

### **INTRODUCTORY RITES**

#### **Opening Song: Lift High the Cross G 968**

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,  
Our King victorious, Christ the Son of God. [Refrain]

2. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conq'ring ranks combine. [Refrain]

3. This is the sign that Satan's legions fear,  
And angels veil their faces to revere. [Refrain]

4. Saved by this cross whereon their Lord was slain,  
The heirs of Adam their lost home regain. [Refrain]

5. From north and south, from east and west they raise  
In growing unison their song of praise. [Refrain]

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading:** Numbers 21:4b-9

***Psalm 78: Never forget the deeds of the Lord! (x2)***

*(Text: Abbey Psalms & Canticles © 2010, 2018 USCCB; Music: © 2025, Philip Jakob)*

**Second Reading:** Philippians 2:6-11

***Gospel Acclamation:*** Salisbury Alleluia

**Gospel:** John 3:13-17

**Homily**

**Universal Prayer / Creed / Renewal of Promises**

### **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

***Preparation of Gifts & Altar:*** Faithful Cross G 553

Faithful Cross the Saints rely on,  
Noble tree beyond compare!  
Never was there such a scion,  
Never leaf or flower so rare.  
Sweet the timber, sweet the iron,  
Sweet the burden that they bear!

Sing, my tongue, in exaltation  
Of our banner and device!  
Make a solemn proclamation  
Of a triumph and its price:  
How the Saviour of creation  
Conquered by his sacrifice!

For, when Adam first offended,  
Eating that forbidden fruit,  
Not all hopes of glory ended  
With the serpent at the root:  
Broken nature would be mended  
By a second tree and shoot.

Thus the tempter was outwitted  
By a wisdom deeper still:  
Remedy and ailment fitted,  
Means to cure and means to kill;  
That the world might be acquitted,  
Christ would do his Father's will.

So the Father, out of pity  
For our self-inflicted doom,  
Sent him from the heavenly city  
When the holy time had come:  
He, the Son and the Almighty,  
Took our flesh in Mary's womb

Find a tiny baby crying—  
Founder of the seas and strands:  
Find his Virgin Mather tying  
Rags around his feet and hands:  
Find him in a manger lying  
Tightly wrapped in swaddling bands!

So he came, the long-expected,  
Not in glory, not to reign;  
Only born to be rejected,  
Choosing hunger, toil and pain,  
Till the gallows was erected  
And the Paschal Lamb was slain.

No disgrace was too abhorrent:  
Nailed and mocked and parched he died;

Blood and water, double warrant,  
Issue from his wounded side,  
Washing in a mighty torrent  
Earth and stars and ocean-tide.

Lofty timber, smooth your roughness,  
Flex your boughs for blossoming:  
Let your fibres lose their toughness,  
Gently let your tendrils cling;  
Lay aside your native gruffness,  
Clasp the body of your King!

Noblest tree of all created,  
Richly jewelled and embossed:  
Post which blood has consecrated;  
Spar that saves the tempest-tossed;  
Scaffold-beam which, elevated,  
Carries what the world has cost!

Wisdom, power, and adoration  
To the blessed Trinity  
For redemption and salvation  
Through the Paschal Mystery,  
Now, in every generation,  
And for all eternity. Amen.

***Eucharistic Acclamations:*** Mass of Creation **G 231, 234, 238** (Holy - We Proclaim - Amen)

### **COMMUNION RITE**

**Our Father**

***Lamb of God:*** Mass of Creation **G 240**

***Communion Song:*** Unless a Grain of Wheat **G 868**

Refrain:

Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die,  
it remains but a single grain with no life.

1 If we have died with him then we shall live with him;  
if we hold firm, we shall reign with him. [Refrain]

2 If anyone serves me then they must follow me;  
wherever I am my servants will be. [Refrain]

3 Make your home in me as I make mine in you;

those who remain in me bear much fruit. [Refrain]

4 If you remain in me and my word lives in you,  
then you will be my disciples. [Refrain]

5 Those who love me are loved by my Father;  
we shall be with them and dwell in them. [Refrain]

6 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you;  
peace which the world cannot give is my gift. [Refrain].

### **CONCLUDING RITE**

***Dismissal Chant:*** Touch the Earth Lightly **G 636**

Touch the earth lightly,  
use the earth gently,  
nourish the life of the world in our care:  
gift of great wonder,  
ours to surrender,  
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger,  
who create hunger,  
agents of death for all creatures that live,  
we who would foster  
clouds of disaster,  
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening,  
birth from the burning,  
water that blesses and air that is sweet,  
health in God's garden,  
hope in God's children,  
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living,  
God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,  
teach us, deflect us,  
Christ reconnect us,  
using us gently and making us one. kingdom of God is justice and joy;  
For Jesus restores what sin would destroy.  
God's power and glory in Jesus we know;  
And here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

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