

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



Office of Worship
P.O. Box 2028
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028
Phone: (225) 242-0120
Fax: (225) 336-8731
E-Mail: tranzino@diobr.org

RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the Third Sunday of Easter – Cycle B

Sunday date: April 25-26, 2009

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview for this Sunday...

The celebration of Christ's Resurrection continues with festivity and joy. Each year on the Third Sunday of Easter the Gospels proclaim a post-Resurrection appearance of Jesus in which He shares a meal with His disciples. The Eucharistic theme is obvious, and we celebrate the fact that through the Paschal Mystery, Christ found a way to remain with us through this mystery of our faith (see *Mane nobiscum Domine [Stay With Us]*, Pope John Paul II, 2004)

The events of today's gospel take place on Easter Sunday Evening. This is Luke's account of the events reported in last week's Gospel from John. In both Gospels the physicality of Jesus' resurrection is stressed. John presented the dramatic scene of Thomas probing Jesus' wounds, and Luke shows Jesus eating cooked fish "in front of them." In addition to the Risen Christ's gifts of peace and forgiveness bestowed in last Sunday's Gospel, Luke describes how the resurrection of Jesus enlightens the disciples to the understanding of the Scripture.

Questions for Faith Sharing...

1. Have there been times in my life when I have experienced “incredulous joy” or have been “amazed” by Christ’s resurrection?
2. How do I witness to Christ’s resurrection? How might I become a better witness to Christ’s resurrection?
3. How might I preach Christ’s forgiveness of sins to all nations?

Some Other Considerations as You Prepare...

1. Continue with an Easter season pattern for the Introductory Rites, which may include the Rite of Sprinkling of Holy Water, and always include the Gloria, preferably sung
2. Either Opening Prayer is appropriate today.
3. For the Preface you may use any of the prefaces of Easter II-V (P22-P25). The Preface for Easter III (P23) or the Preface for Easter V (P25) have references to the Lamb and Paschal sacrifice.
4. The Solemn Blessing for Easter Season (no. 7 in the *Catholic Book* edition of the *Sacramentary*, on p. 572) or the Prayer over the People (p. 227) may conclude the liturgy.

Sample Intercessions for the Third Sunday of Easter

Priest: To the God of our ancestors who has glorified His Son Jesus, let us pray not only for our own needs but also for those of the whole world.

Deacon (or other reader if there is no deacon):

1. For all members of the Church: may we proclaim to all nations repentance and forgiveness for sins in the name of Jesus, we pray to the Lord.
2. For peace in the world, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan, and for the safety and protection of all who serve in the military and diplomatic corps, we pray to the Lord.
3. For believers whose hearts are filled with doubts: may they find comfort in God's Word and joy at the Eucharistic feast, we pray to the Lord.
4. *[If First Communion is celebrated this Sunday]* For the children who today celebrate their First Holy Communion: may they always recognize God's gifts, especially the gift of Jesus in His Body and Blood, we pray to the Lord.
5. For all newly-baptized members of the Church: may the love of God reach perfection in them, we pray to the Lord.
6. For us to whom the Lord has been made known in "the breaking of the bread": may we be effective witnesses to the peace Christ has bestowed on us, we pray to the Lord.
7. For those who in union with Jesus, endured suffering and for all the departed (especially _____): may they be now with the Jesus, whom God raised from the dead, we pray to the Lord.

Priest: God of Jesus Christ, the holy and righteous One,
by that suffering graciously borne
and that victory gloriously bestowed,
you extend to us all that you promised through the prophets.
Renew in this assembly the wonders of your power:
Open our minds to understand the Scriptures, and
make Jesus known to us in "the breaking of the bread."
We ask this through the same Lord Jesus, our Passover and our Peace,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the holy Spirit, God, forever and
ever.
Amen.

(From *Prayers for Feasts and Season, Year B*, by P. Scagnelli. Chicago, LTP, 1997)