

VOTIVE MASS IN HONOUR OF THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS CHRIST

Opening Antiphon

Hear my voice when I call, O LORD; My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, LORD, I now seek. Do not hide your face from me. Be merciful to me and answer me.
(Ps.27,7a,8,9a,7b)

The Opening Prayer

Almighty God, Father of infinite goodness, who through the Holy Face of your Son, disfigured by his redemptive passion, make manifest your divinity to all in this holy temple; grant that aflame with love for you here on earth, we may come one day to contemplate you in the splendour of your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading *(Is. 52, 13-15; 53.1-5)*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

See, my servant will prosper, he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. Just as there were many who were appalled at him, his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness, so will many nations marvel at him; and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.

He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Responsorial Psalm (*Ps 67.1-7*)

Response: *Let your face shine upon us, Lord.*

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine upon us,
that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.

Response

May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you.
May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples justly
and guide the nations of the earth.

Response

May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you.
Then the land will yield its harvest,
and God, our God, will bless us.
God will bless us,
and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Response

Second Reading (*1Pt.3,8-15*)

Reading from the first letter of St. Peter the Apostle

Beloved, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.

Gospel Acclamation (*Ps.89,16*)

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Blessed the people who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence,
O LORD. *Alleluia!*

Gospel Reading (*Jn.20, 1-10*)

A reading + from the holy Gospel according to John

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, *as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.*

Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

General Intercessions / Prayer of the Faithful:

Response: Lord, hear our prayer. [*or a similar response, repeated after each petition*]

1) By our Baptism we have become children of God. But often sin has had dominion over our bodies and our spirit. That all the baptised may once again return to the grace of resembling Christ in their lives through the sacrament of reconciliation, **let us pray to the Lord.**

2) That all our families may submit themselves to God's law through the Christian education of the children and by being faithful and true in matrimony, and thus be worthy of having the splendence of Jesus' face on us, **let us pray to the Lord.**

3) That we may be able to discover the Face of Christ in the poor, the sick, the old, the little ones and that we may commit ourselves to help them being convinced that whatsoever we do to them we do unto Christ, **let us pray to the Lord.**

4) That the youth may be driven to safeguard their purity so as not to efface the image of the Face of Christ from their souls, **let us pray to the Lord.**

5) That the whole church, the shepherds and the faithful may live poverty, charity and truth in a credible manner in this world as a mirror of the Face of Christ, **let us pray to the Lord.**

6) For those in government, that in making and enforcing civil and social legislations, they may respect in all the image of the Son of God, **let us pray to the Lord.**

(A brief pause can be made for personal intentions and then the priest concludes)

Priest: Father in heaven, you willed to send your divine son amongst us, that sharing our human condition he might be like us in everything except sin. We pray, that as we contemplate the human face of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Redeemer, we may desire ardently to resemble him in spirit too. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Preface

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is our duty and salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Holy Father, Lord God omnipotent and eternal.

Above all, it gives us immense joy and delight to offer unto you our praise in this holy temple, wherein, through your wondrous providence, you give us the grace of venerating the marvellous imprint of your Son's face, Jesus Christ our Lord. Sustain the piety of your children and shower upon your holy people the gifts of your fatherly and infinite love, fruit of the redemptive passion of your Son. Through him the angels rejoice and eternally adore the glory of your face. May our humble voices join with theirs in their hymn of praise.

Communion Antiphon

Look upon us, O LORD, let the light of your face shine upon us. You have filled my heart with greater joy than when their grain and new wine abound. Alleluia! (*Ps.4, 7b,8*)

Post communion Prayer

Strengthened by this Sacrament, may the light of your face that brings us peace and fills our spirit with joy shine on us, Lord, so that we may overcome the vanity of this world and come one day to contemplate you in the light of your kingdom; you who are Lord for ever and ever.

The Final Blessing

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Priest: May the Lord bless you and keep you: **Amen**

May he let his face shine upon you: **Amen**

May the Lord give you his peace: **Amen**

And may almighty God bless you, the Father, + and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.