Liturgical Leaflet for an Active Participation in the Celebration of the Eucharist



Holding On to Faith Despite All!

his is our first Sunday in the month of the Rosary and of the Missions. This is the month in which we are urged to grow in our faith and pray for an increase in it, remembering that faith is both a gift from the Lord and a commitment on our part.

Faith is what enables us to accept with humble trust even the sad events that elude our comprehension. It is what empowers us to persevere in the good work, even when we do not see the results we had hoped to attain. Faith is what drives our missionaries to devote all their energies to bring the light of the Gospel to those who do not yet know Christ. Faith is what brings us together, right now, to offer this Eucharist in praise of God and for the good of all mankind. Together with Jesus' disciples, let us pray: "Lord, increase our faith!"



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all. (Cf. Est 4:17)

Greeting

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

All-And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

P -Brethren, let us acknowl-

edge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. (Pause)

P -You were sent to heal the contrite of heart, Lord, have mercy.

All-Lord, have mercy.

P -You came to call sinners, Christ, have mercy.

All-Christ, have mercy.

P -You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us, Lord, have mercy.

All-Lord, have mercy.

P -May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **All-Amen.**

Gloria

All-Glory to God in the high-

est, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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Collect (Opening Prayer)

P -Almighty ever-living God, who in the abundance of your kindness surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you, pour out your mercy upon us to pardon what conscience dreads and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All-Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading Hab 1:2-3;2:2-4
The seemingly unchecked arrogance and cruelty of violent people have always been a severe test for the faith of the believers. Any delay on God's part in curbing those abuses seems unbearable for those who believe in His justice and omnipotence. In his reply, the Lord assures Habakkuk and us that everything will be put right at the proper time.

 R - A reading from the Book of the Prophet Habakkuk

How long, O Lord? I cry for help but you do not listen! I cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not intervene. Why do you let me see ruin; why must I look at misery? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and clamorous discord.

Then the Lord answered me and said: Write down the vision clearly upon the tablets, so that one can read it readily. For the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint. If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late. The rash one has no integrity; but the just one, because of his faith, shall live.

The Word of the Lord. **All-Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9)

R -If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts!





- * Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to him. R.
- * Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the Lord who made us. For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides. R.
- * Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert, where your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my works." R.

2nd Reading 2 Tm 1:6-8,13-14 Here are some powerful words of encouragement by the apostle Paul to his disciple Timothy. The fruit of the Spirit is indeed marvelous in all those who stir that Gift into flame.

R –A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy

Beloved: I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control.

So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, nor of me, a prisoner for his sake; but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God. Take as your norm the sound words that you heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard this rich trust with the help

of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us.

The Word of the Lord. **All-Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation 1 Pt 1:25

All-Alleluia, Alleluia.
The word of the Lord
remains for ever.
This is the word that has
been proclaimed to you.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel Lk 17:5-10 When we do some work for the Lord, we should not think that we are doing a favor to Him. Rather, we should always remember that it is only thanks to His "confidence-building trust" that we are called to share in His wonderful enterprise. Hence, we should be grateful to Him for that, rather than expect an immediate reward.

P -The Lord be with you.All-And with your spirit.

P -A reading from the holy Gospel according to LukeAll-Glory to you, O Lord.

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

Who among you would say to your servant who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here immediately and take your place at table'? Would he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink. You may eat and drink when I am finished'? Is he grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded?

So should it be with you. When you have done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have [just] done what we were expected to do.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All-Praise to you, Lord Jesus
Christ.

Homily

Profession of Faith

(Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed)

All—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow)* and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.* For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

P -Challenged by the Lord to grow in faith, and trusting only in His merciful love, let us humbly present our petitions to Him:

All-Lord, graciously hear us.

C —For the Church, the great family of believers all over the world: May she always be guided by a spirit of faith, which sees God's providential presence even in the most confusing events. Let us pray.

R.

C –For the Holy Father, our bishops, and priests: May they

continue to inspire us with their persevering faith and their hard work for the good of all the people entrusted to their care. Let us pray.

R.

C -For all those afflicted by sickness or big disappointments: May their faith in a loving and all-wise God be their strength as they strive to rebuild their lives. Let us pray.

R.

C —For our missionaries, the heroes of our faith: May they never grow discouraged by the meager results of their labors, but constantly trust in the Lord. Let us pray.

R.

P -Lord God, Yours is the field in which we are called to work, and Yours is the energy we need to fruitfully labor in it. Grant us the humility we need to acknowledge this, and the indispensable faith to persevere in Your service. Through Christ our Lord. **All-Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Preparation of the Gifts

P - Pray, brethren . . .

All—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

P -Accept, O Lord, we pray, the sacrifices instituted by your commands and, through the sacred mysteries, which we celebrate with dutiful service, graciously complete the sanctifying work by which you are pleased to redeem us.

Through Christ our Lord. *All* – **Amen.**

Preface III

P -The Lord be with you.

All-And with your spirit.

P -Lift up your hearts.

All-We lift them up to the Lord.

P –Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All–It is right and just.

P -It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, al-

ways and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For we know it belongs to your boundless glory, that you came to the aid of mortal beings with your divinity and even fashioned for us a remedy out of mortality itself, that the cause of our downfall might become the means of our salvation, through Christ our Lord.

Through him the host of Angels adores your majesty and rejoices in your presence for ever. May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in one chorus of exultant praise, as we acclaim: *All*—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.

Memorial Acclamation

P -The mystery of faith.

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

COMMUNION RITE



All-Our Father...

P -Deliver us, Lord . . .

All-For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All—Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2×)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Communion

P —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. All—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

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him. (Lam 3:25)

Prayer after Communion

P -Grant us, almighty God, that we may be refreshed and nourished by the Sacrament which we have received, so as to be transformed into what we consume.

Through Christ our Lord. *All* – **Amen.**

CONCLUDING RITES



- **P** -The Lord be with you.
- All-And with your spirit.
- P -Bow down for the blessing. (Pause)
 - May you walk in the Lord's ways, always doing what is right and just, until you enter your heavenly inheritance.

All-Amen.

P -May you be patient in bearing with the hardships of life and strong in overcoming all obstacles.

All-Amen.

P –May you be humble in your success and glad to cooperate with God.

All-Amen.

P –May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All-Amen.

P -Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

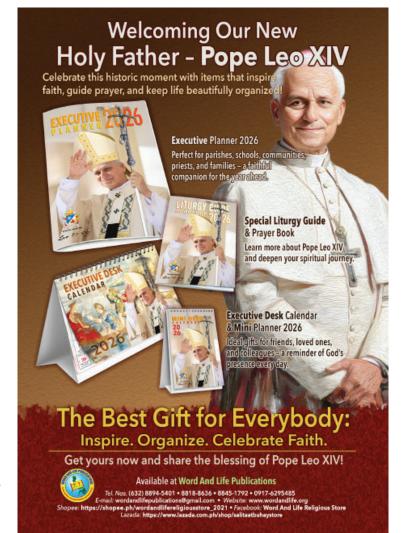
All-Thanks be to God.



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WORD AND LIFE TE



Integrity, Righteousness, Faith, & Life

Today is a day that speaks to all of us who have ever felt discouraged, dispirited, dejected and forlorn. That means all of us! But without denigrating your personal experience, I would like to suggest, as all three readings show, that today's liturgy talks, in a special way, to leaders, to pastors, to people out there who have made it their lifetime option to serve others.

Today, the Lord talks to all the jaded Habbakuks of our time, pushed against the wall of uncertainty and undeserved suffering who cries out: "How long, O Lord? I cry for help but you do not listen!" The Lord, too, directs himself to all the weak-kneed, relatively youthful Timothys in our midst, overwhelmed and crumpled into "cow-

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ardice" on account of the seemingly more powerful forces of darkness that stalk the world. Ordained for service, for kingship, priesthood, and prophecy like unto Christ the Good Shepherd, they are cowered into fear as the initial "flames" brought about by the gift of ordination (imposition of hands) are smothered by so much bad example, and so much bad will from friend and foe alike. The Lord talks to weary disciples depleted of their supply of faith who beg him: "Lord, increase our faith."

The Lord does not simply talk to me today. He convicts me. Being rather naturally inclined towards pessimism, I spend lots of time (and sleepless hours) thinking (it is more like worrying) about so many problems, real or imagined. I worry myself sick about the seeming victory of "ruin, misery, destruction, and violence before me."

I am reminded by what some writer said to the effect that God whispers to us in our joys, talks to us in our successes, and shouts at us in our pain.

He shouts at us today. He wants a hearing from us all who are lost in our own version of "clamorous discord." He offers, not a quick fix answer, but a vision. To aid our eyes clouded over with tears, he offers a binocular, a telescope of something that "will not disappoint." He bids us be patient. "If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late."

We see this vision despite our tears. We see this unfolding reality because of our tears. Didn't somebody say that "tears are the telescopes by which we see far into heaven?"

But wait. This surely is no mere pious talk. This is good news. And this good news entails a good hard look at what we can do, what we ought to do, what we should invest, if we are going to reap the fruits of our waiting, and hoping, and believing.

This vision has a price tag. It demands a counterpart, some form of "earnest money" from our part, to show the Lord we are indeed listening, that we are indeed, doing our part.

Habakkuk demanded an answer to his "why" question. God offered a vision, not a quick fix answer. The vision entailed some good all the impatient Habakkuks in our midst could do. The vision offers a way towards INTEGRITY, RIGHTEOUSNESS, & FAITH. "The rash one has no integrity; but the just one, because of his faith, shall live."

Timothy, who was cowered into timidity and cowardice by pressing difficulties was given a shot in the arm by being encouraged to cultivate power, love, and self-discipline with God's grace, and to "take as [his] norm the sound words that [he] heard from [Paul], in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus."

The disciples asked for an increased dosage of faith. Their question was one of quantity. The Lord gave them a qualitative answer. What they needed was not more of what they already had, but something qualitatively new and different.

Today's readings offer us this VISION of a qualitatively more relationship with a God who is concerned with our total welfare. So concerned is He with our integral good and growth that He does not give us quick fix answers. He offers us a way we can follow on our own. He offers us a set of virtues to live. He counsels us INTEGRITY, RIGHTEOUSNESS, and FAITH. And all three virtues lead to life.

I see no additional rules today to make life even sadder than it is already. I see and hear a VISION of something sure and certain, a vision of a God who cares, a vision of a God who serves others, who rewards discipleship with more than just worldly material perks and bonuses, and whose retirement benefits are simply out of this world! I also see and hear that the way towards the attainment of such vision is God's work and ours to do. God's work comes in the form of grace. Our work comes in the form of virtues. Virtues are our counterpart, our personal contribution and investment.

It would be good for us to start with some basic ones: integrity, righteousness, and faith. Throw in a dash of "power, love, and self-control." Add in a measure of selfless service, patterned after that of Christ. "The rash one has integrity; but the just one, because of his faith, shall live."