filling the whole Church with his presence
and guiding it with his wisdom!
In our joy we sing to your glory with all the choirs of angels:

COMMUNION ANTIPHON [Mark 16:45]

“Go out to the whole world,
and preach the Gospel to all creation,” says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION [Mass for the Universal Church A, page 790]

God our Father,
we are sustained by your sacraments;
we are renewed by this pledge of love at your altar.
May we live by the promises of your love which we receive,
and become a leaven in the world
to bring salvation to mankind.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

SOLEMN BLESSING

May the peace of God
which is beyond all understanding
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God
and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**
May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**