

## The Ascension of the Lord

*Acts 1,1-11; Eph 1,17-23; Mt 28,16-20*

### INTRODUCTION

A few years ago, a little girl stood on the playground with a paper airplane in her hand. She wanted it to fly as far as possible. With all her strength, she hurled it into the air. For a moment, she watched it soar—and then it disappeared from sight. Disappointed, she thought it had fallen. But her teacher gently said: “No, it’s still flying. You just can’t see it anymore, but its journey has only just begun.”

Today, we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus. Like that paper airplane, Jesus’ departure from our sight is not a farewell, but the beginning of a mission—a mission that continues in each one of us. Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples, teaching them, guiding them, and showing them the reality of God’s Kingdom. And then, He was taken up into heaven—not leaving them alone, but empowering them with the Holy Spirit to carry His message to the ends of the earth.

Let us open our hearts to Christ, who is alive and present

among us, calling us to follow Him, to witness His love, and to share the joy of His Kingdom in our homes, our communities, and our world.

### PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus Christ,

You came into the world to show us the Father’s love, yet we have sometimes doubted your presence and failed to live your message. **Lord, have mercy.**

You entrusted us with your mission, yet we have been silent when we should have spoken, and inactive when we should have acted. **Christ, have mercy.**

You sent the Holy Spirit to guide us, yet we have relied on our own strength and forgotten to wait for your power.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead, pour out His Spirit upon you, forgive your sins, and strengthen you to follow Christ courageously in word and deed, and may he lead us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

## INVITATION TO THE GLORIA

Let us rejoice with all creation, for Christ has been raised and has ascended in glory. His Spirit empowers us to be witnesses of His love and mercy, and to carry His mission into every corner of the earth.

*Glory to God in the highest...*

## COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God,  
you have revealed your glory in the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, and have exalted Him to your right hand.

As He was lifted up and seated in majesty, so also may we be lifted in faith, hope, and courage.

Grant us your Holy Spirit, that we may follow Christ faithfully, bear witness to His Kingdom, and serve others with love and joy.

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

## HOMILY: THE ASCENSION – A BEGINNING OF MISSION, PRESENCE, AND JOY

A few years ago, a little girl stood on the playground, clutching a paper airplane. She wanted it to fly as far as possible. With all her strength, she launched it into the air. She watched it soar for a moment—and then, it disappeared from sight. Disappointed, she thought it had fallen. Her teacher knelt beside her and said, “No, it’s still flying. You just can’t see it anymore, but its journey has just begun.” That moment captures perfectly the mystery of the Ascension of Jesus. What appears to be an ending—the moment Jesus disappears from sight—is actually the start of something far greater.

Forty days after Easter, on that first Ascension morning, the disciples stood on the Mount of Olives, looking up at the sky. They had spent weeks encountering the risen Christ: seeing Him, listening to Him, walking with Him, and being amazed by His presence. Yet now, He was taken from their sight, ascending to the Father. Their hearts must have been a mix of awe, confusion, and longing. And into

that moment of wonder came a challenge and a promise: “Why do you stand here looking up at the sky? This Jesus will return. But you are to be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.”

Jesus’ Ascension teaches us three profound truths. First, it is a beginning of mission. Just as that little paper airplane continued its flight, Jesus’ story did not end when He left the earth. The Gospel of Luke transitions seamlessly into the Acts of the Apostles, showing that the Ascension is a launchpad for spreading God’s Kingdom. The disciples were sent, not as lecturers, but as witnesses: people who had seen, touched, and lived the risen Christ. Today, many Christians remain silent, not because they do not care, but because they have not experienced this God personally. The task is to live encounters with Christ so vivid, so real, that others cannot help but notice.

Consider a parishioner who prayed for her sick father daily. One morning, his health suddenly improved. It was not coincidence—it was the living God acting in the midst of everyday life. Or think of a youth group planning a

community event. Initially, nothing worked. Then they prayed together, invited the Holy Spirit into their planning, and suddenly, ideas flowed, people joined, and what seemed impossible became a joyful success. The Ascension reminds us that mission without God’s power can falter, but with His Spirit, even small acts can transform the world.

Second, the Ascension is a call to courage and presence. The disciples were not abandoned—they were entrusted with the mission of witnessing to the Kingdom of God. Jesus ascends to a richer form of presence, no longer limited by space and time, but present through the Spirit, the Church, and each of us who follow Him. Consider the story of a young volunteer overwhelmed by the poverty in her city. Remembering that Christ reigns, she began helping a few children in her neighborhood. Slowly, small acts grew into a vibrant community program. Looking at the exalted Christ gives courage to act, even when the world seems dark or indifferent.

Third, the Ascension gives perspective and hope. Jesus reigns over all creation. “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” In times of despair—wars, injustice, climate crises—we are reminded that Christ’s victory is already secure. A parish priest once described a tense diocesan meeting that seemed impossible to resolve. An elder priest quietly prayed, focusing on Christ’s reign, and in minutes, tensions dissolved, and solutions emerged. God’s power works through praise, patience, and faith. But where, then, is heaven? A child’s simple insight gives us a clue. When told her newborn sister, who had died, was in heaven, a three-year-old said: “Then she can play with Jesus all the time now.” Heaven is not a distant place in the clouds. Heaven is brilliance, joy, and communion with God. It is present wherever Christ is praised, wherever love is shared, wherever people act in His Spirit. Every act of kindness, every moment of compassion, every gesture of mercy brings a piece of heaven into our world.

The Ascension is also an invitation to follow in Christ’s footsteps. A pilgrim on the Mount of Olives once gazed at Jerusalem and knelt before faint footprints in the stone, wondering if these were Jesus’ last steps on earth.

Whether or not they were, the invitation was clear: follow Him. Ascension is not about watching Jesus float away; it is about walking boldly in His steps—through service, justice, love, and mercy—in our homes, workplaces, and streets. Every small act of love is a trace of His journey in the world.

We see this in the stories of ordinary people: a teacher inspiring students to write letters to the lonely in nursing homes, a young woman delivering meals once a week to a shelter, a seminary in Dublin training priests who would carry the gospel across the globe. Each act, each disciple, each witness extends Christ’s presence, continuing the mission He entrusted to His Church.

Finally, the Ascension reminds us of the Father’s guiding hand. Jesus returns to the Father, yet He leaves the promise: “I am with you always.” Just as parents must let

go of their children so they can flourish, Christ's Ascension opens the door for a universal, abundant presence through the Spirit. Departures, as painful as they may feel, are the gateway to new life, new ways of encountering God, new forms of mission.

So, like that little girl watching her paper airplane, we are called to lift our eyes, hearts, and spirits. The journey has just begun. We are witnesses, empowered by the Spirit, following Christ's footsteps, bringing heaven to earth in acts of love, hope, and joy. Let us take courage, for the Ascended Christ is with us—always, to the very end of the age.

Let me end with another story: A young woman once stood hesitating before a stone slab with faint footprints in Jerusalem. She worried that following Jesus seemed impossible amidst the busyness and distractions of life. Yet as she walked through the streets and olive groves, she saw small signs of God everywhere: a kind smile, a helping hand, a moment of prayer. And she realized: following Christ is not about miracles in the sky—it is about living His

love here and now. The Ascension is not a farewell. It is a beginning. It is an invitation to rise, to soar, and to bring God's Kingdom to earth, empowered by His Spirit, filled with courage, and sustained by joy. Amen.

### **INVITATION TO THE CREDO**

Brothers and sisters, the Ascension reminds us that Christ is not absent, but present in a new and powerful way, calling us to be His witnesses in the world. United in this faith, and trusting in His promise to remain with us always, let us now profess the faith of the Church:

### **INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Let us now offer to God the gifts of bread and wine, signs of His presence and His mission among us, and pray that they may be acceptable to God the Father almighty.

### **EXPANDED PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Lord our God, your Son ascended into heaven, yet He remains present among us, in your Church, in the breaking of the bread, and in every act of love. Receive our gifts of bread and wine, and transform them into a sign of communion and mission. May this Eucharist strengthen us

to follow His footsteps, bear witness to your Kingdom, and bring joy, hope, and peace to all people. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **PREFACE**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For after His resurrection, your Son Jesus Christ appeared in bodily form to His disciples, showing them the reality of your Kingdom and the power of your love.

Before their eyes, He was taken up into heaven, not as a farewell, but to open a new way of presence and mission. He sends us the Holy Spirit, so that we may continue His work on earth, following His footsteps and bearing witness to His love in every word, gesture, and act of service.

And so, with the angels and all the saints, we proclaim your glory and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy ...**

## **INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER**

The Lord Jesus taught us to call God our Father and to ask for what we truly need—our daily bread, forgiveness, guidance, and protection from evil. Let us pray together with confidence, as He taught us:

## **EMBOLISM**

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our time. Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow Christ faithfully in courage and love, and carry His mission into our families, our workplaces, and our communities. Keep us steadfast in faith and hope, as we await in joyful hope the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

## **PRAYER FOR PEACE**

Lord Jesus Christ, after your resurrection you appeared to your disciples and greeted them: “Peace be with you.”

Today, you greet us in the same way, calling us to live in harmony with you and with one another.

Grant that your peace, which surpasses all understanding, may fill our hearts, guide our thoughts and actions, and

strengthen us in faith.

May it inspire us to be faithful witnesses of your Kingdom, sharing your love, mercy, and hope with all people.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Behold the Lord who has ascended in glory, yet remains with us in the breaking of the bread. He strengthens us for our mission and fills us with His Spirit. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

### **POST-COMMUNION MEDITATION**

The Ascension reminds us that Christ has not left us.

Though He is taken from our sight, He is present among us through the Spirit, through His Church, and through each act of love and service we perform. Every kind word, every gesture of mercy, every effort to bring hope and justice to our world is a trace of His footsteps.

Like the little girl's paper airplane, our lives are sent forth by God's Spirit. We may not always see the full impact of our actions, but each step of faith continues Christ's

mission, bringing heaven closer to earth. Let us rise in courage, hope, and joy, trusting that the Ascended Christ walks with us always.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord Jesus Christ,

You have risen and ascended into heaven, yet you remain with us through the Spirit and in every act of love.

As we have received your Body and Blood, strengthen us to carry your mission into our homes, our communities, and the world. May your presence inspire courage in our hearts, hope in our lives, and joy in our service to others. Let every word, gesture, and action reflect your Kingdom, bringing heaven closer to earth.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **FINAL BLESSING**

May Almighty God, the Father, who guides our paths, bless you;

the Son, who walks with us always, keep you;

and the Holy Spirit, who strengthens and inspires every

good work, fill you with power and grace.

And may the blessing of Almighty God, **+ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit**, come upon you and remain with you forever.

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your lives and your witness.

### TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Ascension is not a farewell. It is a beginning. Jesus is present with us—in our hearts, our homes, and our actions. Every small act of love, service, and kindness continues His mission. Be His witness today, wherever you go, and trust that the Spirit guides your steps.

**Monday, 7th Week of Easter - Acts 19,1–8; Jn 16,29–33**

### INTRODUCTION

There is a story of a small child who, on the first day of school, felt completely overwhelmed. Surrounded by strangers and unfamiliar faces, the child clung anxiously to the classroom door as the parent prepared to leave. Sensing the fear, the teacher gently knelt down and said, “You may not see your mother now, but she has not left you alone. And I am here with you.” Slowly, the child found courage, not because the situation changed, but because of the reassuring presence beside them.

In a similar way, life often places us in situations where we feel scattered, uncertain, or alone. Today’s readings remind us that even in such moments, we are never abandoned. Jesus speaks honestly about the trials we will face, yet he also gives us a profound assurance: the Father is always with him—and with us. In him, we find a peace that no trouble can take away. As we gather for this Eucharist, we open our hearts to that presence which strengthens, sustains, and gives us peace.

## **PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS**

Lord Jesus, you remained faithful even when your disciples scattered in fear: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you assure us of the Father's presence in every trial and difficulty: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you offer us your peace that the world cannot give: Lord, have mercy.

## **PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, strengthen us in times of trial, fill us with his peace, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

## **COLLECT**

O God, who never abandon your children but remain with them in every trial, grant us, we pray, the grace to trust in your constant presence, so that, strengthened by the peace of your Son and guided by the Holy Spirit, we may face the challenges of life with courage and hope. 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. Amen.

## **HOMILY**

A few years ago, a young man found himself stranded in a foreign city after missing his flight home. Alone, tired, and uncertain, he wandered the streets, feeling the weight of isolation pressing down on him. Yet deep inside, he felt a quiet reassurance—a sense that he was not truly alone. That invisible presence gave him courage to ask for help and eventually find his way home safely.

Today's readings remind us of that same profound truth: even in moments of loneliness, we are never truly alone. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples on the night before his passion, saying plainly, "The time will come when you will all be scattered, each going his own way and leaving me alone." He knew what lay ahead: fear, betrayal, and abandonment. Yet he also knew something even greater—"I am not alone, because the Father is with me."

We, like the disciples, often imagine our faith to be strong. Yet life has a way of testing us. There are times when we stray, when fear or self-interest makes us turn away. Jesus

speaks honestly about this reality: “In the world you will have trouble.” Life brings challenges and moments when we feel overwhelmed or abandoned. Jesus does not hide this truth; he faced it himself as he approached the cross.

Yet he does not leave us in despair. In the midst of suffering and human weakness, he offers a promise: peace. “I have told you this so that you may have peace in me.” This is not a peace that removes trouble, but a peace that sustains us through it—a peace rooted in God’s presence and in the gift of the Holy Spirit. Paul knew this peace even in prison, writing with confidence, “I can do all things in him who strengthens me.”

Jesus’ words are realistic: our faith may falter, and we may sometimes go our own way. But his faithfulness never fails. Even when we turn away, the risen Lord welcomes us back, breathing his Spirit upon us and sending us again to live lives of service, compassion, and courage.

As we walk through life, we are reminded of the presence of the Trinity. When we feel lonely or uncertain, the Father

is with us, the Son walks beside us, and the Spirit fills us with hope. Even in trials, we can find courage and peace because Christ has already conquered the world.

Let me end with another story. A grandmother once told her grandchildren about a night during a storm when the power went out and the house fell into darkness. Alone in her room, she felt fear creeping in. Then she remembered a truth she had learned long ago: she was never truly alone. She prayed, sensed God’s presence, and her fear slowly turned into peace. In our lives, too, when we feel scattered or burdened by trials, Christ’s promise remains: we are not alone, and in him we will find true peace.

### **INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Pray, brothers and sisters, that trusting in God’s presence in our lives and offering him our struggles and hopes, my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

## **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Lord God,  
receive the gifts we place before you,  
and in your kindness transform our fears into trust  
and our trials into opportunities for grace.  
May this offering deepen our awareness  
that we are never alone,  
but always sustained by your love.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **PREFACE**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.  
  
For you never leave your people abandoned,  
but walk with them through every trial and uncertainty.  
In your Son, Jesus Christ,  
you revealed a peace that overcomes the troubles of the  
world, and through the Holy Spirit,  
you strengthen us to remain faithful and courageous.

Even when we falter or go our own way,  
you call us back with love and fill our hearts with hope.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,  
with Thrones and Dominions,  
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,  
we sing the hymn of your glory,  
as without end we acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy...

## **INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER**

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching,  
confident that we are never alone but always held in the  
Father's care, we dare to say:

## **EMBOLISM**

Deliver us, Lord, from every fear and anxiety,  
and grant us the steadfast presence of your Spirit.  
May your peace, which the world cannot take away,  
strengthen us in trials, guide us in uncertainty,  
and keep our hearts always secure in your love,  
as we await the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

## **PRAYER FOR PEACE**

Lord Jesus Christ, you promised your disciples:

*"In the world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world."*

Look not on our failings, but on the faith you have planted in your Church.

Fill us with your abiding peace, so that even in trials, our hearts remain courageous, our actions faithful, and our lives united in love.

You live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Behold the Lamb of God, who strengthens us in our trials and fills us with his peace. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

## **SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION**

In the quiet of this moment, we remember: we are not alone. Christ has come to dwell within us.

His peace lives in our hearts, even when the world is troubled. Let us rest in his presence, trusting that whatever we face, he walks with us and strengthens us.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord our God, nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son, we thank you for the gift of your abiding presence. Strengthen our hearts with your peace, so that in every trial we may remain steadfast in faith and confident in your love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **FINAL BLESSING**

May the peace of Christ, which surpasses every fear, strengthen your hearts in times of trial. May the love of the Father enfold you, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit lead you in courage and hope. And may almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go forth in peace, trusting that the Lord is always with you. Thanks be to God.

## TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Even when life feels uncertain or lonely, remember: you are never alone. Christ has conquered the world, and his peace is already within you—trust it, live it, and carry it to others.

## Tuesday, Seventh Week of Easter

*Acts 20:17–27; John 17:1–11*

## INTRODUCTION

There is a story of a mother whose son had moved far away for work. Every evening, at the same hour, she would sit quietly by the window and pray for him. She did not know the details of his struggles, nor could she solve his problems from a distance. But she believed that by placing him in God's hands each day, she was still close to him in the deepest way. Years later, the son would say that in his hardest moments, he always felt somehow supported, as if someone was holding him up.

In a similar way, today's Gospel reveals Jesus at prayer—praying for his disciples and for each one of us. He entrusts us to the Father with love and concern. Even now, the risen Lord continues to intercede for us. As we gather for this Eucharist, we remember that we are held in the prayer of Christ, and we are called to pray for one another in love.

## **PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS**

Lord Jesus, you pray for us and intercede for us before the Father: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you call us to remain faithful to the mission entrusted to us: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you draw us into communion with the Father and with one another: Lord, have mercy.

## **PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION**

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
for the times we have failed to pray for one another,  
for the moments we have forgotten that your Son  
intercedes for us,  
and for our lack of faithfulness to the work you have  
entrusted to us;  
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.  
Amen.

## **COLLECT**

O God, who have made us sharers in the prayer of your Son and called us into communion with you and with one another, grant, we pray, that we may be faithful to the work you entrust to us each day and persevere in love through prayer for one another.

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. Amen.

## **HOMILY**

A few weeks ago, I visited a church not far from Clontarf. What struck me immediately was that it had no shrines with candles burning before them. It felt strangely empty, because I am used to the gentle glow of candles in our own parish—each one representing someone's prayer, sometimes for themselves, sometimes for others. In that quiet moment I realized something simple but profound: one of the greatest services of love we can offer one another is the gift of prayer. Lighting a candle is a small

gesture, but it reminds us that we lift one another before God.

Today's Gospel brings us to the heart of such intercessory prayer. On the night of the Last Supper, Jesus prays—not only for himself but for his disciples, and for all of us. He says to the Father, “I pray for them... I am not in the world any longer, but they are in the world.” Jesus knew the world could be hostile, as it was to him, yet he intercedes on our behalf. Even now, the risen Lord continues to pray for us, standing before the Father and lifting us up in love. How reassuring it is to know that when we struggle to pray, Christ is already praying for us.

Prayer was at the very centre of Jesus' life. In John 17 we hear the beginning of what is often called his great prayer. He prays for himself, asking the Father to glorify him through the mystery of the cross and resurrection. Then he prays for his disciples, that they may share in the life and love of God. This pattern—communion with God and concern for others—becomes a model for our own prayer.

Jesus also tells us what eternal life is: “to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” This knowing is not simply intellectual; it is a relationship of love. Eternal life begins even now as we grow in communion with God and with one another. The Church is meant to be a place where this communion is lived and shared.

Paul, in today's first reading, speaks about finishing the work God entrusted to him. We may not complete every task in life, but we can ask for the grace to remain faithful to the work God gives us each day.

So let us be people of prayer. Let us intercede for one another and draw closer to the Lord. And whenever we see a candle lit—or offer our own quiet prayer—may we remember that we are joining in the prayer of Jesus himself, who always prays for us and for all God's beloved.

## INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Let us now bring before God our lives, our prayers for one another, and our desire to remain faithful to the mission entrusted to us and pray that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the offerings we bring before you, O Lord, become a sign of our communion with you and of our love and prayer for one another, that, united with the intercession of Christ your Son, we may grow in faithfulness and grace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For in your great love you gave us your Son, who not only offered himself for our salvation but continues to intercede for us before you. In him we come to know you, the only true God,

and to share even now in the life that never ends.

Through him you call us into communion and teach us to care for one another in prayer and love, so that, faithful to the mission entrusted to us, we may walk always in your presence.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

## INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say, as children who are held in the prayer of Christ and drawn into communion with the Father:

## EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, and strengthen us when we grow weak in prayer or faithfulness; graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,

as we learn to trust that your Son continually intercedes for us, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

### **PRAYER FOR PEACE**

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

Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Behold the Lamb of God,  
the One who gives himself to us in this Eucharist.  
He is the same Lord who continually prays for us  
and draws us into the life of the Father.  
Behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

### **SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord Jesus, you have fed us with your Body and Blood  
and reminded us that we are never alone.

You pray for us, you walk with us,  
and you call us to lift one another in love.  
Teach us to remain in you,  
to know the Father more deeply,  
and to be faithful in all that is entrusted to us each day.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Having received the sacrament of salvation,  
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,  
that, united with Christ in his prayer for the world,  
we may grow in communion with you  
and faithfully serve you in our brothers and sisters.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **FINAL BLESSING**

May the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May he strengthen you in faithfulness  
and draw you ever deeper into his love.

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

## **DISMISSAL**

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

Live in the peace of Christ,  
and remember to carry one another in prayer.

## **TAKE-HOME THOUGHT**

Every prayer you offer—no matter how small—is an act of love.

Like a quiet candle burning, it joins the prayer of Christ himself, who never ceases to intercede for you and for all.

## **Wednesday, Seventh Week of Easter**

*Acts 20:28–38; John 17:11–19*

## **INTRODUCTION**

A young nurse once worked the night shift in a busy hospital. During one particularly difficult night, the power went out in part of the building. While backup systems flickered on, she stayed beside a frightened patient, holding a small flashlight and speaking calmly to reassure him. Later, the patient said, “It wasn’t just the light you held—it was the fact that you stayed.”

In today’s readings, we are reminded of that same steadfast presence. Saint Paul urges the leaders of the Church to watch over the flock with vigilance and care, even in the face of danger. Jesus, in the Gospel, prays for his disciples, asking the Father to protect them and consecrate them in the truth. Like that nurse, like the lighthouse keeper, we are called not to abandon one another in times of darkness, but to remain, to guide, and to shine with the light of Christ.

As we gather for this Eucharist, let us ask for the grace to remain faithful, to pray for one another, and to be bearers of Christ's light in the world.

### **PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS**

Lord Jesus, you remain with us and guard us in times of trial: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you consecrate us in the truth and call us to be faithful witnesses: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us and strengthen us through your Spirit: Lord, have mercy.

### **PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION**

May Almighty God, who watches over his flock with loving care, strengthen us in his truth, protect us from all that leads us astray, and in his mercy forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

### **COLLECT**

O God, who watch over your people with unfailing care and strengthen them through the prayer of your Son, grant that we may remain steadfast in your truth, protect one another in love, and shine as faithful witnesses in a world often overshadowed by darkness.

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. Amen.

### **HOMILY**

A few years ago, I heard the story of a lighthouse keeper on a remote cliff. Each night he lit the beacon to guide ships safely through dangerous waters. One evening a violent storm threatened to extinguish the light, but he refused to leave his post. He knew sailors' lives depended on that light, so he remained vigilant and steadfast.

Today's readings remind us of that lighthouse keeper. In the Acts of the Apostles, Saint Paul speaks to the elders of

the Church in Ephesus and warns them that, after his departure, “fierce wolves will invade you and will have no mercy on the flock.” The community would face challenges and false teachings. Like the lighthouse keeper, the apostles and early Christian leaders had to remain steadfast, protecting the flock and guiding them toward the light of truth.

In the Gospel, Jesus prays for his disciples: “Holy Father, protect them in your name... consecrate them in the truth.” Jesus knows the dangers his followers will face—temptations, misunderstandings, and forces that lead people astray. Yet he does not leave us alone. He intercedes for us, asking the Father to guard and strengthen us so that we may remain faithful to the truth he revealed.

This prayer also reminds us of the power of intercession. Just as Paul prayed for the communities he served, and Jesus prayed for his disciples, we too are called to pray for one another. When we pray for someone, we hold up a

light for them in the storms of life, asking God to guide and protect them.

Jesus’ prayer also points to our mission. He asks the Father to “consecrate them in the truth,” setting them apart for service. As he was sent by the Father, so we are sent into the world—to witness to God’s love in our families, workplaces, and communities. Remaining faithful is not always easy, but the Holy Spirit strengthens us and leads us into the fullness of truth.

A sailor once said that during the darkest nights at sea, he would search for the lighthouse and trust that its light would appear. No matter how strong the storm, that light never failed him. In the same way, Christ’s prayer—and the prayers we offer for one another—become a steady light that guides us through life’s storms.

May we remain steadfast in faith and let the light of Christ shine through our words, actions, and prayers.

## **INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

As we bring these gifts to the altar, let us also offer our prayers for one another, trusting that God will strengthen us and keep us faithful in his truth. Let us now pray that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

## **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Lord, accept the gifts we offer you  
as signs of our trust in your protecting care;  
grant that, through this holy sacrifice,  
we may be strengthened in faith,  
steadfast in love,  
and faithful to the mission you have entrusted to us.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **PREFACE**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in your loving care, you never abandon your people,  
but watch over them as a shepherd guards the flock.

In your Son, Jesus Christ, you have given us a perfect  
intercessor,  
who prays for us and consecrates us in the truth.  
Through him, you call us to stand firm in faith,  
to support one another in love, and to be lights that guide  
others through the darkness of life.  
And so, with Angels and Archangels,  
with Thrones and Dominions,  
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,  
we sing the hymn of your glory,  
as without end we acclaim:  
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

## **INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER**

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,  
let us pray with confidence for ourselves and for one  
another as children of a loving Father who protects and  
guides us.

## **EMBOLISM**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
and protect your people amid the storms and trials of life;  
strengthen us in your truth and keep us steadfast in faith,  
that, guided by your light and sustained by your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

## **PRAYER FOR PEACE**

Lord Jesus Christ, who prayed for your disciples  
that they may be protected in the Father's name  
and consecrated in the truth,  
look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance  
with your will.

Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the  
sins of the world, the light who never fails. Blessed are  
those called to the supper of the Lamb.

## **SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord Jesus, you have prayed for us and nourished us with  
your Body and Blood.

Remain with us in the storms of life.

Help us to trust in your truth,  
to support one another through prayer,  
and to be steady lights for those who walk in darkness.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord,  
we ask that your grace may strengthen us  
to remain steadfast in faith,  
to walk always in your truth,  
and to serve one another with loving care.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

May Almighty God,  
who calls you to remain steadfast in faith  
and to be a guiding light for others,  
bless you and keep you in his truth,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go and be steadfast in faith,  
praying for one another  
and shining as the light of Christ in the world.

## **TAKE-HOME THOUGHT**

This week, be a “light” for someone—through a prayer, a kind word, or simply your presence. Like the lighthouse in the storm, your faithfulness may guide someone safely through their darkness.

## **Thursday of the 7th Week of Easter**

*Acts 22:30; 23:6–11; John 17:20–26*

## **INTRODUCTION**

There is a story told of a group of musicians preparing for a concert. Each one was highly skilled, but during rehearsal, they struggled. The violinist blamed the pianist, the pianist blamed the conductor, and soon the music became noise. Then the conductor quietly said, “You are all listening to yourselves, but not to one another. Listen together, and you will discover the harmony already written.” When they tried again—this time truly listening—the music came alive, not because they were perfect, but because they were united.

Dear brothers and sisters, today’s readings invite us into that same harmony of unity. In the first reading, Paul stands before a divided assembly, yet his faith in the risen Lord remains firm. In the Gospel, Jesus prays for us—that we may be one, just as He and the Father are one. This unity is not something we force; it is something we receive when we remain in His love. As we gather for this

Eucharist, we ask for the grace to listen—to God and to one another—so that His love may unite us as one body in Christ.

### **PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS**

Lord Jesus, you call us into the unity of your love, yet we have allowed division to take root in our hearts:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you pray that we may be one as you and the Father are one, yet we fail to listen and understand one another: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you fill us with the love of the Father, yet we struggle to forgive and to reconcile: Lord, have mercy.

### **PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and, as we learn to live in the unity of His love and walk together in reconciliation and peace, bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

### **COLLECT**

O God, who call your people to be one in the love of your Son and to live in harmony through the gift of the Holy Spirit, grant that, drawing ever closer to Christ, we may grow in unity with one another and become a living sign of your love in the world. 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. Amen.

### **HOMILY**

I once heard a story about a small church community struggling with division. Different groups argued over how to run the parish, how to worship, even how to interpret Scripture. One day, an elderly parishioner quietly said, “We’re like pieces of a puzzle. We can fight over the edges all day, but until we sit together and see the picture, nothing makes sense.” That simple remark captures what Jesus prays for in today’s Gospel: unity, not just as an idea, but as a living reality rooted in God’s love.

In the first reading, Paul speaks before the Jewish council in Jerusalem. He identifies himself as a Pharisee who

believes in the resurrection, angels, and spirits—a faith deepened by his encounter with the risen Christ. Even then, there were strong disagreements. Yet Paul’s faith shows that true understanding grows not from arguments alone, but from a living relationship with God.

In the Gospel, Jesus prays not only for the first disciples but for all who will believe through their witness—including us. He prays that we may be one, just as He and the Father are one. This unity is not something we create by our own efforts; it flows from our communion with Christ. The closer we grow to Him, the closer we grow to one another.

The love that the Father has for Jesus is meant to dwell in us. When that love lives in us, Jesus Himself lives through our words, actions, and relationships. This love enables us to forgive, to listen, and to reconcile. It makes the Church a true home for those who seek God.

As we approach Pentecost, we pray for the Holy Spirit to renew this love within us. Our unity is not simply a comfort;

it is part of our mission, so that the world may believe that the Father sent the Son.

And so we return to that little parish. When the people finally set aside their arguments and prayed together, they began to see the bigger picture. Slowly, with patience and love, the pieces of the puzzle began to fit. The church was not perfect, but it became a place where God’s love could dwell and grow—exactly what Jesus prays for each of us today.

### **INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Pray, brothers and sisters, that, as we offer these gifts and open our hearts to God’s uniting love, our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

### **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

May these offerings, O Lord, we pray, express the unity you desire for your people and deepen within us the love that comes from you, so that, reconciled with one another, we may become a pleasing offering in your sight. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **PREFACE**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in your great love you sent your Son into the world,  
that all who believe in him might be gathered into one. In  
him you have revealed the mystery of your unity, and  
through his prayer you call us to share in that communion  
of love which binds you and the Holy Spirit.

Even amid human weakness and division, you do not  
abandon your people, but continue to draw them together,  
teaching us to listen, to forgive, and to live as one body in  
Christ. As we await the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, you  
renew in us the desire for unity, that the world may believe  
in your saving love.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and  
Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,  
we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:  
Holy, Holy, Holy...

## **INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER**

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching,  
we dare to say, as one family united in Christ:

## **EMBOLISM**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant  
peace in our days, and strengthen us in unity and love,  
that, with hearts reconciled and attentive to one another,  
we may live as one body in Christ, as we await the blessed  
hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

## **PRAYER FOR PEACE**

Lord Jesus Christ, you prayed that all who believe in you  
may be one, as you are one with the Father. Look with  
mercy upon us, for we often allow differences to divide us  
and fail to listen with love. Pour your Spirit into our hearts,  
that we may learn to forgive, to understand, and to walk  
together in harmony. Let your love dwell within us so  
deeply that it overcomes every division and makes us  
instruments of your peace in our families, our communities,  
and your Church.

Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Behold the Lamb of God,  
who gathers us into one through his love and calls us to  
share in his life.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

## **SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION**

In this sacred moment, we have received the One who  
prayed for our unity. Christ now dwells within us, and his  
love is alive in our hearts. Let us ask for the grace to carry  
this love into our relationships—to listen more deeply, to  
forgive more readily, and to become instruments of unity in  
a divided world.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

May the grace of this heavenly sacrament, O Lord,  
unite us more closely to you and to one another,  
so that, filled with your love,  
we may bear witness to the unity for which your Son  
prayed. Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## **FINAL BLESSING**

May almighty God bless you,  
and strengthen you in his love,  
that you may live in unity,  
listen to one another with patience,  
and reflect the harmony of Christ in your lives:  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go forth in peace, glorifying the Lord by your lives, and  
building unity through love.

## **TAKE-HOME THOUGHT**

Unity begins not with winning arguments, but with listening  
in love. The closer we draw to Christ, the more we are  
drawn to one another. Today, choose one act of listening,  
forgiveness, or reconciliation, and become a living piece of  
the unity Jesus prays for.

## Friday, Seventh Week of Easter

*Acts 25:13–21; John 21:15–19*

### INTRODUCTION

There is a story of a violinist who once performed before a large audience. In the middle of the concert, he made a serious mistake. The music faltered, and for a moment, there was an uncomfortable silence. But instead of stopping, he paused, took a breath, and began again—this time with deeper feeling and greater attention. By the end, the same audience that had noticed his mistake rose in applause, not because he was perfect, but because he had the courage to begin again.

In a similar way, today's Gospel shows us Peter, who had once failed the Lord, now given a new beginning. By the charcoal fire, Jesus does not condemn him but invites him to love again and to serve: "Feed my sheep." We too come before the Lord, not as perfect people, but as those who are given another chance. In this Eucharist, Jesus gently asks each of us, "Do you love me?" and invites us to begin again in love and service.

### PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call us back to you even after we have failed: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you ask for our love and renew us with your mercy: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you entrust us with the care of others and call us to serve: Lord, have mercy.

### PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins born of fear, failure, and hesitation, renew in us the grace to love you sincerely and to serve your people faithfully, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

### COLLECT

O God, who in your risen Son restore us with patient love and call us again to follow him, grant that we, strengthened by your mercy, may not be discouraged by our failures but renewed in love and faithful in service to one another.

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. Amen.

## HOMILY

A few years ago, a young man came to me after Mass, troubled and ashamed. He had failed publicly in a work project and felt he had let down everyone around him. He was afraid to try again, worried that his failure defined him. I shared with him the story of Peter, and it brought him hope.

In today's Gospel, we see Peter by a charcoal fire on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. It echoes the night he denied Jesus three times beside another charcoal fire. Then fear and weakness overcame him. But now, after the Resurrection, Jesus approaches him again—not with accusation, but with love. Three times Jesus asks, "Do you love me?"

Notice that Jesus does not question Peter about his past failure. Instead, He focuses on the present: love and renewal. Each time Peter answers, "Lord, you know I love you," and each time Jesus entrusts him with a mission: "Feed my sheep." The order is clear: first love, then

service; first communion with the Lord, then care for others.

We, too, often feel weighed down by our failures. Yet the Resurrection reminds us that God's love does not waver. The Lord continues to seek us and invite us back into communion. In every Eucharist, it is as though Jesus asks us again, "Do you love me?" and gives us the chance to begin anew.

The Gospel also reminds us that love leads to responsibility. Jesus' love for Peter becomes a call to care for others. Our faith is expressed in the way we serve our brothers and sisters—with patience, compassion, and fidelity.

I think again of that young man. After hearing Peter's story, he left encouraged and returned to his work, not perfect, but renewed. In time, he became a source of encouragement to others—the very love he had received, he began to share.

Like Peter at the charcoal fire, we too are invited to start again. Jesus asks each of us, “Do you love me?” If we answer with sincerity, He will entrust us with the same mission: to care for His flock in our own way.

### **INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

as we bring these gifts to the altar, we may also offer our hearts renewed in love, ready to serve the Lord and care for one another; let us now pray that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

### **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Receive, O Lord, the offerings we bring before you,  
and in your kindness transform our weakness into strength,  
our failures into opportunities for grace,  
so that, renewed by your love,  
we may faithfully serve you in our brothers and sisters.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **PREFACE**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For in your great mercy, you do not abandon us in our weakness, but in your risen Son you restore us with love. You called Peter, who had faltered, not to dwell on his failure but to profess his love and to care for your flock. In him, you show us that your grace is stronger than our sin, and your call is renewed each day.

And so, with hearts made new, we join the Angels and Saints in their song of praise, as we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy...

### **INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER**

At the Saviour’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say: trusting that the Father who renews us in love will also strengthen us to forgive and to serve one another:

## **EMBOLISM**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, sustained by your mercy, we may be freed from discouragement and the weight of our failures, and become ever more ready to love and serve as you call us, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

## **PRAYER FOR PEACE**

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins and failures, but on the love you have placed within us, and graciously grant us peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Behold the Lamb of God,  
who calls us not because we are perfect,  
but because we are loved,  
and who invites us to begin again:  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

## **SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION**

In the quiet of our hearts, we hear the same question Jesus asked Peter: “Do you love me?” He does not dwell on our past, but invites us to respond today. Having received his Body and Blood, we are renewed in that love. Let us ask for the grace to carry this love into our daily lives, caring for others with patience, compassion, and fidelity.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Having been nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son, O Lord, we thank you for renewing us in your love; grant that we who have encountered your mercy may go forth strengthened to serve others with generous hearts. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

May almighty God bless you, strengthen you in his love, renew you after every failure, and send you forth to care for others as faithful witnesses of his mercy, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go forth, strengthened by the love of Christ, to serve one another with compassion and fidelity.

## **TAKE-HOME THOUGHT**

“Jesus does not define me by my failures; He asks me only this—‘Do you love me?’—and sends me to love others in return.”

## **Saturday of the 7th Week of Easter**

*Acts 28:16–20, 30–31; Jn 21:20–25*

## **INTRODUCTION**

A man once planned to build a successful business and become well known in his community. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, he had to remain at home to care for an ailing parent. At first, he felt that his dreams had been taken away. But over time, he realized that his presence brought comfort, dignity, and love to someone in need. What seemed like a limitation became a meaningful mission.

In a similar way, today’s readings invite us to see that following Jesus does not always lead us where we expect. Like Paul, whose mission continued even under house arrest, and like Peter and the beloved disciple, who followed Christ in different ways, we too are called to live our unique vocation faithfully. Let us now open our hearts to God’s grace as we celebrate this Eucharist.

## **PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS**

Lord Jesus, you call each of us to follow you in our own unique way: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you strengthen us to remain faithful even in limitations and trials: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you work through our ordinary lives to accomplish your saving plan: Lord, have mercy.

## **PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION**

May God, who calls each of us by name and knows the path He has set for us, forgive you your sins, free you from every limitation of heart and mind, and strengthen you to follow Christ faithfully in your own vocation. Amen.

## **COLLECT**

O God, who call each of us to follow your Son according to the path you have prepared for us, grant that we may remain faithful in our vocation, trusting that you can work through our lives, even in moments of limitation and uncertainty. 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. Amen.

## **HOMILY: following Jesus in our unique calling**

A young woman once trained for years to become a concert pianist. She dreamed of performing on grand stages. One day, however, she was offered a job teaching music at a small school. At first she felt disappointed—wasn't she meant for something greater? But over time she discovered the joy of shaping young minds and nurturing talent. Her path was different from what she had imagined, yet it proved deeply meaningful.

Today's readings remind us that following Jesus often leads us along unexpected paths. In the first reading, Paul—once a tireless missionary traveling across the Roman world—is now under house arrest in Rome. His freedom is limited, yet his mission continues. From that house he proclaims the kingdom of God and teaches about Jesus Christ with courage. His circumstances changed, but his calling did not. Like Paul, our vocation is not cancelled by limitations or difficulties. God can work through us wherever we are.

The Gospel highlights a similar lesson. After receiving his mission to shepherd Christ's flock, Peter looks at the beloved disciple and asks, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus responds simply: "Follow me." Peter's path would be martyrdom; the beloved disciple's would be witnessing through his writing. Both served the same Lord, but in different ways.

The same is true for us. God does not ask us to compare ourselves with others. Each of us is called to follow Christ in our own way, with the gifts and experiences we have been given. As the Gospel concludes, John reminds us that the world itself could not contain all the things Jesus did. In a sense, the story of Christ continues through the lives of his disciples—even through us.

So today we might ask: *What is mine to do? How is Christ asking me to follow Him right now?* It may seem ordinary or unnoticed, but faithfulness in small things matters. Like Paul in his house in Rome, like Peter tending Christ's sheep, our simple "yes" becomes part of God's work in the world.

The woman who became a schoolteacher never played on the great stages she once imagined—but many of her students did. Sometimes following Jesus means embracing the ordinary, trusting that He can make something extraordinary from what we offer.

### **INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

As we offer our gifts to God, we may also offer our lives, trusting that He will use even our simplest efforts for His greater glory and mission. Let us now pray that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the Father almighty.

### **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Receive, O Lord, the offerings we bring before you,  
and accept the dedication of our lives,  
that, following Christ in our own calling,  
we may serve you faithfully in all circumstances.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **PREFACE**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you call each of your children  
to follow your Son in a unique and personal way,  
and through the varied paths of our lives  
you accomplish your saving work in the world.  
In moments of freedom and in times of limitation,  
you remain faithful,  
guiding us and strengthening us  
to bear witness to your love.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,  
with Thrones and Dominions,  
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,  
we sing the hymn of your glory,  
as without end we acclaim:  
Holy, Holy, Holy...

## **INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER**

As children of the one Father,  
let us trust in God's loving plan for each of us  
and pray with confidence in the words Jesus taught us.

## **EMBOLISM**

Deliver us, Lord, from every obstacle that keeps us from  
following you wholeheartedly.

Free us from comparison, from envy, and from fear,  
so that in our ordinary tasks and hidden labours,  
we may witness your love and serve your kingdom.  
Keep us close to you as we await the fullness of your glory,  
and bring us safely to everlasting life,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **PRAYER FOR PEACE**

Lord Jesus,  
you call each of your disciples along a unique path.  
Grant that your peace may dwell in our hearts,  
so that we may accept our own vocation with courage,  
celebrate the gifts you have given us,  
and work faithfully for the good of others,

trusting that even small acts of love contribute to your kingdom. Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Behold the Lamb of God,  
who calls each of us to follow Him in love and faithfulness.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

### **SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord, you do not ask us to be like anyone else,  
but simply to follow you where we are.  
In the quiet moments of our lives,  
in our responsibilities and limitations,  
you are present and at work.  
Help us to trust that our small acts of faith  
are part of your greater plan.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Grant, we pray, O Lord,  
that, nourished by this sacrament,  
we may remain faithful to our calling  
and serve you with generous hearts,

confident that you are at work in all things.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **FINAL BLESSING**

The Lord, who calls each of us to follow Him in our own way, guide your steps, strengthen your faith,  
and make fruitful the gifts you have received.

May He bless you in your work, your service, and your daily life, and lead you safely to eternal joy.

The Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **DISMISSAL**

Go forth, faithfully following Christ in your own calling,  
and glorifying Him by your life.

### **TAKE-HOME THOUGHT**

God does not ask you to walk someone else's path—only to be faithful to your own. Even the smallest “yes” to Christ, lived with love, becomes part of His great work in the world.