

The Roman Missal: Side-by-Side Comparison

The Second Vatican Council called for revision of the prayer book or Sacramentary (the Roman Missal) used by the priest (and the congregation) at Mass. Since this Sacramentary would now be available in the vernacular, a group of liturgical experts, commonly referred to as ICEL (International Commission on English in the Liturgy) was formed and charged with the task of translation from Latin into English. As of 1969, “dynamic equivalence” became the guiding principle of translation: putting the essence of each phrase into clear, intelligible words of “noble simplicity.” ICEL diligently set to work, mindful, as well, of the Council’s call to the “full, conscious, and active participation” of the people, by virtue of our Baptism. And in 1973 their first English translation was promulgated from Rome, having been approved by all the conferences of English-speaking bishops.

Although they had worked faithfully and well, it soon became apparent that a more polished version would be necessary. After fifteen years of dedicated and collaborative labor, from 1982 to 1997, the second translation was sent to all conferences of English-speaking bishops. It was approved by all within a year and then sent on to Rome. But Rome said no... and changed the rules of translation (in *Liturgiam Authenticam* of 2001). No longer “dynamic equivalence,” the rule was now “formal equivalence,” a nearly word for word translation of the Latin, according to the Latin sentence structure. The result is the current version, mandated to be introduced on November 27, 2011, the First Sunday of Advent. Following are some Side-by-Side Comparisons. Which prayers, in your estimation, best plumb the depths of our faith? Which prayers best reflect the teaching of the Canadian and United States bishops on inclusive language? (Recall that in 1989 and 1990, respectively, they had advocated for the use of “horizontal” inclusive language - on the human level - in line with the contemporary use of the English language.) Which speak to your heart? You be the judge.

It must be noted that this comparison is offered for educational purposes and for your prayerful consideration. The 1998 version is copyrighted 1997, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. If you wish to download the entire document [click here](#).

Part One: Changes in the People's Parts, noting especially the 2011 version:

Greeting, Penitential Act, Gloria, At the Gospel, Nicene Creed, Apostles' Creed, Invitation to Prayer, Preface Dialogue, Sanctus, Mystery of Faith, Sign of Peace, Invitation to Communion, Concluding Rite. Changes in the 2011 version are bolded.

Greeting

1973	1998	2011
Priest: The Lord be with you.	Priest: The Lord be with you... <i>And 6 alternative phrases...</i>	Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.	People: And also with you.	People: And with your spirit.

Please be aware that the response, "and with your spirit," differs from the agreed upon ecumenical response- "and also with you"- agreed upon in the aftermath of the Second Vatican Council. Note also that this different response is found in several places in the 2011 version.

The Act of Penitence, Form A (Confiteor)

1973	1998	2011
I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do. And 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.	I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do. and 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.	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, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; 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.

Gloria

1973

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
 we worship you, we give you thanks,
 we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
 have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
 receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

1998

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
(Rest is the same as 1973.)

2011

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we **adore** you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, **Only Begotten Son,**
Lord God, Lamb of God, **Son of the Father,**
you take away the **sins** of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

At the Gospel

Priest or Deacon: A reading from...
People: Glory to you, Lord.

Priest or Deacon: A reading from....
People: Glory to you, Lord.

Priest or Deacon: A reading from...
People: Glory to you, **O Lord.**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten not made,
one in being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us [men] and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he was born of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered, died, and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in fulfillment of the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son
He is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy
catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
the life of the world to come. Amen.

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.

(The same)
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets
We believe in one holy
catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

the **Only Begotten** Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us **men** and for our salvation,
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

(The same)
he suffered death and was buried,
**and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.**
He ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory,
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one holy
catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection and
of the dead, and life of the world to come.
Amen.

Apostles' Creed

1973

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son,
our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the
Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of
the Father.
He will come again to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

1998

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of
the Father,
and will come to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

2011

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son,
our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended **into hell**;
on the third day he rose again
from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of
God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The 1998 version also has the Apostles' Creed in question and answer format. The priest asks 3 questions: (1) Do you believe in God? (2) Do you believe in Jesus Christ? (3) Do you believe in the Holy Spirit. The people answer in the words above, beginning each answer with, "We believe..."

Liturgy of the Eucharist: Invitation to Prayer **Spoken by the People in Response to the Priest**

1973

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 Church.

1998

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

2011

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.

Preface Dialogue of the Eucharistic Prayer

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord
our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks
and praise.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord
our God.

People: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the
Lord our God.

People: **It is right and just.**

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
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.

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are fully of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

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.

Mystery of Faith (Formerly the Memorial Acclamation)

1973

Priest: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
People: Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

Priest: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
People: Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life,
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Priest: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
People: When we eat this bread
and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.

Priest: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
People: Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Savior of the world.

Father, we celebrate the memory of Christ,
your Son.
We, your people and your ministers,
recall his passion,
his resurrection from the dead,

1998

A

Priest: Great is the mystery of faith.
People: Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

B

Priest: Praise to you, Lord Jesus.
People: Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

C

Priest: Christ is the bread of life.
People: When we eat this bread
and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.

D

Priest: Jesus Christ is Lord.
People: Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.

The presider then concludes with this prayer:

And so, Father most holy,
we celebrate the memory of Christ, your Son,
whom you led through suffering and death on the cross
to the glory of the resurrection
and a place at your right hand.

2011

Priest: The mystery of faith.
People: **We proclaim your death, O
Lord, and profess your
Resurrection,
until you come again.**

Priest: The mystery of faith.
People: When we eat this Bread
and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your death, **O
Lord,**
until you come **again.**

Priest: The mystery of faith.
People: **Save us, Savior of the world,**
for by your Cross and
resurrection, you have set us free.

None.

(Not currently available.)

and his ascension into glory;
and from the many gifts you have given us
we offer to you, God of glory and majesty,
this holy and perfect sacrifice:
the bread of life
and the cup of eternal salvation.

Look with favor on these offerings
and accept them as once you accepted
the gifts of your servant Abel,
the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith,
and the bread and wine
offered by your priest Melchisedech.

Until Jesus, our Saviour, comes again,
we proclaim the work of your love,
offering you the bread of life and the cup of blessing.

Look with favour on the offering of your Church
in which we show forth the paschal sacrifice of Christ
that was handed on to us.
Through the power of your Spirit of love
count us both now and for ever
among the members of your Son,
whose body and blood we share.

Sign of Peace

Priest: The peace of the Lord be
with you always.

People: And also with you.

Deacon (or priest):

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be
with you always.

People: And also with you.

Deacon (or priest):

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

or

As children of the God of peace,
let us offer one another
a sign of reconciliation and peace.

or

Brothers and sisters,
let us offer one another
the peace of the risen Christ.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be
with you always.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Invitation to Communion

1973

Priest: This is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called
to his supper.

1998

Priest: **Behold** the Lamb of God,
who takes away the **sin** of the world.
Blessed are those called
to **the banquet of the Lamb.**

or

This is the bread come down from heaven:
whoever eats of it will never die.
This is the cup of eternal life:
whoever drinks of it will live for ever.

Or

God's holy gifts for God's holy people:
draw near to receive them
with praise and thanksgiving.

2011

Priest: **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.**

All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word
and I shall be healed.

All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word
and I shall be healed.

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

Concluding Rites

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: **And with your spirit.**

Part Two: Prayers Prayed by the Priest.

You will note many more changes here. Please be aware, as in the previous section (Part One: dialogue and responses of the people), of inclusive/ exclusive language. Recall that the Canadian and U.S. bishops each issued a letter advocating for the use of horizontal inclusive language (on the human level), in 1989 and 1990, respectively. Also, continue to be aware of “noble simplicity” of language, as called for by the Second Vatican Council, along with clear, poetic expression of our Tradition.

Collect, First Sunday of Advent

1973

Let us pray...
[that we may take Christ's coming seriously]

All-powerful God,
increase our strength of will for
doing good
that Christ may find an eager
welcome at his coming
and call us to his side in the
kingdom of heaven,
where he lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

1998

Let us pray...

Almighty God,
strengthen the resolve of your faithful people
to prepare for the coming of your Christ
by works of justice and mercy,
so that when we go forth to meet him
he may call us to sit at his right hand
and possess the kingdom of heaven.

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

*(There are also collects for each cycle;
the following is from Cycle B.)*

Rend the heavens and come down,
O God of all the ages!
Rouse us from sleep,
deliver us from our heedless ways,
and form us into a watchful people,
that, at the advent of your Son,
he may find us doing what is right,

2011

Let us pray...

Grant your faithful, we pray,
almighty God,
the resolve to **run forth**
to meet your Christ
with righteous deeds at his coming,
so that, gathered at his right hand,
they may be **worthy to possess**
the heavenly kingdom.

Through our Lord...

mindful of all you command.

Grant this through him whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near:
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

Prayer Over the Offerings, First Sunday of Advent

1973

Pray, brethren...
Father,
from all you give us
we present this bread and wine.

As we serve you now,
accept our offering
and sustain us with your promise of
eternal life.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

1998

Accept, Lord, our offerings,
chosen from among your many gifts,
and let this present expression of our reverence
become for us the pledge of eternal redemption.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2011

Accept, we pray, O Lord,
these offerings we make,
gathered from among your gifts to us,
and **may what you grant us to
celebrate devoutly here below,
gain for us the prize of eternal
redemption.**

Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer after Communion, First Sunday of Advent

Let us pray.

Father,
may our communion
teach us to love heaven.
May its promise and hope
guide our way on earth.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Lord our God,
grant that in our journey through
this passing world
we may learn from these mysteries
to cherish even now the things of heaven
and to cling to the treasures that never
pass away.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

May these mysteries, O Lord,
in which we have participated,
profit us, we pray,
for even now,
as we walk among passing things,
**you teach us by them to love the
things of heaven, and hold fast
to what endures.**

Through Christ our Lord.

Note the length of the sentences in the 2011 version; such longer sentences are common in this version.

Preface II of Lent

1973

Father, all powerful and ever-living God,
We do well always and everywhere
to give you thanks.

This great season of grace
is your gift to your family
to renew us in spirit.

You give us strength
to purify our hearts,
to control our desires,
and so to serve you in freedom.
You teach us how to live
in this passing world
with our heart set on the world
that will never end.

Now, with all the angels and saints,
we praise you forever:

1998

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere
to give you thanks,
holy Father,
almighty and eternal God.

You set aside this season of grace
for your people,
to renew and purify their hearts,
so that, freed from **all harmful desires**,
they may live in this passing world
with hearts set on the world
that will never end.

Now, with all the saints and angels
we praise your glory without end:

2011

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere
to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father,
almighty and eternal God.

For you have given your children
a sacred time for the renewing
and purifying of their hearts,
that, freed from **disordered affections**,
they may so deal with the things
of this passing world as to hold rather
to the things that eternally endure.

And so, with all the Angels
and Saints, we praise...

Consecration Narrative, Eucharistic Prayer I

The day before he suffered
he took bread in his sacred hands
and looking up to heaven,
to you, his almighty Father,
he gave you thanks and praise.
He broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take this, all of you, and eat it:
this is my body
which will be given up for you.

(This is the same.)

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

On the day **before he was to suffer**,
he took bread in his **holy and venerable** hands,
and **with his eyes raised** to heaven
to you, **O God**, his almighty Father,
giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
broke the bread
and gave it to his disciples, saying

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

When supper was ended,
he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks and praise,
gave the cup to his disciples, and said:

take this all of you, and drink from it:
this is the cup of my blood,
the blood of the new and
everlasting covenant.
It will be shed for you and for all
so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in memory of me.

When supper was ended,
he took the cup;
again he gave you thanks and praise,
gave the cup to his disciples, and said:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK
FROM IT:
THIS IS THE CUP OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND
EVERLASTING COVENANT.
IT WILL BE SHED FOR YOU AND
FOR ALL
SO THAT SINS MAY BE FORGIVEN.
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.
*(This only differs in punctuation
and capitalization.)*

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In a similar way, when supper was
ended, he took **this precious chalice
in his holy and venerable hands**,
and once more giving you thanks,
he said the blessing, and
gave the **chalice** to his disciples, saying:
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,
IT WILL BE SHED FOR YOU AND
FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

Eucharistic Prayer II Intercessions

1973

In memory of his death and resurrection,
we offer you, Father, this life-giving bread,
this saving cup.
We thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.
May all of us who share in the body
and blood of Christ be brought
together in unity by the Holy Spirit.

Lord, remember your Church
throughout the world;

1998

Remembering therefore his death and
resurrection,
we offer you, Lord God,
this life-giving bread, this saving cup.
We thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Lord, remember your Church
throughout the world:

2011

Therefore, as we celebrate **the memorial**
of his Death and Resurrection,
we offer you, Lord,
the Bread of life and the **chalice** of
salvation,
giving thanks that you have held us worthy
to **be** in your presence and **minister**
to you.
Humbly we pray that, partaking of the
Body and Blood of Christ, we may be
gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

make us grow in love,
together with N. our Pope,
N. our bishop, and all the clergy.

perfect us in love
together with N. our Pope
and N. our Bishop,
with all bishops, priests, and deacons,
and all who minister to your people.

(This section is similar.)

Remember our brothers and sisters
who have gone to their rest
in the hope of rising again;
bring them and all the departed
into the light of your presence.
Have mercy on us all;
make us worthy to share eternal life
with Mary, the virgin Mother of God,
with the apostles,
and with all the saints
who have done your will
throughout the ages.

Remember our brothers and sisters
who have gone to their rest
in the **sure** hope of rising again;
bring them and all who have died **in your mercy**
into the light of your presence.
Have mercy on us all:
make us worthy to share eternal life,
with Mary, the virgin Mother of God,
with the apostles and with all the saints,
who **have found favour with you**
throughout the ages;
in union with them

Have mercy on us all, we pray,
that with the **Blessed** Virgin Mary,
Mother of God,
with the **blessed** Apostles,
and all the Saints who have **pleased** you
throughout the ages,
we may **merit to be coheirs to** eternal
life,
and may praise and glorify you
through your Son, Jesus Christ.

May we praise you in union with them,
and give you glory.

may we praise you and give you glory
through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Please be aware that the Latin verb “astare” in the first section means “to stand.” The 1973 and 1998 versions have translated it correctly, “to stand in your presence.” The 2011 version has altered the translation because of a new emphasis on kneeling.

Preface VIII for Sundays in Ordinary Time

1973

Dialogue, then...

Father, all-powerful and ever living-God,
We do well always and everywhere
to give you thanks.

1998

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

2011

When your children sinned

When sin had scattered your children afar, For when your children were scattered

and wandered far from your friendship,
you reunited them with yourself
through the blood of your Son
and the power of the Holy Spirit.

You gather them into your Church,
to be one as you, Father, are one
with your Son and the Holy Spirit.
You call them to be your people,
to praise your wisdom in all your works.
You make them the body of Christ
and the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit.

you chose to gather them back to yourself
through the blood of your Son and the
power of the Holy Spirit.
Thus a people made one by the oneness
of the Trinity
shines forth as your Church,
the body of Christ and the temple of
the Spirit,
to the praise of your manifold wisdom.

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afar by sin,
through the blood of your Son and the
power of the Spirit,
you gathered them again to yourself,
that a people, formed as one by the unity
of the Trinity,
made the Body of Christ and the temple of
the Holy Spirit,
might, to the praise of your manifold
wisdom, be manifest as the Church.*

**Note the unclear sentence, of 64 words.*

Collect Following the Isaiah 54 Reading at the Easter Vigil

1973

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God,
glorify your name by increasing
your chosen people
as you promised long ago.
In reward for their trust,
may we see in the Church the
fulfillment of your promise.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

1998

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God,
for the glory of your name
fulfill the promise you made long ago
to **men and women of faith**,
to bless them with descendants for ever.
Increase your adopted children throughout
the world,
that your Church may see accomplished
the salvation which those saints of old
so firmly expected.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

2011

Let us pray.

Almighty, ever-living God,
surpass for the honor of your name
what you pledged to the **patriarchs** by
reason of their faith
and through **sacred** adoption increase the
children of your promise
so that what the saints of old never
doubted would come to pass
your Church may now see in great part
fulfilled.*

**Another unclear sentence, 54 words.*

Collect for the Feast of the Annunciation

1973

Let us pray...
God our Father,
your Word became man and was
born of the Virgin Mary.
May we become more like Jesus Christ,
whom we acknowledge as our
redeemer, God and man.

We ask this through our Lord
Jesus Christ, your Son...

Alternative:

Almighty Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
you have revealed the beauty of your
power
by exalting the lowly virgin of Nazareth
and making her the mother of our Savior.
May the prayers of this woman
bring Jesus to the waiting world
and fill the void of incompleteness
with the presence of her child,
who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

1998

Let us pray...
Eternal God,
you chose that your Word
should take flesh in the womb of the
Virgin Mary.
Grant that we who confess him to be
our Redeemer,
truly God and truly human,
may also share in his divine nature.
We ask this through our Lord...

Alternative:

God most high,
you extended your gracious mercy
to the whole human race
through your Son, Jesus Christ,
Who took flesh of the Virgin Mary.
You gave him to the world as your servant,
whose delight was to do your will.
Keep the Church, which is his body,
faithful to your purpose,
that all the ends of the earth
may know your saving power.
Grant this through our Lord...

2011

Let us pray...
O God, who willed that your Word
should take on **the reality** of human flesh
in the womb of the Virgin Mary,
grant, we pray,
that we, who confess our Redeemer to be
God and man,
may **merit to become partakers** in his
divine nature.
Who lives and reigns with you...

Collect for the Feast of All Saints

1973

Let us pray...
Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
today we rejoice in the holy men
and women
of every time and place.
May their prayers bring us your
forgiveness and love.
We ask this through our Lord...

Alternative:

God, our Father,
source of all holiness,
the work of your hands is manifest
in your saints,
the beauty of your truth is reflected
in their faith.

May we who aspire to have part
in their joy
be filled with the Spirit that blessed
their lives,
so that having shared their faith on earth
we may also know their peace in your
kingdom.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

1998

Let us pray...
All-holy and eternal God,
you have given us this feast
to celebrate on one day
the holy men and women of every time
and place.
Through their manifold intercession
grant us the full measure of your mercy,
for which we so deeply long.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ...

Alternative:

All-holy God,
you call your people to holiness.
As we keep the festival of your saints,
give us their meekness and poverty of spirit,
a thirst for righteousness,
and purity of heart.
May we share with them the richness of
your kingdom
and be clothed in the glory you bestow.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ...

2011

Let us pray...
Almighty ever-living God,
by whose gift we **venerate** in one
celebration
the merits of all the Saints,
bestow on us, we pray,
through the prayers of **so many**
intercessors,
an **abundance** of the reconciliation
with you
for which we **earnestly** long.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ...

The Exsultet (Hymn of Praise to the Light of Christ at the Easter Vigil), 2011 Version

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven,
exult, let Angel ministers of God exult,
let the trumpet of salvation
sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!

Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her,
ablaze with light from her eternal King,
let all corners of the earth be glad,
knowing an end to gloom and darkness.
Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice,
arrayed with the lightning of his glory,
let this holy building shake with joy,
filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.
(Therefore, dearest friends,
standing in the awesome glory of this holy light,
invoke with me, I ask you,
the mercy of God almighty,
that he, who has been pleased to number me,
though unworthy, among the Levites,
may pour into me his light unshadowed,
that I may sing this candle's perfect praises).

(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,
with ardent love of mind and heart
and with devoted service of our voice,
to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father,
and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.

Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father,
and, pouring out his own dear Blood,
wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.

These, then, are the feasts of Passover,
in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb,
whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.

This is the night,
when once you led our forebears, Israel's children,
from slavery in Egypt
and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.

This is the night
that with a pillar of fire
banished the darkness of sin.

This is the night
that even now, throughout the world,
sets Christian believers apart from world vices
and from the gloom of sin,
leading them to grace
and joining them to his holy ones.

This is the night,
when Christ broke the prison-bars of death
and rose victorious from the underworld.

Our birth would have been no gain,
had we not been redeemed.
O wonder of your humble care for us!
O love, O charity beyond all telling,
to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!

O truly necessary sin of Adam,
destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!

O happy fault

that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!

O truly blessed night,
worthy alone to know the time and hour
when Christ rose from the underworld!

This is the night
of which it is written:
The night shall be bright as day,
dazzling is the night for me,
and full of gladness.

The sanctifying power of this night
dispels wickedness, washes faults away,
restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners,
drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty.

On this, your night of grace, O holy Father,
accept this candle, a solemn offering,
the work of bees and of your servants' hands,
an evening sacrifice of praise,
this gift from your most holy Church.

But now we know the praises of this pillar,
which glowing fire ignites for God's honor,
a fire into many flames divided,
yet never dimmed by sharing of its light,
for it is fed by melting wax,
drawn out by mother bees
to build a torch so precious.

O truly blessed night,
when things of heaven are wed to those of earth,
and divine to the human.

Therefore, O Lord,
we pray you that this candle,
hallowed to the honor of your name,
may persevere undimmed,
to overcome the darkness of this night.
Receive it as a pleasing fragrance,
and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.
May this flame be found still burning
by the Morning Star:
the one Morning Star who never sets,
Christ you Son,
who, coming back from death's domain,
has shed his peaceful light on humanity,
and lives and reigns for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

The Exsultet, 1998 Version

*I recognize that I have asked each person to decide the value of these prayers for themselves. However, at this point I must add a personal note. One of the recognized liturgists of our day, Rita Ferrone, has said this about the 2011 version: "It doesn't sing." (See her article by this title in the July 15th issue of Commonweal.) And, as we know, liturgy must sing! It must be able to be set to music, so that the full scope of the human condition in relationship to God and to one another can be proclaimed. As I was reading over the 2011 version of the "Gloria," I kept asking myself: how on earth can this be sung? So it is, then, that I submit to you another prayer which is always meant to be sung, the "Exsultet." From the first, when I read the 1998 version, I was moved to tears. I **must** share this with you, so that you will see what we will be missing. Is this a prayer you want deleted from our treasury of worship?*

The minister (a priest or deacon) begins.
Exult and sing, O shining angel choirs!
Exult and dance, bright stars and blazing suns!
The firstborn of creation, Jesus Christ,

is ris'n in radiant splendour from the dead!

Rejoice, O awesome night of our rebirth!
Rejoice, O mother moon, that marks the months!
For from your fullness comes, at last, the Day
when sin is robbed of pow'r and death is slain!

Awaken, earth! Awaken, air and fire!
O children born of clay and water, come!
The One who made you rises like the sun
to scatter night and wipe your tears away.

Arise then, sleepers, Christ enlightens you!
Arise from doubt and sadness, sin and death.
With joyful hearts and spirit set afire
draw near to sing this Easter candle's praise!

The minister: The Lord be with you.
The people: And also with you.
The minister: Lift up your hearts.
The people: We lift them up to the Lord.
The minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
The people: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The minister:
We praise you, God, for all your works of light!
We bless you for that burst of fire and flame
through which you first created all that is:
a living universe of soaring stars,
of space and spinning planets, surging seas
that cradle earth and rock against her breast.

The people:
We praise you, God of everlasting light!

The minister:

We praise you for light's beauty, motion, speed:
for eastern light that paints the morning sky;
for western light that slants upon our doors,
inviting us to praise you ev'ry night.

The people:

We praise you, God of everlasting light!

The minister:

We bless you for the light invisible:
the fire of faith, the Spirit's grace and truth,
the light that bonds the atom, stirs the heart,
and shines for ever on the face of Christ!

The people:

We praise you, God of everlasting light!

The minister:

Creator, in the joy of Easter eve,
accept our off'ring of this candle's light:
may all who see its glow and feel its warmth
be led to know your nature and your Name.

The people:

We praise you, God of everlasting light!

The minister:

For, Father, it was your own light and love
that led your people Israel dry-shod
through foaming seas and brought them safe at last
to lands of milk and honey. In your love
you led them as a shining cloud by day
and as a flaming shaft of fire by night.
This is the night, most blessed of all nights,

when first you rescued people from the sea:
a sign of that new birth which was to come
in blood and water flowing from Christ's side!

The people:
Now is Christ risen! We are raised with him!

The minister:
This is the night, most blessed of all nights,
when your creating Spirit stirred again
to turn back chaos and renew the world,
redeeming it from hatred, sin, and strife!

The people:
Now is Christ risen! We are raised with him!

The minister:
This is the night, most blessed of all nights,
when all the powers of heaven and earth were wed
and every hungry human heart was fed
by Christ our Lamb's own precious flesh and blood!

The people:
Now is Christ risen! We are raised with him!

The minister:
O night, more holy than all other nights,
your watchful eyes beheld, in wondrous awe,
the triumph of our Saviour over sin,
the rising of the Deathless One from death!

The people:
Now is Christ risen! We are raised with him!

The minister:

O night that gave us back what we had lost!
O night that made our sin a happy fault!
Beyond our deepest dreams this night, O God,
your hand reached out to raise us up in Christ.

The people:
Now is Christ risen! We are raised with him!

The minister:
O night of endless wonder, night of bliss,
when every living creature held its breath
as Christ robbed death and harrowed hopeless hell,
restoring life to all those in the tomb!

The people:
Now is Christ risen! We are raised with him!

The minister:
And so, our God, Creator of all life,
with open hearts and hands we come to you:
anointed with the Spirit's pow'r, we bear
these precious, glowing gifts of fire and flame.

We pray that when our night of watching ends,
the Morning Star who dawns and never sets,
our Saviour Jesus Christ, may find us all
united in one faith, one hope, one Lord.

For you, O Lord, are God, living and true:
all glory, praise and pow'r belong to you
with Jesus Christ, the One who conquered death,
and with the Spirit blest for evermore.

The people: Amen!

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Now **this** hymn of praise sings! Joyfully, with exultation, gratitude and praise! As Peter Jeffery, a chant historian and professor at Princeton University said- in criticism of *Liturgiam Authenticam* (the root of the 2011 Missal): “Why would we settle for the thorns when our Tradition is filled with roses?” And, this hymn commands the “full, conscious, and active participation” of the people.

So, dear people, we must sing our song. We must speak up. And keep on speaking up, for the love of the Church.