

The Collects, Epistles and Gospels of the Liberal Catholic liturgy, rendered into gender-neutral, modern language, as an alternative form, by The Mission Episcopate of Saints Francis and Clare, a Eucharistic Community in the Liberal Catholic Tradition.

## **The Third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete Sunday)**

*Class B. Rose, Violet or blue vestments. At least 6 candles at Mass. (LCC Class B. Rose or violet vestments.) (In a small church, white may take the place of all colours, except there should be a violet stole for use where prescribed. Cloth of Gold may always take the place of white, red or green vestments, but not of violet.)*

*The Collects*

P. Christ be with you

**C. And with your spirit.**

P. Let us pray.

*The collect for purity*

P. Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy Name. In Christ's name we pray. **R/. Amen.**

*The priest then intones or says the collect of the day and other collects, if any, and finally the collect for peace:*

*The collect of the day*

P. GRANT us, Most High, so to prepare and make ready Your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that when You come to teach the world, the ground may be found fit for Your sowing, You Who are the Teacher alike of Angels and of us all. **R/. Amen.**

*The Collect for Advent Sunday*

P. O SOVEREIGN CHRIST, we pray for strength to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, that we may prepare ourselves not only to keep aright Your holy Feast of Christmas, but also faithfully and acceptably to serve You when You shall come again, to Whom we ever offer heartfelt love and worship. **R/. Amen.**

*The collect for peace*

Teach us, Most High, to see your life in all the peoples of your earth, and so guide the nations into an understanding of your laws that peace and goodwill may reign upon earth; In Christ's name we pray. **R/. Amen.**

*The Epistle*

The portion of Scripture appointed for the Epistle is taken from the first chapter of the Book of the Prophet Malachi, beginning at the eleventh verse.

FROM the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same My Name shall be great among the Gentiles, and in every place incense shall be offered to My Name and a pure offering. Behold, I will send My messenger, who shall prepare the way before Me, and the One

Whom you seek shall suddenly come to His temple, the messenger of the covenant whom you delight in. Behold, He shall come, says the God of Hosts. But who may abide the day of His coming; and who shall stand when He appears, For He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap? And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and He shall purify the children of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Most High an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant to the Holy One, and they shall be Mine, says the God of Hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels.

Here ends the Epistle.

*The epistle ended, all stand and sing:*

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Gradual*

1. P: They that love wisdom love life:  
C: **and they that seek her early shall be filled with joy.**
2. **Teach us, O God, the way of your statutes: and we shall keep it unto the end.**
3. **Give us understanding and we shall keep your law: we shall keep it with our whole heart.**
4. **The path of the just is as the shining light: shining more and more unto the perfect day.**

*Munda Cor Meum*

D. Cleanse my heart and my lips, O God, who by the hand of your seraph did cleanse the lips of the prophet Isaiah with a burning coal from your altar and in your lovingkindness so purify me that I may worthily proclaim your holy gospel; In Christ's name .

C. May the Most High be in your (+) heart and on your (+) lips, that through your heart the love of God may shine forth and through your lips God's power be made manifest. **R/. Amen.**

*The Gospel*

P OR D. Christ be with you.

**C. And with your spirit.**

The holy Gospel is taken from the first chapter of that according to St. Mark, beginning at the first verse.

**C: Glory be to you, O Holy One.**

THE beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God: As it is written in the prophets, "Behold, I send my messenger before Your face, who shall prepare Your way before You, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.'" John baptized in the wilderness, and preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. And there went out to him all the land of Judaea, and of Jerusalem, and they were all baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. John was clothed with camel's hair and with a girdle of a skin about his loins, and he ate locusts and wild honey, and preached, saying, "There comes after me One mightier than I, the latchet of Whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. I indeed have baptized you with water, but He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost."

**R/Praise be to you, O Christ.**