



Aid to the  
Church in Need

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## Mass for Persecuted Christians



### Entrance Antiphon Acts 12: 5

Peter thus was being kept in prison,  
but prayer was made without ceasing  
by the Church to God for him.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**The people reply:**

Amen.

PONTIFICAL  
CHARITY





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Then the Priest, extending his hands, greets the people, saying:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

Or:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Penitential Act**

Then follows the Penitential Act, to which the Priest invites the faithful, saying:

Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

A brief pause for silence follows. Then all recite together the formula of general confession:

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

And, striking their breast, they say:

through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;

Then they continue:



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therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**The absolution by the Priest follows:**

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

**The people reply:**

Amen.

**Collect**

O God, who in your inscrutable providence  
will that the Church be united to the sufferings of your Son,  
grant, we pray, to your faithful who suffer for your name's sake  
a spirit of patience and charity,  
that they may be found true and faithful witnesses  
to the promises you have made.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.



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## The Liturgy of the Word

First reading: Rm 8:35-39

What will separate us from the love of Christ?  
Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,  
or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

As it is written:

For your sake we are being slain all the day;  
we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered.  
No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly  
through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor principalities,  
nor present things, nor future things,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor any other creature will be able to separate us  
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Responsorial Psalm PS 124:2-3, 4-5, 7CD-8

**R. Our soul has been rescued like a bird from the fowler's snare.**

Had not the LORD been with us—  
When men rose up against us,  
then would they have swallowed us alive,  
When their fury was inflamed against us.

**R. Our soul has been rescued like a bird from the fowler's snare.**



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Then would the waters have overwhelmed us;  
The torrent would have swept over us;  
over us then would have swept the raging waters.

**R. Our soul has been rescued like a bird from the fowler's snare.**

Broken was the snare,  
and we were freed.  
Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.

**R. Our soul has been rescued like a bird from the fowler's snare.**

**Gospel Acclamation –**

Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed be the Father of compassion and the God of all encouragement, who encourages us in every affliction. Alleluia.

**Gospel JN 15:18-21**

The Lord be with you.

**The people reply:**

And with your spirit.



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### The Deacon, or the Priest:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

Jesus said to his disciples:

“If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first.

If you belonged to the world, the world would love its own;

but because you do not belong to the world,

and I have chosen you out of the world,

the world hates you.

Remember the word I spoke to you,

‘No slave is greater than his master.’

If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.

If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

And they will do all these things to you on account of my name,

because they do not know the one who sent me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

### All reply:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### Homily



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### Prayers of the faithful:

Dear brothers and sisters, let us now open our hearts to all the suffering and to all the needs of our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world.

#### **R/ Lord hear our prayer**

Merciful Lord, support our Christian brothers and sisters who are afflicted by discrimination and religious persecution. Give them the strength to respond to hatred with love. We pray to the Lord. **R/**

Merciful Lord, give strength to all persecuted Christians, especially those called to build a civilization of love amidst the sufferings in society. We pray to the Lord. **R/**

Merciful Lord, keep our hands and our hearts open as much as possible to help assuage the torment of Christian communities, in particular those who have nowhere to celebrate the Eucharist. We pray to the Lord. **R/**

Merciful Lord, for the people who are martyred and killed every day because of their faith in Jesus Christ. May they be united with You in your Glory. We pray to the Lord. **R/**

Merciful Lord, protect all families that are in exile in our world. May your Holy Spirit be present and alive through all the people they meet and the challenges they encounter on the perilous and unpredictable roads ahead of them. We pray to the Lord. **R/**

Merciful Lord, keep your Church, its pastors and our Pope Francis in constant solicitude for all the children of the earth (and bless the work of Aid to the Church in Need). We pray to the Lord. **R/**



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Lord, look upon your people who entrust themselves to Your mercy; extend Your helping hand to Christians who are counting on our prayers. Support them with your goodness and guide them along the paths of peace and of hope. Amen.

Standing at the middle of the altar, facing the people, extending and then joining his hands, he says:

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),  
that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

The people rise and reply:

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good  
and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, we ask, O Lord,  
the prayers and sacrificial gifts we offer in humility  
and grant that those who suffer persecution  
for their faithful service to you  
may rejoice to be united to the sacrifice of Christ  
your Son  
and may know that their names are written in  
heaven  
among the company of the elect.  
Through Christ our Lord.



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EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER  
FOR RECONCILIATION

II

Text without music:

- V. The Lord be with you.
- R. And with your spirit.
- V. Lift up your hearts.
- R. We lift them up to the Lord.
- V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- R. It is right and just.

It is truly right and just  
that we should give you thanks and praise,  
O God, almighty Father,  
for all you do in this world,  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
For though the human race  
is divided by dissension and discord,  
yet we know that by testing us  
you change our hearts  
to prepare them for reconciliation.  
Even more, by your Spirit you move human hearts  
that enemies may speak to each other again,  
adversaries may join hands,  
and peoples seek to meet together.  
By the working of your power  
it comes about, O Lord,  
that hatred is overcome by love,  
revenge gives way to forgiveness,  
and discord is changed to mutual respect.



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Therefore, as we give you ceaseless thanks  
with the choirs of heaven,  
we cry out to your majesty on earth,  
and without end we acclaim:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**The Priest, with hands extended, says:**

You, therefore, almighty Father,  
we bless through Jesus Christ your Son,  
who comes in your name.  
He himself is the Word that brings salvation,  
the hand you extend to sinners,  
the way by which your peace is offered to us.  
When we ourselves had turned away from you  
on account of our sins,  
you brought us back to be reconciled, O Lord,  
so that, converted at last to you,  
we might love one another  
through your Son,  
whom for our sake you handed over to death.

**He joins his hands and, holding them extended over the offerings, says:**

And now, celebrating the reconciliation  
Christ has brought us, we entreat you: sanctify these gifts by the outpouring of  
your Spirit,



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He joins his hands and makes the Sign of the Cross once over the bread and chalice together, saying:

that they may become the Body and Blood of your Son, whose command we fulfil when we celebrate these mysteries.

He joins his hands.

In the formulas that follow, the words of the Lord should be pronounced clearly and distinctly, as the nature of these words requires.

For when about to give his life to set us free, as he reclined at supper,

He takes the bread and, holding it slightly raised above the altar, continues:

he himself took bread into his hands,  
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

He bows slightly.

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

He shows the consecrated host to the people, places it again on the paten, and genuflects in adoration. After this, he continues:

In a similar way, on that same evening,

He takes the chalice and, holding it slightly raised above the altar, continues:



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he took the chalice of blessing in his hands,  
confessing your mercy,  
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

**He bows slightly.**

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.  
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

**He shows the chalice to the people, places it on the corporal, and genuflects in adoration. Then he says:**

The mystery of faith.

**And the people continue, acclaiming:**

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.

**Then the Priest, with hands extended, says:**

Celebrating, therefore, the memorial  
of the Death and Resurrection of your Son,  
who left us this pledge of his love,  
we offer you what you have bestowed on us,  
the Sacrifice of perfect reconciliation.  
Holy Father, we humbly beseech you



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to accept us also, together with your Son,  
and in this saving banquet  
graciously to endow us with his very Spirit,  
who takes away everything  
that estranges us from one another.  
May he make your Church a sign of unity  
and an instrument of your peace among all people  
and may he keep us in communion  
with Francis our Pope and N. our Bishop\*  
and all the Bishops  
and your entire people.  
Just as you have gathered us now at the table of your Son,  
so also bring us together,  
with the glorious Virgin Mary, Mother of God,  
with your blessed Apostles and all the Saints,  
with our brothers and sisters  
and those of every race and tongue  
who have died in your friendship.  
Bring us to share with them the unending banquet of unity  
in a new heaven and a new earth,  
where the fullness of your peace will shine forth.

He joins his hands.

in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
He takes the chalice and the paten with the host and, raising both, he says:  
Through him, and with him, and in him,  
O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever.



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The people continue:

Amen.

### **The Communion Rite**

After the chalice and paten have been set down, the Priest, with hands joined, says:

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

He extends his hands and, together with the people, continues:

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;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

With hands extended, the Priest alone continues, saying:

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.



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He joins his hands.

The people conclude the prayer, acclaiming:

For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.

Then the Priest, with hands extended, says aloud:

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

He joins his hands.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

The people reply:

Amen.

The Priest, turned towards the people, extending and then joining his hands,  
adds:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



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The people reply:

And with your spirit.

Then, if appropriate, the Deacon, or the Priest, adds:

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

The Priest genuflects, takes the host and, holding it slightly raised above the paten or above the chalice, while facing the people, says aloud:

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

And together with the people he adds once:

Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon Mt 5: 11-12

Blessed are you, when they insult you  
and persecute you because of me, says the Lord.  
Rejoice and be glad,  
for your reward will be great in heaven.

Prayer after Communion

By the power of this Sacrament, O Lord,



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confirm your servants in the truth  
and grant to your faithful who suffer tribulation  
that, as they follow your Son in bearing their cross,  
they may, in every trial, glory in the name of Christian.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**The Priest, facing the people and extending his  
hands, says:**

The Lord be with you.

**The people reply:**

And with your spirit.

**The Priest blesses the people, saying:**

May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

**The people reply:**

Amen.

**Dismissal:**

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

**The people reply:**

Thanks be to God.