

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord,
and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries
to pass from former ways to newness of life.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A solemn blessing may be used.

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER****ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** *cf Isaiah 48:20*

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

COLLECT

Grant, almighty God,
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy,
which we keep in honour of the risen Lord,
and that what we relive in remembrance
we may always hold to in what we do.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING *Acts 8:5–8, 14–17*

They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

▷ page 59

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Psalm 65:1–7, 16, 20 response v 1*

Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

or

Alleluia! *(may be repeated two or three times)*

- 1 Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!'
- 2 'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men.
- 3 He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might.
- 4 Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul.
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me.

SECOND READING *1 Peter 3:15–18*

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer,

it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *John 14:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.'

Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 14:15–21

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see

me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

▷ page 11

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord, together with the sacrificial offerings, so that, purified by your graciousness, we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

▷ page 15

Preface of Easter, pp 74–75.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON John 14:15–16

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

▷ page 58

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty ever-living God, who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ, increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A solemn blessing may be used.

▷ page 59

ASCENSION OF THE LORD — VIGIL MASS

THURSDAY AFTER THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
OR (if not a Holyday of Obligation) SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

This Mass is used on the evening of the day before the Solemnity.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Psalm 67:33, 35

You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God;
praise the Lord, who ascends above the highest heavens;
his majesty and might are in the skies, alleluia.

▷ page 7

COLLECT

O God, whose Son today ascended to the heavens as the Apostles looked on, grant, we pray, that, in accordance with his promise, we may be worthy for him to live with us always on earth, and we with him in heaven. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The readings are as for the Mass During the Day. See page 272.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, whose Only Begotten Son, our High Priest, is seated ever-living at your right hand to intercede for us, grant that we may approach with confidence the throne of grace and there obtain your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

▷ page 15

Preface I or II of the Ascension, p 75.

When the Roman Canon is used, the proper form of the Communicantes (In communion with those) is said, p 20.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON cf Hebrews 10:12

Christ, offering a single sacrifice for sins, is seated for ever at God's right hand, alleluia.

▷ page 58

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the gifts we have received from your altar, Lord, kindle in our hearts a longing for the heavenly homeland and cause us to press forward, following in the Saviour's footsteps, to the place where for our sake he entered before us. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

▷ page 59

A solemn blessing may be used.