



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN CANADA

Mass for Persecuted Christians



Entrance Antiphon Acts 12: 5

Peter thus was being kept in prison,
but prayer was made without ceasing
by the Church to God for him.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The people reply:

Amen.

Then the Priest, extending his hands, greets the people, saying:

PONTIFICAL
CHARITY





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The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

Or:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Penitential Act

Then follows the Penitential Act, to which the Priest invites the faithful, saying:

Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

A brief pause for silence follows. Then all recite together the formula of general confession:

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,

And, striking their breast, they say:

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;



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Then they continue:

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.

The absolution by the Priest follows:

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

The people reply:

Amen.

Collect

O God, who in your inscrutable providence
will that the Church be united to the sufferings of your Son,
grant, we pray, to your faithful who suffer for your name's sake
a spirit of patience and charity,
that they may be found true and faithful witnesses
to the promises you have made.
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.



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The Liturgy of the Word

-First reading: 1 Mac 2.49-52, 57-64

Now the days drew near for Mattathias to die, and he said to his sons: “Arrogance and scorn have now become strong; it is a time of ruin and furious anger. Now, my children, show zeal for the law, and give your lives for the covenant of our Fathers. Remember the deeds of the ancestors, which they did in their generations; and you will receive great honour and an everlasting name. Was not Abraham found faithful when tested, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness? David, because he was merciful, inherited the throne of the kingdom forever. Elija, because of great zeal for the law was taken up into heaven. Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael believed and were saved from the flame. Daniel, because of his innocence, was delivered from the mouth of the lions. And so observe, from generation to generation, that none of those who put their trust in him will lack strength. Do not fear the words of sinners, for their splendour will turn into dung and worms. Today they will be exalted, but tomorrow they will not be found because they will have returned to the dust and their plans will have perished. My children, be courageous and grow strong in the law, for by it you will gain honour.”

or:

Acts 4.1-5, 18-21

While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand. The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem. They called Peter and John and ordered them not to



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speaking or teaching at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in God’s sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.” After threatening them again, they let them go, finding no way to punish them because of the people, for all of them praised God for what happened.

Responsorial Psalm 27.1,2,3,5

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh
my adversaries and foes
they shall stumble and fall.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

For he will hide me in his shelter



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in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Gospel Acclamation –

Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.

Gospel Mt 5,1-12a

The Lord be with you.

The people reply:

And with your spirit.



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The Deacon, or the Priest:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All reply:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily



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Prayers of the faithful:

With trust and humility, let us present our prayers to God who is the path of peace.

R/ We pray to you, God of peace.

Lord, we pray for all the Christians in this world who cannot practise their faith without fear. R/

Lord, we pray that every being, regardless of their religion, live in peace and harmony without any kind of persecution. R/

Lord, we pray to you for those who, every day, announce the Good News at the peril of their own safety. R/

Lord, we pray to you for those who at this moment are denied their freedom and are held hostage because of their faith. R/

Lord, we pray to you for all those who languish in prison for refusing to renounce their faith. R/

Lord, we pray for those who persecute Christians with the hope that their hearts may be forever changed through your love. R/

(other intentions may be added)

Lord, hear our prayers and lead us on paths of peace. Amen.

Standing at the middle of the altar, facing the people, extending and then joining his hands, he says:



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Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

The people rise and reply:

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, we ask, O Lord,
the prayers and sacrificial gifts we offer in humility
and grant that those who suffer persecution
for their faithful service to you
may rejoice to be united to the sacrifice of Christ
your Son
and may know that their names are written in
heaven
among the company of the elect.
Through Christ our Lord.



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**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER
FOR RECONCILIATION**

II

Text without music:

- V.** The Lord be with you.
- R.** And with your spirit.
- V.** Lift up your hearts.
- R.** We lift them up to the Lord.
- V.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- R.** It is right and just.

It is truly right and just
that we should give you thanks and praise,
O God, almighty Father,
for all you do in this world,
through our Lord Jesus Christ.
For though the human race
is divided by dissension and discord,
yet we know that by testing us
you change our hearts
to prepare them for reconciliation.
Even more, by your Spirit you move human hearts
that enemies may speak to each other again,
adversaries may join hands,
and peoples seek to meet together.
By the working of your power
it comes about, O Lord,
that hatred is overcome by love,
revenge gives way to forgiveness,
and discord is changed to mutual respect.
Therefore, as we give you ceaseless thanks



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with the choirs of heaven,
we cry out to your majesty on earth,
and without end we acclaim:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Priest, with hands extended, says:

You, therefore, almighty Father,
we bless through Jesus Christ your Son,
who comes in your name.
He himself is the Word that brings salvation,
the hand you extend to sinners,
the way by which your peace is offered to us.
When we ourselves had turned away from you
on account of our sins,
you brought us back to be reconciled, O Lord,
so that, converted at last to you,
we might love one another
through your Son,
whom for our sake you handed over to death.

He joins his hands and, holding them extended over the offerings, says:

And now, celebrating the reconciliation
Christ has brought us, we entreat you: sanctify these gifts by the outpouring of
your Spirit,



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He joins his hands and makes the Sign of the Cross once over the bread and chalice together, saying:

that they may become the Body and Blood of your Son, whose command we fulfil when we celebrate these mysteries.

He joins his hands.

In the formulas that follow, the words of the Lord should be pronounced clearly and distinctly, as the nature of these words requires.

For when about to give his life to set us free, as he reclined at supper,

He takes the bread and, holding it slightly raised above the altar, continues:

he himself took bread into his hands,
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

He bows slightly.

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

He shows the consecrated host to the people, places it again on the paten, and genuflects in adoration. After this, he continues:

In a similar way, on that same evening,



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He takes the chalice and, holding it slightly raised above the altar, continues:

he took the chalice of blessing in his hands,
confessing your mercy,
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

He bows slightly.

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

He shows the chalice to the people, places it on the corporal, and genuflects in adoration. Then he says:

The mystery of faith.

And the people continue, acclaiming:

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

Then the Priest, with hands extended, says:

Celebrating, therefore, the memorial
of the Death and Resurrection of your Son,
who left us this pledge of his love,
we offer you what you have bestowed on us,



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the Sacrifice of perfect reconciliation.

Holy Father, we humbly beseech you
to accept us also, together with your Son,
and in this saving banquet
graciously to endow us with his very Spirit,
who takes away everything
that estranges us from one another.

May he make your Church a sign of unity
and an instrument of your peace among all people
and may he keep us in communion
with Francis our Pope and **N.** our Bishop*
and all the Bishops
and your entire people.

Just as you have gathered us now at the table of your Son,
so also bring us together,
with the glorious Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with your blessed Apostles and all the Saints,
with our brothers and sisters
and those of every race and tongue
who have died in your friendship.
Bring us to share with them the unending banquet of unity
in a new heaven and a new earth,
where the fullness of your peace will shine forth.

He joins his hands.

in Christ Jesus our Lord.

He takes the chalice and the paten with the host and, raising both, he says:
Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,



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for ever and ever.

The people continue:

Amen.

The Communion Rite

After the chalice and paten have been set down, the Priest, with hands joined, says:

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

He extends his hands and, together with the people, continues:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

With hands extended, the Priest alone continues, saying:

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin



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and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

He joins his hands.

The people conclude the prayer, acclaiming:

For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and forever.

Then the Priest, with hands extended, says aloud:

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you;
look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.

He joins his hands.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

The people reply:

Amen.

The Priest, turned towards the people, extending and then joining his hands,
adds:



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The peace of the Lord be with you always.

The people reply:

And with your spirit.

Then, if appropriate, the Deacon, or the Priest, adds:

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

The Priest genuflects, takes the host and, holding it slightly raised above the paten or above the chalice, while facing the people, says aloud:

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

And together with the people he adds once:

Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon Mt 5: 11-12

Blessed are you, when they insult you
and persecute you because of me, says the Lord.
Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven.

Prayer after Communion



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By the power of this Sacrament, O Lord,
confirm your servants in the truth
and grant to your faithful who suffer tribulation
that, as they follow your Son in bearing their cross,
they may, in every trial, glory in the name of Christian.
Through Christ our Lord.

**The Priest, facing the people and extending his
hands, says:**

The Lord be with you.

The people reply:

And with your spirit.

The Priest blesses the people, saying:
May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

The people reply:

Amen.

Dismissal:

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

The people reply:

Thanks be to God.