

THIRD SCRUTINY (FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT)

Liturgy of the Word

Readings

171. *The texts and the readings for Mass are always those given for the third scrutiny in the Missal and the Lectionary for Mass among the ritual Masses, "Christian Initiation: The Scrutinies."*

Homily

172. *After the readings and guided by them, the celebrant explains in the homily the meaning of the third scrutiny in the light of the Lenten liturgy and of the spiritual journey of the elect.*

Invitation to Silent Prayer

173. *After the homily, the elect with their godparents come forward and stand before the celebrant.*

The celebrant first addresses the assembly of the faithful, inviting them to pray in silence and to ask that the elect will be given a spirit of repentance, a sense of sin, and the true freedom of the children of God.

The celebrant then addresses the elect, inviting them also to pray in silence and suggesting that as a sign of their inner spirit of repentance they bow their heads or kneel; he concludes his remarks with the following or similar words.

Presider: Elect of God, bow your heads [kneel down] and pray.

The elect bow their heads or kneel, and all pray for some time in silence. After the period of silent prayer, the community and the elect stand for the intercessions.

Intercessions for the Elect

174. *Either of the following formularies, options A or B, may be used for the intercessions for the elect and both the introduction and the intentions may be adapted to fit various circumstances. During the intercessions the godparents stand with their right hand on the shoulder of the elect.*

[If it is decided, in accordance with no. 156, that after the dismissal of the elect the usual general intercessions of the Mass are to be omitted and the liturgy of the eucharist is to begin immediately, intentions for the Church and the whole world are to be added to the following intentions for the elect.]

Presider: Let us pray for these elect whom God has chosen. May the grace of the sacraments conform them to Christ in his passion and resurrection and enable them to triumph over the bitter fate of death.

A.

Assisting Minister: *That faith may strengthen them against worldly deceits of every kind, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That they may always thank God, who has chosen to rescue them from their ignorance of eternal life and to set them on the way of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That the example and prayers of catechumens who have shed their blood for Christ may encourage these elect in their hope of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That they may all have a horror of sin, which distorts life, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That those who are saddened by the death of family or friends may find comfort in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That we too at Easter may again be confirmed in our hope of rising to life with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That the whole world, which God has created in love, may flower in faith and charity and so receive new life, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Or:

B.

Presider: Let us pray for these elect whom God has chosen. May the grace of the sacraments conform them to Christ in his passion and resurrection and enable them to triumph over the bitter fate of death.

Assisting Minister: *That these elect may be given the faith to acknowledge Christ as the resurrection and the life, we pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That they may be freed from sin and grow in the holiness that leads to eternal life, we pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That liberated by repentance from the shackles of sin they may become like Christ by baptism, dead to sin and alive for ever in God's sight, we pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That they may be filled with the hope of the life-giving Spirit and prepare themselves thoroughly for their birth to new life, we pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That the eucharistic food, which they are soon to receive, may make them one with Christ, the source of life and of resurrection, we pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That all of us may walk in newness of life and show to the world the power of the risen Christ, we pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Exorcism

175. *After the intercessions, the rite continues with one of the following exorcisms.*

A. *The celebrant faces the elect and, with hands joined, says:*

Presider: Father of life
and God not of the dead but of the living,
you sent your Son to proclaim life,
to snatch us from the realm of death,
and to lead us to the resurrection.

Free these elect
from the death-dealing power of the spirit of evil,
so that they may bear witness
to their new life in the risen Christ,
for he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: *Amen.*

If it is convenient, the celebrant lays his hands on each of the elect.

Then, with hands outstretched over all the elect, he continues:

Presider: Lord Jesus,
by raising Lazarus from the dead
you showed that you came that we might have life
and have it more abundantly.

Free from the grasp of death
those who await your life-giving sacraments
and deliver them from the spirit of corruption.

Through your Spirit, who gives life,
fill them with faith, hope, and charity,
that they may live with you always
in the glory of your resurrection,
for you are Lord for ever and ever.

All: *Amen.*

Or:

B. *The celebrant faces the elect and, with hands joined says:*

Presider: Father,
source of all life,
in giving life to the living you seek out the image of your
glory
and in raising the dead you reveal your unbounded
power.

Rescue these elect from the tyranny of death,
for they long for new life through baptism.

Free them from the slavery of Satan,
the source of sin and death,
who seeks to corrupt the world you created
and saw to be good.

Place them under the reign of your beloved Son,
that they may share in the power of his resurrection
and give witness to your glory before all.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: *Amen.*

Here, if this can be done conveniently, the celebrant lays his hands on each one of the elect.

Then, with hands outstretched over all the elect, he continues:

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ,
you commanded Lazarus to step forth alive from his tomb
and by your own resurrection freed all people from death.

We pray for these your servants,
who eagerly approach the waters of new birth
and hunger for the banquet of life.

Do not let the power of death hold them back,
for, by their faith,
they will share in the triumph of your resurrection,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.

All: *Amen.*

An appropriate song may be sung, for example, Psalm 6, 26, 32, 38,39, 40, 51, 116:1-9, 130, 139, or 142.

Dismissal of the Elect

176. *If the eucharist is to be celebrated, the elect are normally dismissed at this point by use of option A or B; if the elect are to stay for the celebration of the eucharist, option C is used; if the eucharist is not to be celebrated, the entire assembly is dismissed by use of option D.*

A. *The celebrant dismisses the elect in these or similar words:*

Presider: Dear elect, go in peace, and join us again at the next scrutiny. May the Lord remain with you always.

Elect: Amen.

B. *As an optional formulary for dismissing the catechumens, the celebrant may use these or similar words.*

Presider: My dear friends, this community now sends you forth to reflect more deeply upon the word of God which you have shared with us today. Be assured of our loving support and prayers for you. We look forward to the day when you will share fully in the Lord's Table.

C. *If for serious reasons the elect cannot leave and must remain with the baptized, they are to be instructed that though they are present at the eucharist, they cannot take part in it as the baptized do. They may be reminded of this by the celebrant in these or similar words.*

Presider: Although you cannot yet participate fully in the Lord's eucharist, stay with us as a sign of our hope that all God's children will eat and drink with the Lord and work with his Spirit to re-create the face of the earth.

D. *The celebrant dismisses those present, using these or similar words.*

Presider: Go in peace, and may the Lord remain with you always.

All: Thanks be to God.

An appropriate song may conclude the celebration.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

177. *When the eucharist is to follow, intercessory prayer is resumed with the usual general intercessions for the needs of the Church and the whole world; then, if required, the profession of faith is said. But for pastoral reasons these general intercessions and the profession of faith may be omitted. The liturgy of the Eucharist then begins as usual with the preparation of the gifts. In the eucharistic prayer there is to be a remembrance of the elect and their godparents (see ritual Mass "Christian Initiation: The Scrutinies").*