



THE SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS ET SANGUIS CHRISTI

The Office of Readings

The Invitatory

▲ Lord, open our lips. And we shall praise your name.

Psalm 95

"Every day, as long as this 'today' lasts, keep encouraging one another" (Heb 3:13).

Antiphon: Christ is the bread of life: come, let us adore him.

Come, ríng out our jóy to the Lórd; * háil the Gód who sáves us.
Let us cóme before him, gíving thánks, * with sóngs let us háil the Lórd.
A míghty Gód is the Lórd, * a gréat king abóve all góds.
In his hánd are the dépths of the éarth; * the héights of the móuntains are hís.

To hím belongs the séa, for he máde it * and the drý land sháped by his hánds. Come ín; let us bów and bend lów; * let us knéel before the Gód who máde us:

for hé is our Gód and wé † the péople who belóng to his pásture, * the flóck that is léd by his hánd.

O that todáy you would lísten to his vóice! † 'Hárden not your héarts as at Meríbah, * as on that dáy at Mássah in the désert

when your fáthers pút me to the tést; * when they tríed me, thóugh they saw my wórk.

For forty yéars I was wéaried of these péople † and I sáid: "Their héarts are astráy, * these péople do not knów my wáys." Thén I took an óath in my ánger: *

"Néver shall they énter my rést."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Antiphon: Christ is the bread of life: come, let us adore him.

Hymn

Godhead here in hiding, whom I do adore Masked by these bare shadows, faith and nothing more. See, Lord, at thy service low lies here a heart Lost, all lost in wonder at the God thou art.

Seeing, touching, tasting are in thee deceived: How says trusty hearing? That shall be believed. What God's Son hath told me, take for truth I do; Truth himself speaks truly, or there's nothing true.

On the Cross thy Godhead made no sign to men; Here thy very manhood steals from human ken; Both are my confession, both are my belief, And I pray the prayer of the dying thief.

O thou, our reminder of the Crucified, Living Bread, the life of us for whom he died, Lend this life to me, then; feed and feast my mind, There be thou the sweetness man was meant to find.

Jesus whom I look at shrouded here below, I beseech thee, send me what I thirst for so, Some day to gaze on thee face to face in light And be blest forever with thy glory's sight.

Psalm 23

The good shepherd "The Lamb is their king, who leads them to the source of the water of life" (Rev 7:17)

Antiphon: Say to those who are invited: 'Behold, the supper is ready, come to the marriage feast.' Alleluia.

The Lórd is my shépherd; * there is nóthing I shall wánt. Frésh and gréen are the pástures * where he gíves me répose. Near réstful wáters he léads me, * to revíve my drooping spírit. He gúides me alóng the right páth; * he is trúe to his náme.

If I should wálk in the válley of dárkness * no évil would I féar

You are thére with your cróok and your stáff; * with thése you give me cómfort.

You have prepared a banquet for mé * in the sight of my fóes.

My héad you have anóinted with óil; * my cúp is overflówing. and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
Lord Jesus Christ, you gave your Church an admirable sacrament as the abiding memorial of your passion.
Teach us so to worship the sacred mystery of your Body and

Blood that its redeeming power may sanctify us always. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

■ May the Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

The Angelus

V/. The Angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary; R/. And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

V/. Behold the handmaid of the Lord;R/. Be it unto to me according to thy word.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

V/. And the Word was made flesh; R/. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

V/. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. We beseech thee, O Lord, to pour thy grace into our hearts; that as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his 聲 Cross and Passion, we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bléssed be the Lórd, the Gód of Ísrael! * He has vísited his péople and redéemed them. He has raised úp for ús a mighty sáviour * in the house of Dávid his sérvant, as he prómised by the líps of holy mén, ' thóse who were his próphets from of óld. A sáviour who would frée us from our fóes, 3 from the hánds of áll who háte us. So his love for our fathers is fulfilled * and his hóly covenant remémbered. He swóre to Ábraham our fáther to gránt us, * that frée from féar, and sáved from the hánds of our fóes, we might sérve him in hóliness and jústice * all the dáys of our lífe in his présence. As for yóu, little chíld, * you shall be cálled a próphet of Gód, the Most Hígh. You shall go ahéad of the Lórd * to prépare his ways befóre him, To make knówn to his péople their salvátion * through forgiveness of all their sins, the loving-kíndness of the héart of our Gód * who vísits us like the dáwn from on hígh. He will give light to those in dárkness, † those who dwéll in the shádow of déath, * and guide us into the way of péace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Antiphon:I am the living breadwhich came down from heaven:
whoever eats this bread will live for ever, alleluia.

Prayers and intercessions

- Joyfully we make our prayer to Jesus Christ, the bread of life, and we say:
- Happy are those who are called to your supper, Lord.
- Lord Jesus Christ, high priest of the new and eternal covenant, on the altar of the cross you offered a perfect sacrifice to the Father:
 - teach us how to offer it with you.
- Happy are those who are called to your supper, Lord.
- Lord Jesus Christ, king of peace and justice, you consecrated bread and wine as a sign of your self-giving: unite us as victims to yourself.
- Happy are those who are called to your supper, Lord.
- Lord Jesus Christ, obedient always to your Father's will, throughout the world the Church renews your offering from the rising of the sun to its setting: unite in one body those who share the one bread.
- Happy are those who are called to your supper, Lord.
- Lord Jesus Christ, as the manna came from the heavens, you nourish your Church with your body and blood: in the strength of your food we will walk in your paths.
- Happy are those who are called to your supper, Lord.
- Lord Jesus Christ, unseen guest at our banquet, you stand at our door and knock:
 - come to us, fill our hearts with your truth and stay with us.
- Happy are those who are called to your supper, Lord.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

- hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come.
- Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, Surely góodness and kíndness shall fóllow me * all the dáys of my lífe. In the Lórd's own hóuse shall I dwéll * for éver and éver.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Antiphon: Say to those who are invited: 'Behold, the supper is ready, come to the marriage feast.' Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, shepherd of your Church, you give us new birth in the waters of baptism, you anoint us with saving oil, and you call us to salvation at your table. Dispel the terrors of death and the darkness of error. Lead your people along safe paths, that they may rest securely in you and live for ever in your Father's house. Amen.

Psalm 42

Longing for the Lord and his temple "Let all who are thirsty come; all who want it may have the water of life" (Rev 22:17)

Antiphon: If anyone is thirsty,

let him come to me and drink from an inexhaustible spring. Líke the déer that yéarns * for rúnning stréams, só my sóul is yéarning * for yóu, my Gód. My sóul is thírsting for Gód, * the Gód of my lífe; whén can I énter and sée * the fáce of Gód? My téars have becóme my bréad, * by níght, by dáy, as I héar it sáid all the day lóng: * 'Whére is your Gód?' Thése things will Í remémber * as I póur out my sóul: how I would léad the rejóicing crówd * into the house of God, amid críes of gládness and thanksgíving, * the thróng wild with jóy. Whý are you cast dówn, my sóul, * why gróan withín me? Hope in Gód; I will práise him stíll, * my sáviour and my Gód. My sóul is cast dówn withín me * as I thínk of yóu, from the country of Jordan and Mount Hérmon, * from the Hill of Mizar. Déep is cálling on déep, * in the róar of wáters; your tórrents and áll your wáves * swept óver mé. By dáy the Lórd will sénd * his lóving kíndness; by night I will sing to him, * praise the Gód of my lífe. I will sáy to Gód, my róck: * 'Whý have you forgótten me? Whý do Í go móurning ³ oppréssed by the fóe?' With cries that pierce me to the héart, * my énemies revíle me, sáying to me áll the day lóng: ' 'Whére is your Gód?'

Whý are you cast dówn, my sóul, * why gróan withín me? Hope in Gód; I will práise him stíll, * my sáviour and my Gód.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Antiphon: If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink from an inexhaustible spring.

Psalm-prayer:

Lord God, never-failing fountain of life eternal, by the saving waters of baptism you called us from the depths of sin, to the depths of mercy. Do not forget the trials of our exile, but from the wellspring of the Word, satisfy our thirst for you so we may come rejoicing to your holy mountain. Amen.

> Psalm 81 Solemn renewal of the covenant "Take care that no one among you has a wicked, disbelieving heart" (Heb 3:12).

- Antiphon: The Lord fed us with finest wheat; he filled us with honey from the rock.
- Ring out your jóy to Gód our stréngth, * shout in tríumph to the Gód of Jácob.
- Raise a sóng and sóund the tímbrel, *
- the swéet-sounding hárp and the lúte; blów the trúmpet at the new móon, *
- when the móon is fúll, on our féast. For thís is Ísrael's láw, *
- a commánd of the Gód of Jácob.
- He impósed it as a rúle on Jóseph, *
- when he went óut against the lánd of Égypt. A vóice I did not knów said to mé: *
- 'I fréed your shoulder from the búrden; your hánds were fréed from the lóad. *
- You cálled in distréss and I sáved you.
- 'I ánswered, concéaled in the stórm cloud; * at the wáters of Meríbah I tésted you.
- Lísten, my péople, to my wárning. * O Ísrael, if ónly you would héed!
- 'Let there bé no fóreign god amóng you, * no wórship of an álien gód.
- Í am the Lórd your Gód, †
- who bróught you from the lánd of Égypt. * Ópen wide your móuth and I will fíll it.
- 'But my péople did not héed my vóice * and Ísrael wóuld not obéy,
- so I léft them in their stúbbornness of héart * to fóllow their ówn desígns.
- 'Ó that my péople would héed me, * that Ísrael would wálk in my wáys!
- At ónce I would subdúe their fóes, * turn my hánd agáinst their énemies.
- 'The Lord's énemies would crínge at their féet * and their subjéction would lást for éver.
- But Ísrael I would féed with finest whéat * and fill them with hóney from the róck.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Antiphon: The Lord fed us with finest wheat; he filled us with honey from the rock.

Psalm-prayer:

Father, you rescued your people from slavery and acquired, through the passion of your Son, a new people united in his body

Ananias, Azarias, Mizael, O bless the Lord. * To him be highest glory and praise for ever. Let us praise the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit: * To you be highest glory and praise for ever. May you be blessed, O Lord, in the heavens: * To you be highest glory and praise for ever.

Antiphon: Priests are set apart to offer incense and bread to God. Alleluia.

Psalm 149

The saints rejoice "The members of the Church, God's new people, will rejoice in their king, who is Christ" (Hesychius).

Antiphon: To the one who overcomes I will give the hidden manna and a new name. Alleluia.

Síng a new sóng to the Lórd, * his práise in the assémbly of the fáithful. Let Ísrael rejóice in its Máker, ³ let Síon's sons exúlt in their kíng. Let them práise his náme with dáncing 3 and make músic with tímbrel and hárp. For the Lórd takes delight in his péople. * He crówns the póor with salvátion. Let the fáithful rejóice in their glóry, * shout for jóy and táke their rést. Let the práise of Gód be on their líps * and a twó-edged swórd in their hánd, to déal out véngeance to the nátions * and púnishment on áll the péoples; to bínd their kíngs in cháins ' and their nóbles in fétters of íron; to cárry out the séntence pre-ordáined: * this hónour is for áll his fáithful.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Antiphon: To the one who overcomes I will give the hidden manna and a new name. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer:

Lord Jesus, you came to your own people and gave to all who welcomed you power to become children of God. In your merciful love watch over the Church and through her ministry bring salvation to the meek and lowly. May we avoid the snares of the impious, and come to rejoice in glory with your saints. Amen.

Short Reading

Malachi 1:11

From farthest east to farthest west my name is honoured among the nations and everywhere a sacrifice of incense is offered to my name, and a pure offering too, since my name is honoured among the nations, says the Lord of Hosts.

Short Responsory

You bring forth bread from the earth, alleluia, alleluia.

- You bring forth bread from the earth, alleluia, alleluia.
- Your wine gives joy to man's heart.
- You bring forth bread from the earth, alleluia, alleluia.
- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- You bring forth bread from the earth, alleluia, alleluia.

Canticle - Benedictus The Messiah and the one who was sent before him

Antiphon: I am the living bread

which came down from heaven: whoever eats this bread will live for ever, alleluia. in your náme I will líft up my hánds. My sóul shall be fílled as with a bánquet, *

my móuth shall práise you with jóy.

On my béd I remémber yóu. * On yóu I múse through the níght for yóu have béen my hélp; *

in the shádow of your wings I rejóice. My sóul clings to yóu; *

your ríght hand hólds me fást.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Antiphon: Your people eat the food of angels, you give them bread from heaven. Alleluia.

Psalm-prayer:

Father, creator of unfailing light, give that same light to those who call to you. May our lips praise you; our lives proclaim your goodness; our work give you honour, and our voices celebrate you for ever. Amen.

Canticle - Daniel 3:57-88,56 All creatures, bless the Lord "Praise our God, all you his servants" (Rev 19:5).

Antiphon: Priests are set apart to offer incense and bread to God. Alleluia.

O all you works of the Lord, O bless the Lord. * To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, angels of the Lord, O bless the Lord. * To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, the heavens of the Lord, O bless the Lord. * And you, clouds of the sky, O bless the Lord.

And you, all armies of the Lord, O bless the Lord. * To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, sun and moon, O bless the Lord. * And you, the stars of the heavens, O bless the Lord.

And you, showers and rain, O bless the Lord. *

To him be highest glory and praise for ever. And you, all you breezes and winds, O bless the Lord. * And you, fire and heat, O bless the Lord.

And you, cold and heat, O bless the Lord. *

To him be highest glory and praise for ever. And you, showers and dew, O bless the Lord. *

And you, frosts and cold, O bless the Lord. And you, frost and snow, O bless the Lord. *

To him be highest glory and praise for ever. And you, night-time and day, O bless the Lord. *

And you, darkness and light, O bless the Lord. And you, lightning and clouds, O bless the Lord. *

To him be highest glory and praise for ever. O let the earth bless the Lord. *

To him be highest glory and praise for ever. And you, mountains and hills, O bless the Lord. *

And you, all plants of the earth, O bless the Lord. And you, fountains and springs, O bless the Lord. *

To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, rivers and seas, O bless the Lord. * And you, creatures of the sea, O bless the Lord.

And you, every bird in the sky, O bless the Lord. †

And you, wild beasts and tame, O bless the Lord. * To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, children of men, O bless the Lord. * To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

O Israel, bless the Lord, O bless the Lord. *

And you, priests of the Lord, O bless the Lord. And you, servants of the Lord, O bless the Lord. *

To him be highest glory and praise for ever. And you, spirits and souls of the just, O bless the Lord. *

And you, holy and humble of heart, O bless the Lord.

and signed with his holiness. Make us faithful to your covenant and obedient to your commandments, so that we may have in your finest bread food for this life and a foretaste of eternity and be able to walk in your ways until we reach our home. Amen.

Wisdom has built herself a house, alleluia.
 R. She has prepared her wine and set her table, alleluia.

First Reading

Exodus 24: 1-11

To Moses the Lord had said, 'Come up to the Lord, yourself and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel and bow down in worship at a distance. Moses alone must approach the Lord; the others must not, nor must the people go up with him.'

Moses went and told the people all the commands of the Lord and all the ordinances. In answer, all the people said with one voice, 'We will observe all the commands that the Lord has decreed.' Moses put all the commands of the Lord into writing, and early next morning he built an altar at the foot of the mountain, with twelve standing-stones for the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he directed certain young Israelites to offer holocausts and to immolate bullocks to the Lord as communion sacrifices. Half of the blood Moses took up and put into basins, the other half he cast on the altar. And taking the Book of the Covenant he read it to the listening people, and they said, 'We will observe all that the Lord has decreed; we will obey.' Then Moses took the blood and cast it towards the people. 'This' he said 'is the blood of the Covenant that the Lord has made with you, containing all these rules.' Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy elders of Israel. They saw the God of Israel beneath whose feet there was, it seemed, a sapphire pavement pure as the heavens themselves. He laid no hand on these notables of the sons of Israel: they gazed on God. They ate and they drank.

Responsory

- **Ř**. I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate manna in the desert, and they died.* I am speaking of the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat, and never die.
- V. I am that living bread which has come down from heaven: if anyone eats this bread, he shall live for ever.* I am speaking of the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat, and never die.

Second Reading

"On the feast of Corpus Christi", by St Thomas Aquinas O precious and wonderful banquet!

Since it was the will of God's only-begotten Son that men should share in his divinity, he assumed our nature in order that by becoming man he might make men gods. Moreover, when he took our flesh he dedicated the whole of its substance to our salvation.

He offered his body to God the Father on the altar of the cross as a sacrifice for our reconciliation He shed his blood for our ransom and purification, so that we might be redeemed from our wretched state of bondage and cleansed from all sin. But to ensure that the memory of so great a gift would abide with us for ever, he left his body as food and his blood as drink for the faithful to consume in the form of bread and wine.

O precious and wonderful banquet, that brings us salvation and contains all sweetness! Could anything be of more intrinsic value? Under the old law it was the flesh of calves and goats that was offered, but here Christ himself, the true God, is set before us as our food. What could be more wonderful than this?

No other sacrament has greater healing power; through it sins are purged away, virtues are increased, and the soul is enriched with an abundance of every spiritual gift. It is offered in the Church for the living and the dead, so that what was instituted for the salvation of all may be for the benefit of all. Yet, in the end, no one can fully express the sweetness of this sacrament, in which spiritual delight is tasted at its very source, and in which we renew the memory of that surpassing love for us which Christ revealed in his passion.

It was to impress the vastness of this love more firmly upon the hearts of the faithful that our Lord instituted this sacrament at the Last Supper. As he was on the point of leaving the world to go to the Father, after celebrating the Passover with his disciples, he left it as a perpetual memorial of his passion. It was the fulfilment of ancient figures and the greatest of all his miracles, while for those who were to experience the sorrow of his departure, it was destined to be a unique and abiding consolation.

Responsory

- Ř. See in this bread the body of Christ which hung upon the cross, and in this cup the blood which flowed from his side.* Take his body, then, and eat it; take his blood and drink it, and you will become his members.
- ŷ. The body of Christ is the bond which unites you to him: eat it, or you will have no part in him. The blood is the price he paid for your redemption: drink it, lest you despair of your sinfulness.* Take his body, then, and eat it; take his blood and drink it, and you will become his members.

Hymn

Te Deum

We praise you, O God: * we acclaim you as the Lord. Everlasting Father, * all the world bows down before you. All the angels sing your praise, * the hosts of heaven and all the angelic powers, all the cherubim and seraphim * call out to you in unending song: Holy, Holy, Holy, * is the Lord God of angel hosts! The heavens and the earth are filled * with your majesty and glory. The glorious band of apostles, * the noble company of prophets, the white-robed army who shed their blood for Christ, * all sing your praise. And to the ends of the earth * your holy Church proclaims her faith in you: Father, whose majesty is boundless, * your true and only Son, who is to be adored, * the Holy Spirit sent to be our Advocate. You, Christ, are the king of glory, * Son of the eternal Father. When you took our nature to save mankind * you did not shrink from birth in the Virgin's womb. You overcame the power of death * opening the Father's kingdom to all who believe in you. Enthroned at God's right hand in the glory of the Father, * you will come in judgement according to your promise. You redeemed your people by your precious blood. Come, we implore you, to our aid. Grant us with the saints * a place in eternal glory. The final part of the hymn may be omitted: Lord, save your people * and bless your inheritance. Rule them and uphold them * for ever and ever. Day by day we praise you: * we acclaim you now and to all eternity. In your goodness, Lord, keep us free from sin. * Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. May your mercy always be with us, Lord, * for we have hoped in you. In you, Lord, we put our trust: * we shall not be put to shame.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave your Church an admirable sacrament as the abiding memorial of your passion.
Teach us so to worship the sacred mystery of your Body and Blood that its redeeming power may sanctify us always.
Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.
Let us praise the Lord.

- Thanks be to God.

Morning Prayer (Lauds)

O God, come to our aid. O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

The heavenly Word proceeding forth, yet leaving not the Father's side, accomplishing his work on earth and reached at length life's eventide.

By false disciple to be given to foemen for his life athirst, himself, the very Bread from heaven, he gave to his disciples first.

He gave himself in either kind, his precious Flesh, his precious Blood: in love's own fullness thus designed of the whole man to be the Food.

By birth our fellow man was he, our Food, when sitting at the board; he died, our ransomer to be; he ever reigns, our great reward.

O saving Victim, opening wide the gate of heaven to man below: our foes press on from every side; thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.

All praise and thanks to thee ascend for evermore, blest One in three; O grant us life that shall not end in our true native land with thee. .

Psalm 63

Thirsting for God "Let the man who has put away the deeds of the night watch for God."

Antiphon: Your people eat the food of angels,
you give them bread from heaven. Alleluia
O Gód, you are my Gód, for you I lóng; *
for yóu my sóul is thírsting.
My bódy pínes for yóu *
like a drý, weary lánd without wáter.
So I gáze on yóu in the sánctuary *
to sée your stréngth and your glóry.
For your lóve is bétter than lífe, *
my líps will spéak your práise.
So I will bléss you áll my lífe, *