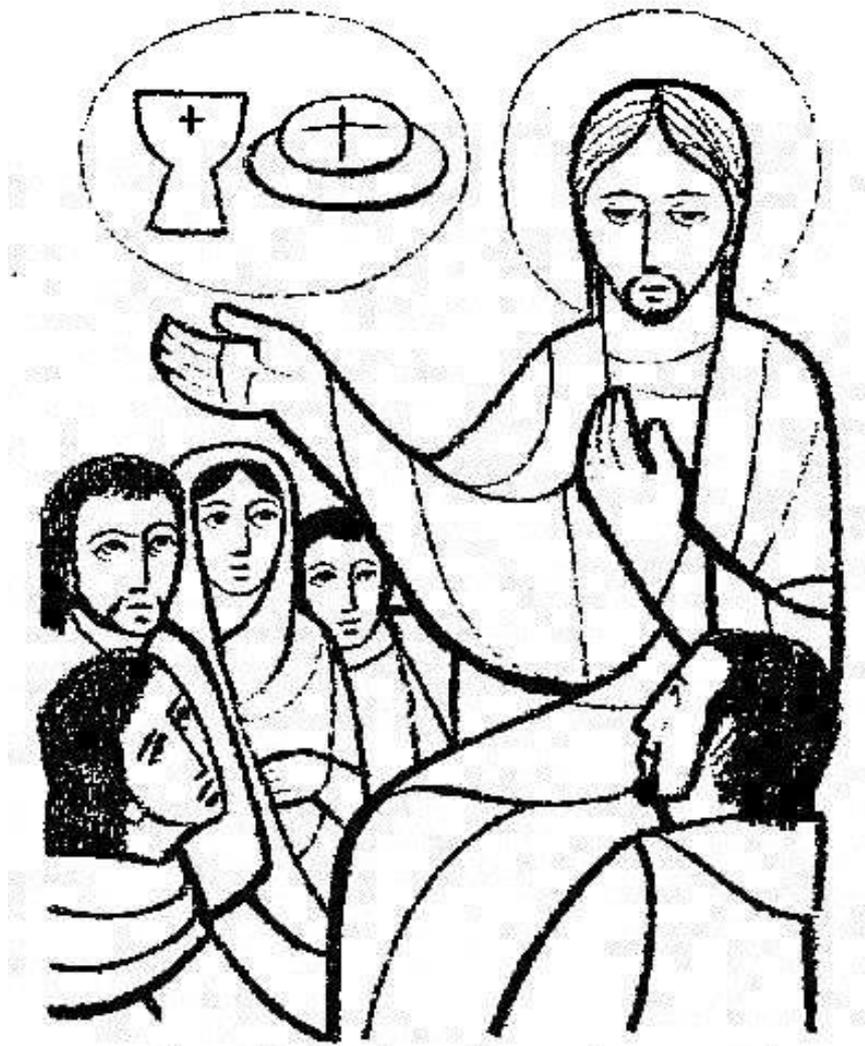


**HOLY LAND  
LECTIONARY  
and  
PRAYER OF THE  
FAITHFUL**



# ORDER FOR THE BLESSING OF PILGRIMS ON THEIR DEPARTURE

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

*When the pilgrims have gathered, Psalm 122 is said:*

*Lector:* I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to God's house."  
And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

*Pilgrims:* Jerusalem is built as a city strongly compact.  
It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.

*Lector:* For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name.  
There were set the thrones of judgment of the house of David.

*Pilgrims:* For the peace of Jerusalem pray: "Peace be to your homes!  
May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!"

*Lector:* For love of my brethren and friends I say: "Peace upon you."  
For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good.

*All:* 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

*Priest:* **In the name of the Father ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

*Priest:* **May God, our strength and salvation, be with you all.**

*All:* And also with you.

*The priest prepares those present for the blessing.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Lector:* Brothers and sisters, listen to words from the Book of Genesis (28: 10-end)

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place.

And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.'

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place – and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.' So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first. Then Jacob made a vow, saying, 'If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house; and of all that you give me I will surely give one-tenth to you.'

The Word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm (43)

The response to the psalm:

O send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me. (**R.**)

1. Give judgement for me, O God,  
and defend my cause against an ungodly people;  
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked. **R.**
2. For you are the God of my refuge;  
why have you cast me from you,  
and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresses me? **R.**
3. O send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me,  
bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling,  
That I may go to the altar of God,  
to the God of my joy and gladness; **R.**
4. and on the lyre I will give thanks to you, O God my God  
to the God of my joy and gladness;  
and on the lyre I will give thanks to you, O God my God **R.**

## The Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark (2: 14-17)

As Jesus was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

The Gospel of the Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

*Priest:* God is the beginning and the end of life's pilgrimage. Let us call on him with confidence, saying: R. Lord, be the companion of our journey (**R.**)

*Deacon or Lector:*

Father all-holy, in the Passover exodus  
you prefigured the road of your people toward salvation;  
grant that in all the paths we follow  
we may remain wholeheartedly faithful to you. For this we pray: **R**

You set your Church in this world as a sanctuary  
from which the true light would shine for all to see;  
grant that many people will enter this sanctuary  
and walk in your ways. For this we pray: **R**

You have told us that here we have no lasting city;  
grant that we may always seek the city that is to come.  
For this we pray: **R**

You lead us along right and peaceful paths;  
grant that we may one day see you face to face in heaven.  
For this we pray: **R**

*Priest:* Father all-holy, of old you made yourself the guide and the way  
for your people as they wandered in the desert; be our protection as we  
begin this journey, so that we may return home again in safety.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER OF BLESSING

*With hands outstretched, the priest continues with the prayer of blessing.*

All-powerful God, you always show mercy toward those who love you  
and you are never far away for those who seek you.

Remain with your servants on this holy pilgrimage  
and guide their way in accord with your will.

Shelter them with your protection by day,  
give them the light of your grace by night,  
and, as their companion on the journey,  
bring them to their destination in safety.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May the Lord guide us and direct our journey in safety. **Amen.**

May the Lord be our companion along the way. **Amen.**

May the Lord grant that the journey we begin, relying on him,  
will end happily through his protection. **Amen.**

May almighty God bless you; the Father ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*(The priest sprinkles the people with Holy Water)*



# MASS OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (7: 10-14)

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.’”

Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel, a name which means ‘God is with us’.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm (40)

The response to the psalm is: Here am I, O Lord, to do your will. (R.)

1. Sacrifice and offering you do not desire  
but my ears you have opened;  
Burnt offering and sacrifice for sin you have not required;  
then said I: ‘Lo, I come. **R**.
2. ‘In the scroll of the book it is written of me  
that I should do your will, O my God;  
I delight to do it: your law is within my heart.’ **R**
3. I have declared your righteousness in the great congregation;  
behold, I did not restrain my lips,  
and that, O Lord, you know. **R**

**Alleluia** Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh  
and dwelt among us and we have seen his glory. Alleluia.

## The Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according Luke (1: 26-38)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

*Priest:* The Father made our salvation known to Mary by the message of an angel. Filled with confidence, let us pray together and say: *We praise you, God of life.*  
**R. We praise you ...**

*Reader or Deacon:*  
You chose the Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son. Have mercy on all who wait for your redemption. We remember Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople; Francis the Pope; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury and all Christian leaders in this Land. Let us pray: **R. We praise you...**

Through your angel Gabriel you brought a message of peace and joy to Mary. Give to the world the joy and peace of salvation. Let us pray: **R. We praise you...**

By the consent of your handmaid and the power of the Holy Spirit, Your Word came to dwell among us. Open our hearts to receive Christ, as Mary the Virgin received him and be present to those whom we love. Let us pray: **R. We praise you...**

You look with compassion on the lowly and fill the hungry with good things.  
Encourage the downhearted, help all those in need and comfort those near to death.  
Let us pray: ***R. We praise you...***

We pray for ... [the sick, the suffering, the helpless]. To you, O God, nothing is impossible, and you alone do marvellous things; save us, and bring us on the last day with ... (*and*) all the faithful departed into your glorious kingdom.  
Let us pray: ***R. We praise you...***

***Priest:*** We pray for a moment in silence. ....

Grant, O Lord, that by the riches of your grace we may grow up into him who unites our life to yours, even he who is the first-born of all creation, your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. ***Amen.***



# MASS OF THE LOAVES AND FISHES

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the Book of the Exodus (*16: 2-18*)

Israel came to the wilderness of Sin on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, ‘If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.’

Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.’ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, ‘In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord.’

Then Moses said to Aaron, ‘Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, “Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.”’ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, ‘What is it?’ For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, ‘It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. This is what the Lord has commanded: “Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents.”’ The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed.

The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm (78)

The response to the psalm is:

God gave them what they desired;  
they ate and were well filled (**R**)

1. They tested God in their hearts  
and demanded food for their craving.  
They spoke against God and said,  
‘Can God prepare a table in the wilderness? **R.**

2. So he commanded the clouds above  
and opened the doors of heaven.  
He rained down upon them manna to eat  
and gave them the grain of heaven. **R.**

**Alleluia:** Alleluia, alleluia! Peter said, ‘You are the Messiah,  
the Son of the living God!’ Alleluia.

## Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

As Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, ‘This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.’ But he answered them, ‘You give them something to eat.’

They said to him, ‘Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?’ And he said to them, ‘How many loaves have you? Go and see.’ When they had found out, they said, ‘Five, and two fish.’ Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

*Priest:* As pilgrims on this lakeshore where Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes, where he appeared to the apostles after his resurrection, and where he charged Peter with the care of the Lord's flock, let us pray that, in His mercy, God will always look with compassion upon His people saying: Lord, in your mercy; *hear our prayer:*

***R: Hear our prayer.***

*Reader or Deacon:*

For all Christian leaders, that they may show forth in their lives the unfailing love of Christ, the Good Shepherd who gave His life for the flock.

Lord, in your mercy; ***R: hear our prayer.***

For all Christians, that they may strive to repair the net of the Church torn by divisions and discord. Lord, in your mercy; ***R: hear our prayer.***

For the rulers of peoples and the heads of nations, that they may see in the Church of Christ the sign and the instrument of the unity of all peoples.

Lord, in your mercy; ***R: hear our prayer.***

For the faithful, that they may know the responsibility of being part of the Church held together in bonds of unity, charity and peace.

Lord, in your mercy; ***R: hear our prayer.***

For all those who are suffering and undergoing ordeals, that nothing and nobody may ever separate them from the saving love of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy; ***R: hear our prayer.***

For ourselves, pilgrims, that the memory of Peter and the other Apostles, of Mary of Magdalene and the first women followers, may renew in us the grace of the discipleship. Lord, in your mercy; ***R: hear our prayer.***

*Priest:* We pray for a moment in silence. ....

O God, shepherd of the faithful, look upon your Son's flock with love and bring together in the bonds of faith and charity those who have been consecrated by a single baptism. Through Christ Our Lord. *Amen*

# THE TRANSFIGURATION

## *(Mount Tabor)*

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### First Reading:

A Reading from the Book of Daniel *(7: 9-10, 13-14)*

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

The Word of the Lord.

#### Responsorial Psalm *(97: 1-2, 5-6. 9)*

The response to the psalm is: The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth. **(R)**

The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice;  
let the many islands be glad.  
Cloud and darkness surround him;  
justice and right are the foundation of his throne. **(R)**

The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,  
before the Lord of all the earth.  
The heavens proclaim his justice; all peoples see his glory. **(R)**

For you, Lord, are the Most High over all the earth,  
exalted far above all gods. **(R)**

A reading from the Second Letter of Peter (*1: 16-19*)

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying,

"This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

The Word of the Lord.

### **Alleluia**

Alleluia, alleluia. This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.  
*Alleluia.*

### **Gospel**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (*17, 1-9*)

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.

But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

The Gospel of the Lord.

## THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

*Priest:* Here in this sanctuary of light all things direct our spirit to contemplate the glory of Jesus, to heed the voice of the Father who proclaims Jesus his beloved Son, the one in whom he is well-pleased, and of whom he says: Listen to him! Here, amid the beauty of Tabor, we raise our prayer to God. Let us pray together and say: *Lord, make us attentive to your voice! R. Lord, make us attentive ...*

*Reader or Deacon:*

Lord Jesus, here you revealed your glory to Peter, James and John before suffering your passion and your death: illuminate the Church on her pilgrimage toward the Kingdom, and make her ministers steadfast and courageous. Lord, hear our prayer. *R. Lord, make us attentive ...*

Lord Jesus, here Moses and Elijah appeared and revealed you, O Lord, as Messiah and Servant; the Law and the Prophets are accomplished in you: may we, too, recognize that you are Lord. Lord, hear our prayer. *R. Lord, make us attentive ...*

Lord Jesus, you revealed to Moses and Elijah that you are the accomplishment of Scripture: may Jews and Christians respect and love one another through the love of your Holy Word. Lord, hear our prayer. *R. Lord, make us attentive ...*

Lord Jesus, help us to promote justice and solidarity for the Christian communities and all the inhabitants of the Holy Land, bringing them peace and serenity after such lengthy violence and suffering. Lord, hear our prayer. *R. Lord, make us attentive ...*

Lord Jesus, with your transfiguration you announced the hope of the Resurrection: grant our deceased brethren hope and joy at their resurrection to come. Lord, hear our prayer. *R. Lord, make us attentive ...*

Lord Jesus, you will transfigure our earthly bodies to conform to your glorious body: free us of sin and evil. Lord, hear our prayer. *R. Lord, make us attentive ...*

*Priest:* We pray for a moment in silence. ....

Almighty God, on this holy Mountain you transfigured your Son Jesus Christ so that the disciples could contemplate his glory and, seeing him crucified, would believe that his Passion was freely accepted: may we also believe and witness that he is your image and your splendour and lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit now and forever. **Amen.**

## **ST. ANNE'S by the Pool of Bethesda**

### **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

A reading from the first letter of Peter (4: 12-19)

Beloved, do not be surprised that a trial by fire is occurring among you, as if something strange were happening to you. But rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let no one among you be made to suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as an intriguer. But whoever is made to suffer as a Christian should not be ashamed but glorify God because of the name. For it is time for the judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, how will it end for those who fail to obey the gospel of God? "And if the righteous one is barely saved, where will the godless and the sinner appear?" As a result, those who suffer in accord with God's will hand their souls over to a faithful creator as they do good.

The Word of the Lord.

#### **Responsorial Psalm (131)**

The response to the psalm is: The Lord has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his habitation. (**R**)

The Lord swore to David a sure oath  
from which he will not turn back:  
'One of the sons of your body  
I will set on your throne. **R.**

For the Lord has chosen Zion;  
he has desired it for his habitation:  
'This is my resting-place for ever;  
here I will reside, for I have desired it. **R.**

There I will cause a horn to sprout up for David;  
I have prepared a lamp for my anointed one.  
His enemies I will clothe with disgrace,  
but on him, his crown will gleam.' **R.**

#### **Alleluia**

Alleluia, alleluia! I tell you, anyone who hears my word  
and believes him who sent me has eternal life. **Alleluia.**

## The Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (18: 38 – 19:5)

In those days, Pilate again went out to the Jews and said to them, “I find no guilt in him. But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at Passover. Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” They cried out again, “Not this one but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a revolutionary. Then Pilate took Jesus and here had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they struck him repeatedly.

Once more Pilate went out and said to them, “Look, I am bringing him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in him.” So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak. And he said to them, “Behold, the man!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

## THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

*Priest:* United in the company of all the faithful and looking for the coming of the kingdom, let us offer our prayers to God, the source of all life and holiness saying: Lord, hear us; *graciously hear us, Lord. (R)*

*Reader or Deacon:*

Merciful Lord, strengthen all Christian people by your Holy Spirit, that we may live as a royal priesthood and a holy nation to the praise of Christ Jesus our Saviour.

Lord, hear us; *graciously hear us ... (R)*

Bless the bishops and pastors of your Church, that by faithful proclamation of your word we may be built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets into a holy temple in the Lord.

Lord, hear us; *graciously hear us ... (R)*

Give to the world and its peoples the peace that comes from above, that they may find Christ’s way of freedom and life. Lord, hear us; *graciously hear us ... (R)*

Hold in your embrace all who witness to your love in the service of the poor and needy; all those who minister to the sick and dying; and all who bring light to those in darkness. Lord, hear us; *graciously hear us ... (R)*

Embrace in your compassionate heart all who come to this place seeking your healing, all whose needs are known to you alone and all whom we remember in this time of silence ..... Lord, hear us; *graciously hear us ... (R)*

Remember in your mercy those gone before us who have been well-pleasing to you from eternity; preserve us who live here in your faith, guide us to your kingdom, and grant us your peace at all times. Lord, hear us; *graciously hear us ... (R)*

*Priest:* Giving thanks for St. Anne and the whole company of your saints in glory, with whom in fellowship we join our prayers and praises; by your grace may we, like them, be made perfect in your love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



# BETHLEHEM – THE SHEPHERD’S FIELDS

## *(Beit Sahour)*

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to Titus (3:4-7)

When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm (97)

The response to the psalm:

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things. **R.**

The Lord is king: let the earth rejoice;  
let the multitude of the isles be glad.  
The heavens declared his righteousness,  
and all the peoples have seen his glory. **R.**

Light has sprung up for the righteous  
and joy for the true of heart.  
Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous,  
and give thanks to his holy name **R.**

**Alleluia** Alleluia, alleluia! Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and peace to his people on earth. **Alleluia!**

The Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according Luke (2: 8-20)

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

*Priest:* Let us turn our eyes to the Holy Child of Bethlehem saying:  
Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.** (*R*) Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer**

*Reader or Deacon:*

Christ, born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless.  
Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer**

Christ, for whom the angels sang, give the song of the kingdom to all who weep.  
Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer**

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds, give peace on earth to all who are oppressed.  
Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer**

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt, give humility and wisdom to all who govern.  
Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer**

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger, give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you. Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer**

*Priest:* We pray for a moment in silence. ....

Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary, you know us and love us, you share our lives and hear our prayer. Glory to you for ever. **Amen.**

# EIN KAREM – THE JOURNEY TO EMMAUS

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter (*1: 17-21*)

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm (15)**

The response to the psalm is: Show me, Lord, the path of life. (**R**)

Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge;  
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord,  
my portion and my cup;  
in your hands alone is my fortune. **R**.

I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel,  
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.  
I have set the Lord always before me;  
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall. **R**.

You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence is the fullness of joy  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore. **R**.

**Alleluia**

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us.  
Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us. Alleluia!

## The Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according Luke *(24: 13-35)*

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?’ He asked them, ‘What things?’ They replied, ‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’ Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

*Priest:* The Lord Jesus continues today to walk alongside his disciples, here in Emmaus, just as he did two thousand years ago. We pray that through the intercession of Saints Simon and Cleophas, we may also recognize the pilgrim on the road and proclaim to them our Lord and Saviour.

Let us pray together and say: *Let us hear, O Lord, your word! R. Let us hear ...*

*Reader or Deacon:*

For the Holy Church, born in the mystery of the resurrection of our Lord, that by the example of Saints Simeon and Cleophas, it may be a witness and herald of the Living Christ to all men of our time, we pray: *Let us hear, O Lord, your word!*

For the civil authorities of Israel and Palestine, that they may, like the disciples at Emmaus, listen and respond to your Word and promote peace and the good of all peoples entrusted to them, in justice and freedom, we pray:

*Let us hear, O Lord, your word!*

For the Christians of the Holy Land that, when tempted by discouragement and sadness as were the first disciples, may find in the Word of God and in Sacramental communion with the risen Lord and the courage and the power of hope, we pray:

*Let us hear, O Lord, your word!*

For the Jewish and Muslim peoples, our fellow travellers in this land. That God may bless those who seek Him and that He may take from us all blindness and bitterness of heart and hasten the coming of His kingdom, when Israel shall be saved, the Gentiles gathered in, and we shall dwell together in mutual love and peace under the one God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ we pray: *Let us hear, O Lord, your word!*

For each of us present that, like the first witnesses of the Risen Lord, we may be amazed each day at the announcement that the Paschal Christ has conquered death and given us a share in his divine life, we pray: *Let us hear, O Lord, your word!*

*Priest:* We pray for a moment in silence. ....

Lord Jesus Christ, who accompanied Saints Simon and Cleophas along their journey and who here recognized you in your Word and in your Bread, grant that we may feel your presence burning in our hearts in the many ways you choose to remain in in our midst. *Amen.*

# AT THE END OF A PILGRIMAGE

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews (13: 14-16)

Here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The Word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm (84)

The response to the psalm: O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; listen, O God of Jacob. **(R)**

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!  
My soul has a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. **R.**

The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:  
at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. **R.**

Blessed are they who dwell in your house:  
they will always be praising you.  
Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion. **R.**

### Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord.  
Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. **Alleluia!**

### Gospel

#### A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (24: 44-end)

Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

*Priest:* All-holy Father, in the Passover exodus you prefigured the blessed road of your people toward salvation; grant that in all the paths we follow we may remain wholeheartedly faithful to you. For this we pray; **Lord, hear our prayer. (R.)**

*Reader or Deacon:*

You set your Church in this world as a sanctuary from which the true light would shine for all to see; grant that we who have made this pilgrimage may always walk in your ways. For this we pray; **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

You teach all the faithful to perceive the signs of your presence along all the pathways of life; grant that like the disciples of Emmaus we may come to recognize Christ as the companion of our journey and know him in the breaking of the bread. For this we pray; **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

You are our companion and guide on the way; be present to all who have been with us in our hearts. For this we pray; **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

You have revealed yourself to us in the people and places we have encountered. We thank you for those times when we have realised your presence and remember them in a moment of silence. .... For those we have met on our pilgrimage we pray; **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

You have been present even when our eyes have not seen you nor our ears heard your voice. May your Spirit enable us to see more deeply and move our hearts to realise your presence where we have failed to recognise you. For this we pray; **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

You promised to be with your people in all their journeys. Grant us a safe passage to our homes and a joyful end to our journey. For this we pray; ***R. Lord, hear our prayer.***

In a moment of silence we gather together, in thankfulness, the memories of our time together...

***Priest:*** Lord, you know our beginning and our end.  
Help us to realise we are only pilgrims on this earth  
and save us from being too attached to the things of this earth  
so that we may experience the freedom to wander,  
the freedom to hope and the freedom to love as we journey.  
For Christ's sake. Amen

