

SOLEMNITY
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE

HOLY MASS

CELEBRATION OF THE CLOSING
OF THE YEAR OF FAITH



SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2013

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Before the start of Holy Mass, candles are distributed to the faithful and the Paschal Candle is lit and placed near the altar, as during the Easter Season. After the sign of the cross and the opening greeting, the priest addresses the faithful in these or similar words:

In communion with our Holy Father Pope Francis, who closes the *Year of Faith* today in Rome, we also bring to a conclusion the journey we have made as a community and as individuals. We thank God for the gift of this time of renewal. Together with the universal Church, we reflect upon how we have lived to see whether our commitment to the faith has been renewed. The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, broadens the scope of our reflection and gives us the opportunity to reaffirm the certainty of our faith in the Lord's promise to us, which we cling to with a hope that does not disappoint.

Penitential Act

Following the Penitential Act, the priest sprinkles the faithful (to recall Baptism which is the beginning of the journey of faith)

After the greeting, the priest, standing at his chair with the aspergillum, invites the people to pray in these or similar words:

Dear brothers and sisters,
let us humbly beseech the Lord our God to bless this water he has created, with which we will be sprinkled as a memorial of our Baptism. May he sustain us with his grace to remain faithful to the Spirit we have received.

After a brief pause for silence, he continues with hands joined:

Almighty ever-living God,
who willed that through water,
the fountain of life and the source of purification,
even souls should be cleansed
and receive the gift of eternal life;
be pleased, we pray, to ✠ bless this water,
by which we seek protection on this your day, O Lord.
Renew the living spring of grace within us
and grant that by this water
we may be defended from all ills of spirit and body,
and so approach you with hearts made clean
and worthily receive your salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Afterward, taking the aspergillum, the priest sprinkles himself and the ministers, then the clergy and the people, moving through the church while a suitable song is played.

When he returns to his chair and the singing is over, the priest stands facing the people and, with hands joined, says:

May almighty God cleanse us of our sins,
and through the celebration of this Eucharist
make us worthy to share at the table of his Kingdom,
for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Gloria

At this point, the Gloria is sung or said.

Collect*

The priest:

Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of the universe,
grant, we pray,
that the whole creation, set free from slavery,
may render your majesty service
and ceaselessly proclaim your praise.
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.

R. Amen.

* Texts from from the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

LITURGY OF THE WORD*

First reading

They anointed David king of Israel.

A reading from the second Book of Samuel

2 Sam 5: 1-3

All the tribes of Israel then came to David at Hebron. ‘Look’ they said ‘we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, “You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel.”’ So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 121: 1-5. R. 2

R. I rejoiced when I heard them say: ‘Let us go to God’s house.’

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:

‘Let us go to God’s house.’

And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**

* Readings from the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Year C.

2. Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord. **R.**

3. For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. **R.**

Second reading

*He has created a place for us
in the kingdom of the Son that he loves.*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians **Col 1: 12-20**

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to
join the saints and with them to inherit the light.

Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power
of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son
that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of
our sins.

He is the image of the unseen God
and the first-born of all creation,
for in him were created
all things in heaven and on earth:
everything visible and everything invisible,
Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers –
all things were created through him and for him.
Before anything was created, he existed,
and he holds all things in unity.
Now the Church is his body,
he is its head.

As he is the Beginning,
he was first to be born from the dead,
so that he should be first in every way;
because God wanted all perfection
to be found in him
and all things to be reconciled through him and for him,
everything in heaven and everything on earth,
when he made peace
by his death on the cross.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mk 11: 9.10

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lord remember me when you come into your kingdom.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke. **Lk 23: 35-43**

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The sol-

diers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Proposed themes:

- *Is Jesus Christ truly the King of my life and of my family?*
- *Do I have the ability to make my decisions based upon the suggestions of Christ the King?*
- *Make mention of the closing of the Year of Faith and the ways in which the parish celebrated this time of grace.*
- *Emphasize the importance and the challenges of the promises and the Profession of Faith made at Baptism.*
- *How do we profess our faith in the various circumstances of our lives?*
- *In Baptism we have received our mission: go and make disciples! What fruit have I born?*
- *Have I professed my faith?*

The Creed

After the homily, the priest introduces the Profession of Faith in these or similar words:

A year ago, at the opening of the *Year of Faith*, the text of the Symbol of Faith had been presented to us. However, our task was not simply to commit the formula of the *Creed* to memory. As Saint Augustine says: “these few words are known to the faithful, so that in believing they may be made subject to God; that being made subject, they may lead upright lives; that in living uprightly, they may make the heart pure; that with a pure heart, they may understand what they believe.”

Today we reiterate our *Creed*. With candles lit, recalling the Baptism that initiated our journey of faith and the mission every Christian has received to bear witness to it, we solemnly profess in the Church, the community of believers, our membership to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The candles are lit from the Paschal Candle. The priest says:

Receive the light of Christ.

With candles lit, the priest recites the prayer:

In Baptism you have become the light of Christ.
Walk always as a child of the light
so that you can persevere in the faith,
and be able to meet the Lord
who comes with all of the saints, in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Then the community sings or solemnly recites the Creed.

Afterwards, the priest recites the following prayer over the people:

God our Father,

Listen to your children who together profess the faith of their Baptism.

Assist them always with your grace.

Enlighten them every day with the light of faith.

Lead them by the Holy Spirit along the ways of this world,

So that they may encounter their brothers and sisters

and be the evangelizers whom you need

to make known the good news of salvation.

Then all men and women, gathered into only one fold,

led by only one shepherd, your Son Jesus,

will inherit the joy and the promised rest

to those who have allowed themselves to be led to You,

the One God who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Universal Prayer
or Prayer of the Faithful

Following the Prayer of the Faithful, the Mass proceeds in the usual way:

The priest:

Dear brothers and sisters,
we call upon Christ, the King of the Universe,
in one prayer and united in one faith,
which has been implanted in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

Together we say:

R. Lord hear us.

The readers:

- For the Holy Catholic Church,
that she may always be faithful to her Teacher, Jesus Christ,
announcing to all the world the salvation received.
We pray... **R.**
- For Pope Francis, our Bishop **N.**,
priests and deacons,
that accompanied by the Holy Spirit,
they will boldly profess their faith in the Savior.
We pray... **R.**
- For the laity working in pastoral care,
may they be guided by your Word, O Lord,
which enlightens and saves.
We pray.... **R.**

- For our families,
that they may be inspired by You, O Lord,
to confront the difficulties and trials of life
with faith and mutual love.
We pray... **R.**
- For our departed loved ones,
that the faith in the Risen Christ
which animated their lives on earth
be transformed
into the certainty of being with Him in his Kingdom.
We pray... **R.**
- For those here present,
that we may be followers of Christ and bearers of your Gospel
to the people whom we encounter in our daily lives.
We pray... **R.**

The priest:

Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe,
turn your favor towards us so that we trust only in you:
strengthen the faith within us
and make us always open to professing it.
You who live and reign forever and ever.

R. Amen.

Either before or at the end of Holy Mass, you may wish to expose, at a previously prepared location close to the altar, the relics of saints (the patron of your church). Recite the Litany of the Saints or another suitable prayer (a prayer for the intercession of the patron saint of the church), asking that the Christian community cultivate an ardent faith and be given the strength to profess it. Conclude with the blessing with the relics.

