

The Feast of
Christ the
Priest

Draft American Version
Text of Mass and
Liturgy of the Hours

Draft texts based on the English texts approved by the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments (Cf. Prot. N. 196/87, Prot. N. CD. 501/91) and modified following NAB version of Mass and Divine Office. Copying will be permitted only on condition that this paragraph is included.

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DRAFT TEXT using Revised New American Bible, adapted from the
authorized Latin and English (Jerusalem Bible) Cf. Prot N. 196/87 & Prot.

N. CD 501/91

Fr. Thomas

Casanova CCS, June 19, 2009

Foreword

Each year, on the first Thursday after Pentecost, the Confraternity of Christ the Priest in Australia and all the Dioceses of Spain celebrate the Liturgical feast of Christ the Eternal High Priest.

Approval was first granted by the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments in 1987 (cf. Prot. N. 196/87, Prot. N. CD. 501/91).

There is a need at this present time for both clergy and laity to turn ever more intently to Our Lord for a true understanding of priesthood. He is the model for our imitation, and when we pray for priests we are praying that they would be like Christ, the compassionate and trustworthy high priest (Hebrews 2:17), ever living to intercede for us (Heb 7:25).

The Second Vatican Council taught many things about the Priesthood of Christ and our sharing in that one Priesthood through Baptism and Orders. This development has been reflected beautifully in many subsequent documents, some making it available to the general faithful.

One effective way to build upon this teaching is to establish the Feast of Christ the Priest.

*For people are instructed in the truths of faith, and brought to appreciate the inner joys of religion far more effectually by the annual celebration of our sacred mysteries than by any official pronouncement of the teaching of the Church. Such pronouncements usually reach only a few and the more learned among the faithful; feasts reach them all; the former speak but once, the latter speak every year - in fact, forever.
(Pope Pius XI Quas Primas 21 establishing the universal feast of Christ the King)*

What Pope Pius XI wrote here about the feast in honor of Our Lord's Kingship can be said just as truly about this feast in honor of Our Lord's Priesthood.

Following the grace of the "Year of the Priesthood", we pray that Bishop's Conferences around the world will consider seeking permission of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments to approve for their respective countries this liturgical feast, so that deep devotion to Our Blessed Lord's Priesthood may extend to the whole world.

Confraternity of Christ the Priest
www.christthepriest.com

Mass For the Feast of Jesus Christ Eternal High Priest

Entrance Antiphon:

*The Lord has sworn an oath and he will not retract:
You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.*

Opening Prayer

*Father, for your glory and our salvation you appointed Jesus Christ eternal High Priest.
May the people he gained for you by his blood come to share in the power of his cross
and resurrection
by celebrating his memorial in this eucharist,
for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

52:13–53:12

He himself was wounded for our sins.

See, my servant shall prosper, he shall be raised high and greatly exalted. Even as many were amazed at him -so marred was his look beyond human semblance, and his appearance beyond that of the sons of man- so shall he startle many nations, because of him kings shall stand speechless; for those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it.

Who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; there was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him. He was spurned and avoided by people, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, one of those from whom people hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem.

Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; but the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all.

Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth. Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away, and who would have thought any more of his destiny? When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the

sin of his people, a grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers, though he had done no wrong nor spoken any falsehood. But the LORD was pleased to crush him in infirmity.

If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life, and the will of the LORD shall be accomplished through him.

Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days; through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear. Therefore I will give him his portion among the great, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, because he surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; and he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 40 6ab.9bc. 10.11ab

R. (8a and 9a) Here am I Lord; I come to do your will.

How many, O LORD my God,
Are the wonders and designs
That you have worked for us;
You have no equal. **R.**

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
But an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, hear am I. **R.**

In the scroll of the book it stands written
That I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
In the depth of my heart. **R.**

Your justice I have proclaimed
In the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
You know it, O LORD. **R.**

I have not hidden your justice in my heart
But declared your faithful help.
I have not hidden your love and your truth
From the great assembly. **R.**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

10: 12-23

For by one offering he has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated.

Jesus Christ offered one sacrifice for sins, and took his seat forever at the right hand of God; now he waits until his enemies are made his footstool. For by one offering he has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated. The Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying:

This is the covenant I will establish with them after those days, says the Lord: "I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them upon their minds," He also says: Their sins and their evildoing I will remember no more. Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer offering for sin.

Brothers and sisters, since through the Blood of Jesus we have confidence of entrance into the sanctuary by the new and living way he opened for us through the veil, that is, his flesh, and since we have "a great priest over the house of God," let us approach with a sincere heart and in absolute trust, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to our confession that gives us hope, for he who made the promise is trustworthy.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 42:1

Alleluia, alleluia!

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one with whom I am pleased.
upon him I have put my spirit;
he shall bring forth justice to the nations.

Alleluia, alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

22: 14-20

Do this in memory of me

Jesus took his place at table with the apostles. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for, I tell you, I shall not eat it again until there is fulfillment in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and said, "Take this and share it among yourselves; for I tell you that from this time on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you."

Prayer over the Gifts

*Lord, may we offer these mysteries worthily and often,
for whenever this memorial sacrifice is celebrated
the work of our redemption is renewed
We ask this through Christ our Lord*

Communion antiphon

This body will be given for you.

This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood;
whenever you receive them, do so in remembrance of me.

Prayer After Communion

*Lord, by sharing in this sacrifice which your Son commanded us to offer
as his memorial may we become with him an everlasting gift to you
We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

Liturgy of the Hours in honour of Jesus Christ the High Priest*

NB In Spain, this celebration has the rank of Feast only. If the feast is celebrated as a Patronal or Titular Solemnity, as has been granted for the Confraternity of Christ the Priest in Australia (Prot.N. CD 501/91) the following Evening Prayer I would be used.

EVENING PRAYER I

Hymn

O Christ, High Priest eternal
of covenant made new,
to you our vows are offered
with thankful praises due.

In pity for our weakness,
you left the Father's throne,
obedient and lowly,
the Virgin's womb your home.

Your light of grace transforming
the weakest and the least,
the Father and the Spirit
anoint you Prince and Priest.

O Victim, one and perfect,
you shed your blood in love,
that we may share for ever
our Father's peace above.

On every altar offered,
to save our fallen race,
your pleading is accepted
before the throne of grace.

To Christ the Priest give glory,
and to his Father praise,
the Lord of life and bounty
who reigns for endless days.

Hymnus ad Vesperas. Aeterne Christe Pontifex
Trans. Most Rev Bishop Peter Elliot 76.76.76.76

Antiphon 1 In Jesus the Son of God we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heavens.

Psalm 113

Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and for evermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting
praised be the name of the Lord!

High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,
to look down upon heaven and earth?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from his misery he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people.
To the childless wife he gives a home
and gladdens her heart with children.

Antiphon: In Jesus the Son of God we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heavens.

Antiphon 2 You have redeemed us from every tribe and tongue and people and nation and made us priests to our God.

Psalm 117

O praise the Lord, all you nations,
acclaim him all you peoples!

Strong is his love for us;
he is faithful for ever.

Antiphon: You have redeemed us from every tribe and tongue and people and nation and made us priests to our God.

Antiphon 3 He learnt to obey through suffering, and having been made perfect he was acclaimed by God high priest of the order of Melchisedek.

Canticle

Phil 2:6-11

Though he was in the form of God,
Jesus did not deem equality with God
something to be grasped at.

Rather, he emptied himself
and took the form of a slave
being born in the likeness of men.

He was known to be of human estate,
and it was thus that he humbled himself
obediently accepting even death,
death on a cross!

Because of this,
God highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
above every other name,

So that at Jesus' name
every knee must bend,
in the heavens, on the earth
and under the earth,
and every tongue proclaim
to the glory of God the Father
JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!

Antiphon: He learnt to obey through suffering, and having been made perfect he was
acclaimed by God high priest of the order of Melchisedek.

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews

7:24-25

Jesus, because he remains forever, has a priesthood that does not pass away. Therefore,
he is always able to save those who approach God through him, since he lives forever to
make intercession for them.

RESPONSORY

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

--- We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We boast in the hope of the glory of God.

--- through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Glory to the Father...

--- We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

MAGNIFICAT ANTIPHON

He became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation and was acclaimed by God with the title of High Priest of the order of Melchisedek.

INTERCESSIONS

Our Saviour has made us a kingdom and a priesthood to offer sacrifices acceptable to God. Therefore we gratefully call upon him: **R/** Keep us faithful in your service, Lord.

Christ, true adorer of the Father, your clean oblation is offered by the Church from the rising of the sun till its setting — unite in one body all who share the one bread.

Watch over the priests and ministers of your Church — while they preach to others may they be found faithful in your service.

Make perfect in charity all who share the order of priesthood — and preserve always your faithful in unity of spirit by the bond of peace.

On the evening of this day hear your Church singing your praises — teach her to glorify your Divine Majesty without ceasing.

To the dead grant the vision of your face — grant us also the blessedness of contemplating you in heaven.

Our Father

CONCLUDING PRAYER

O God, for your glory and the salvation of the human race, you appointed your Son as the eternal High Priest; grant that the people he has gained for you by his blood may experience the power of his cross and resurrection through taking part in this remembrance of his priesthood.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

INVITATORY

Antiphon: Let us give glory to Christ who has an everlasting Priesthood.

THE OFFICE OF READINGS

Hymn

Jesus our High Priest, Lord and Mediator,
joyful we praise you, all our race acclaiming
your intercession at the throne of mercy,
before the Father.

Formed by the Spirit through the holy Virgin,
Victim most worthy, you were born to save us;
Child in a manger, with your hands so gentle
you hold creation.

You were anointed with the oil of gladness,
Chrism most holy, given by the Father,
sharing his glory, majesty and honour,
our Priest for ever.

Lord God almighty, bearing our frail nature,
your blood is offered, for our sins the cleansing,
perfect oblation, price of reparation,
from death our freedom.

Christ our Redeemer, on the Cross uplifted,
draw us together, with your love so tender,
that we may praise you, Paraclete and Father,
now and for ever.

11.11.11.5 Trans. Most Rev Bishop Peter Elliot

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1 I have asked my Father; he has given me the nations for my inheritance.

Psalm 2

Why this tumult among nations,
among peoples this useless murmuring?
They arise, the kings of the earth,
princes plot against the Lord and his Anointed.
'Come, let us break their fetters,
come, let us cast off their yoke.'

He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord is laughing them to scorn.
Then he will speak in his anger,

his rage will strike them with terror.
'It is I who have set up my king
on Zion, my holy mountain.'

I will announce the decree of the Lord:
The Lord said to me: 'You are my Son.
It is I who have begotten you this day.
Ask and I shall bequeath you the nations,
put the ends of the earth in your possession.
With a rod of iron you will break them,
shatter them like a potter's jar.'

Now, O kings, understand,
take warning, rulers of the earth;
serve the Lord with awe
and trembling, pay him your homage
lest he be angry and you perish;
for suddenly his anger will blaze.

Blessed are they who put their trust in God.

Antiphon: I have asked my Father; he has given me the nations for my inheritance.

Antiphon 2 Christ gave himself up for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Psalm 40:2-14, 17-18

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.

He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm.

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord.

Happy the man who has placed
his trust in the Lord
and has not gone over to the rebels
who follow false gods.

How many, O Lord my God,
are the wonders and designs
that you have worked for us;
you have no equal.
Should I proclaim and speak of them,
they are more than I can tell!

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I.

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart.

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord.

I have not hidden your justice in my heart
but declared your faithful help.
I have not hidden your love and your truth
from the great assembly.

O Lord, you will not withhold
your compassion from me.
Your merciful love and your truth
will always guard me.

For I am beset with evils
too many to be counted.
My sins have fallen upon me
and my sight fails me.
They are more than the hairs of my head
and my heart sinks.

O Lord, come to my rescue,
Lord, come to my aid.
O let there be rejoicing and gladness
for all who seek you.
Let them ever say: 'The Lord is great',
who love your saving help.

As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay.

Antiphon: Christ gave himself up for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Antiphon 3 Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her to make her holy.

Psalm 85

O Lord, you once favoured your land,
and revived the fortunes of Jacob,
you forgave the guilt of your people
and covered all their sins.
You averted all your rage,
you calmed the heat of your anger.

Revive us now, God, our helper!
Put an end to your grievance against us.
Will you be angry with us for ever,
will your anger never cease?

Will you not restore again our life
that your people may rejoice in you?
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people and his friends
and those who turn to him in their hearts.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him.
and peace shall follow his steps.

Antiphon: Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her to make her holy.

V/. Christ was offered only once to take away the sins of many.

R/. He achieved the eternal perfection of those he is sanctifying.

THE FIRST READING

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Jesus Christ our supreme pontiff

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.

Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness and so, for this reason, must make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people.

No one takes this honor upon himself but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. In the same way, it was not Christ who glorified himself in becoming high priest, but rather the one who said to him: "You are my son; this day I have begotten you"; just as he says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." In the days when he was in the Flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, declared by God high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

RESPONSORY

R/. Christ humbled himself * and became obedient unto death.

V/. When he was treated badly, he submitted * and became obedient unto death.

THE SECOND READING

N10

A reading from the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church 'Lumen Gentium' of the Second Vatican Council

All share in the one priesthood of Christ

Christ the Lord, high priest taken from among men, made the new people 'a kingdom of priests to God, his Father'. The baptised, by regeneration and the anointing of the Holy Spirit, are consecrated to be a spiritual house and a holy priesthood, that through all the works of Christian men they may offer spiritual sacrifices and proclaim the perfection of him who has called them out of darkness into his marvellous light. Therefore all the disciples of Christ, persevering in prayer and praising God, should present themselves as a sacrifice, living, holy and pleasing to God. They should everywhere on earth bear witness to Christ and give an answer to everyone who asks a reason for the hope of an eternal life which is theirs.

Though they differ essentially and not only in degree, the common priesthood of the faithful and the ministerial or hierarchical priesthood are none the less ordered one to another; each in its own proper way shares in the one priesthood of Christ. The ministerial priest, by the sacred power that he has, forms and rules the priestly people; in the person of Christ he effects the eucharistic sacrifice and offers it to God in the name of all the people. The faithful indeed, by virtue of their royal priesthood, participate in the offering of the Eucharist. They exercise that priesthood, too, by the reception of the sacraments, prayer and thanksgiving, the witness of a holy life, abnegation and active charity.

RESPONSORY

Romans 12:1, 1Pet 2:5

R/. I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, * your spiritual worship.

V/. You are built into a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. * your spiritual worship.

TE DEUM

PRAYER

O God, for your glory and the salvation of the human race, you appointed your Son as the eternal High Priest; grant that the people he has gained for you by his blood may experience the power of his cross and resurrection through taking part in this remembrance of his priesthood.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

MORNING PRAYER

Hymn

Earth joins with heaven, echoing your praises,
Christ the Redeemer of the race of Adam
before the Father, as the priest and victim,
our expiation.

Jesus our Saviour, merciful and peaceful,
bearing the sorrow of our mortal burden,
you died to save us, opening for lost ones
portals of heaven.

Rites of the old law by your will completed,
wisdom of prophets brought to human vision,
in heights of heaven is for ever honoured
your new agreement.

Merciful giver of the pact eternal,
you give your body, food of life for ever,
your own oblation, gift of peace and mercy
on every altar.

Christ our Redeemer, on the Cross uplifted,
draw us together, with your love so tender,
that we may praise you, Paraclete and Father,
now and for ever.

Christe Sanctorum; 11.11.11.5
Trans. Most Rev Bishop Peter Elliot

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1 Through the blood of Christ the Father has reconciled all things to him, everything in heaven and everything on earth.

A soul thirsting for God

Psalm 63:2-9

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

Antiphon: Through the blood of Christ the Father has reconciled all things to him, everything in heaven and everything on earth.

Antiphon 2 All things were created through Christ and for Christ.

Canticle: Daniel 3:57-88,56

Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.
Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Angels of the Lord, bless the Lord
You heavens, bless the Lord.
All you waters above the heavens, bless the Lord.
All you hosts of the Lord, bless the Lord.
Sun and moon, bless the Lord.
Stars of heaven, bless the Lord.

Every shower and dew, bless the Lord.
All you winds, bless the Lord.
Fire and heat, bless the Lord.
Cold and chill, bless the Lord.
Dew and rain, bless the Lord.
Frost and chill, bless the Lord.
Ice and snow, bless the Lord.
Nights and days, bless the Lord.
Light and darkness bless the Lord.
Lightning and clouds, bless the Lord.

Let the earth bless the Lord.
Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Mountains and hills, bless the Lord.
Everything growing from the earth, bless the Lord.
You springs, bless the Lord.
Seas and rivers, bless the Lord.

You dolphins and all water creatures, bless the Lord.
All you birds of the air, bless the Lord,
All you beasts, wild and tame, bless the Lord.
You sons of men, bless the Lord.

O Israel, bless the Lord.
Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Priests of the Lord, bless the Lord.
Servants of the Lord, bless the Lord.
Spirits and souls of the just, bless the Lord.
Holy men of humble heart, bless the Lord.
Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael, bless the Lord.
Praise and exalt him above all forever.

Let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Let us praise and exalt him above all forever.
Blessed are you, Lord, in the firmament of heaven.
Praiseworthy and glorious and exalted above all forever.

Antiphon: All things were created through Christ and for Christ.

Antiphon 3 He has put everything in subjection under his feet and made him supreme head of the Church which is his Body.

Psalm 149

Sing a new song to the Lord,
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its Maker,
let Zion's songs exult in their king.
Let them praise his name with dancing
and make music with timbrel and harp.

For the Lord takes delight in his people.
He crowns the poor with salvation.
Let the faithful rejoice in their glory,
shout for joy and take their rest.
Let the praise of God be on their lips
and a two-edged sword in their hand,

to deal out vengeance to the nations
and punishment on all the peoples;
to bind their kings in chains
and their nobles in fetters of iron;

to carry out the sentence pre-ordained:
this honour is for all his faithful.

Antiphon: He has put everything in subjection under his feet and made him supreme head of the Church which is his Body.

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

When he came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, Behold, I come to do your will, O God.'"

First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will", we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

RESPONSORY

Behold, I come to do your will.

--- Behold, I come to do your will.

Your law is deep in my heart.

--- I come to do your will.

Glory to the Father....

--- Behold, I come to do your will.

BENEDICTUS ANTIPHON

You have redeemed us Lord from every tribe and tongue and people and nation and made us a kingdom and priests.

INTERCESSIONS

Jesus Christ, high priest of the new and eternal covenant, taking human nature, introduced into this earthly exile that hymn which is sung throughout all ages in the halls of heaven: he desired the entire community of mankind to join him in singing this divine song of praise. Hence with confidence we pray:

R/. Lord, grant that we may glorify you.

All powerful king through baptism you have given us a royal priesthood — grant that we may continually offer you the sacrifice of praise.

Lord of all mankind you came into the world that the name of your Father should be glorified in every place — strengthen the witness of the Church among the nations.

Lord Jesus grant that all men may be saved — and come to the knowledge of the truth.

By your help may we praise you through every hour of this day — and glorify your name in all we do.

Look down with love upon all who have asked our prayers — fill them with every blessing for body and soul.

Christ the Priest, on the altar of the cross you offered the perfect sacrifice to the Father — teach us how to offer it in union with you.

Our Father

CONCLUDING PRAYER

O God, for your glory and the salvation of the human race, you appointed your Son as the eternal High Priest; grant that the people he has gained for you by his blood may experience the power of his cross and resurrection through taking part in this remembrance of his priesthood.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

PRAYER DURING THE DAY

Before Noon

Antiphon: Through Christ we both have access to the Father in the one Spirit.

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 7:26-27

It was fitting that we should have such a high priest: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, higher than the heavens. He has no need, as did the high priests, to offer sacrifice day after day, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did that once for all when he offered himself.

In so far as you share in the sufferings of Christ be glad.

--- So that you may enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed.

Midday

Antiphon: You are built upon the foundation of the Apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 2:4-5

Come to the Lord, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

As you have received Jesus as Lord and Christ, live your lives in him.

--- Firm in faith, let your hearts overflow with thanksgiving.

Afternoon

Antiphon: To each of us grace has been given according to the measure of the giving of Christ for the building up of his body which is the Church.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were "no people" but now you are God's people; you "had not received mercy" but now you have received mercy.

Let the peace of Christ reign in your hearts.

--- To this you were called together into a single body.

EVENING PRAYER II

Hymn

Tune: Valet will ich dir geben 76.76.D
(St Theodulph of Orleans - 821)

O Christ, High Priest eternal
of covenant made new,
to you our vows are offered
with thankful praises due.

In pity for our weakness,
you left the Father's throne,
obedient and lowly,
the Virgin's womb your home.

Your light of grace transforming
the weakest and the least,
the Father and the Spirit
anoint you Prince and Priest.

O Victim, one and perfect,
you shed your blood in love,
that we may share for ever
our Father's peace above.

On every altar offered,
to save our fallen race,
your pleading is accepted
before the throne of grace.

To Christ the Priest give glory,
and to his Father praise,
the Lord of life and bounty
who reigns for endless days.

Hymnus ad Vesperas. Aeterne Christe Pontifex
Trans. Most Rev Bishop Peter Elliot 76.76.76.76

PSALMODY

Antiphon 1 The Lord has sworn an oath and he will not retract, you are a priest for ever,
in the line of Melchisedek.

Psalm 110

The Lord's revelation to my Master:
'Sit on my right:
your foes I will put beneath your feet.'

The Lord will wield from Sion
your sceptre of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.

A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before the dawn I begot you.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change
'You are a priest for ever,
a priest like Melchisedech of old.'

The Master standing at your right hand
will shatter kings in the day of his wrath.
He shall drink from the stream by the wayside
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

Antiphon: The Lord has sworn an oath and he will not retract, you are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchisedek.

Antiphon 2 God, who is rich in mercy, has brought us to life in Christ.

Psalm 111

I will thank the Lord with all my heart
in the meeting of the just and their assembly.
Great are the works of the Lord;
to be pondered by all who love them.

Majestic and glorious his work,
his justice stands firm for ever.
He makes us remember his wonders.
The Lord is compassion and love.

He gives food to those who fear him;
keeps his covenant ever in mind.
He has shown his might to his people
by giving them the lands of the nations.

His works are justice and truth:
his precepts are all of them sure,
standing firm for ever and ever:
they are made in uprightness and truth.

He has sent deliverance to his people
and established his covenant for ever.
Holy his name, to be feared.

To fear the Lord is the first stage of wisdom;
all who do so prove themselves wise.
His praise shall last for ever!

Antiphon: God, who is rich in mercy, has brought us to life in Christ.

Antiphon 3 Christ is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation.

Canticle Colossians 1:12-20

Let us give thanks to the Father
for having made you worthy
to share the lot of the saints
in light.

He rescued us
from the power of darkness
and brought us
into the kingdom of his beloved Son.
Through him we have redemption,
the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the invisible God,
the first-born of all creatures.
In him everything in heaven and on earth was created,
things visible and invisible.

All were created through him;
all were created for him.
He is before all else that is.
In him everything continues in being.

It is he who is head of the body, the church!
he who is the beginning,
the first-born of the dead,
so that primacy may be his in everything.

It pleased God to make absolute fullness reside in him
and, by means of him, to reconcile everything in his person,
both on earth and in the heavens,
making peace through the blood of his cross.

Antiphon: Christ is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation.

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 10:19-23

Therefore, brothers, since through the blood of Jesus we have confidence of entrance into the sanctuary by the new and living way he opened for us through the veil, that is, his flesh, and since we have "a great priest over the house of God," let us approach with a sincere heart and in absolute trust, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to our confession that gives us hope, for he who made the promise is trustworthy.

RESPONSORY

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

--- We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We boast in the hope of the glory of God.

--- through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Glory to the Father....

--- We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

MAGNIFICAT ANTIPHON

Ant: Father I have completed the work you gave me to do. I have glorified you upon earth.

INTERCESSIONS

Our Saviour has made us a kingdom and a priesthood to offer sacrifices acceptable to God. Therefore we gratefully call upon him: **R/**. Keep us faithful in your service, Lord.

Christ, true adorer of the Father, your clean oblation is offered by the Church from the rising of the sun till its setting — unite in one body all who share the one bread.

Watch over the priests and ministers of your Church — while they preach to others may they be found faithful in your service.

Make perfect in charity all who share the order of priesthood — and preserve always your faithful in unity of spirit by the bond of peace.

On the evening of this day hear your Church singing your praises — teach her to glorify your Divine Majesty without ceasing.

To the dead grant the vision of your face — grant us also the blessedness of contemplating you in heaven.

Our Father

CONCLUDING PRAYER

O God, for your glory and the salvation of the human race, you appointed your Son as the eternal High Priest; grant that the people he has gained for you by his blood may experience the power of his cross and resurrection through taking part in this remembrance of his priesthood.

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