

# THIRD SCRUTINY

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### READINGS

**171.** The Third Scrutiny is celebrated on the Fifth Sunday of Lent using the formulas designated in the Missal (Ritual Masses: For the Celebration of the Scrutinies) and Lectionary (no. 747).

### HOMILY

**172.** Guided by the readings from Sacred Scripture, 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.

### PRAYER IN SILENCE

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

Looking at the faithful, he invites them to pray in silence for the elect and ask that they be given a spirit of repentance, a sense of sin, and the true freedom of the children of God.

Then he turns toward the elect and, at the same time, invites them to pray in silence and instructs them to show their spirit of repentance by bowing or kneeling. Then he concludes in these or similar words:

Elect of God, bow your heads (or: kneel) and pray.

Then the elect bow or kneel and all pray in silence for a while. Then, as circumstances suggest, all stand.

### INTERCESSIONS FOR THE ELECT

**174.** Either of the following formulas, 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 for the elect, the godparents place their right hand on the shoulder of the elect they are sponsoring. Moreover, the usual intentions for

the Church and the whole world should be added if the elect are to be dismissed after the Intercessions and the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful) is omitted during Mass (cf no. 177).

**Celebrant:**

Let us pray for these servants whom God has chosen,  
that, being conformed to the Death and Resurrection of Christ,  
they may have strength to overcome the bitter legacy of death  
by the grace of the Sacraments.

**A**

**Lector:**

That they may be strengthened by faith  
against all the falsehoods of the world,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**℟.** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Lector:**

That they may remain thankful,  
because they have been rescued by God's election  
from their ignorance of eternal hope  
and have set out on the way of salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**℟.** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Lector:**

That they may be encouraged to hope for eternal life  
by the example and intercession of catechumens  
who have shed their blood for Christ,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**℟.** Lord, hear our prayer.

Lector:

That they may all hate sin, which destroys life,  
let us pray to the Lord:

℟. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lector:

That those who are saddened  
by the death of those they love  
may find comfort in Christ,  
let us pray to the Lord:

℟. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lector:

That we ourselves,  
as the Paschal Solemnities draw near,  
may be strengthened in the hope of rising again with Christ,  
let us pray to the Lord:

℟. Lord, hear our prayer.

B

Lector:

That the whole world, created by God out of love,  
may be enlivened through growth in faith and charity,  
let us pray to the Lord:

℟. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lector:

That faith may be given to these elect  
for them to acknowledge Christ  
as the resurrection and the life,

let us pray to the Lord:

℟. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lector:

That, freed from sin,  
they may bear fruit for holiness and eternal life,  
let us pray to the Lord:

℟. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lector:

That, released by repentance from the chains of sin,  
they may be conformed to Christ by Baptism  
and they may be dead to sin and alive to God for ever,  
let us pray to the Lord:

℟. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lector:

That, in hope of the life-giving Spirit,  
they may prepare earnestly for the renewal of life,  
let us pray to the Lord:

℟. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lector:

That through the Eucharistic Food,  
which they will soon taste,  
they may be united to the Author of life and resurrection,  
let us pray to the Lord:

℟. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lector:

That all of us, walking in newness of life,  
may show to the world the power of Christ's Resurrection,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**R.** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Lector:**

That all who dwell on earth, finding Christ,  
may recognize in him the promises of life eternal,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**R.** Lord, hear our prayer.

## EXORCISM

**175. After the Intercessions, the celebrant faces the elect and, with hands joined, says:**

**A**

Let us pray.  
Father of eternal life,  
who are God not of the dead but of the living  
and who sent your Son as the herald of life  
so that you might rescue human beings  
from the kingdom of death  
and lead them to the resurrection,  
free these chosen ones, we pray,  
from the deadly power of the evil spirit,  
so that they may receive the new life of the risen Christ  
and bear witness to it.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Then if this can be done conveniently, the celebrant lays hands in silence on each one of the elect.**

**Then, with hands extended over the elect, the celebrant continues:**

Lord Jesus, who in raising Lazarus from the dead

gave a sign that you had come,  
that people might have life  
and have it more abundantly,  
free from death those who seek life through your Sacraments,  
release them from the spirit of wickedness,  
and endow them with faith, hope, and charity  
through your life-giving Spirit,  
so that they may live with you always  
and share in the glory of your Resurrection.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

B

Let us pray.

Father, source of all life,  
who seek your glory in man fully alive  
and reveal your omnipotence in the resurrection of the dead,  
graciously rescue from the domain of death  
these elect who desire to come to life through Baptism.  
Free them from slavery to the Devil,  
who brought death through sin  
and who seeks to corrupt the world you created as good.  
Subject them to the authority of your beloved Son,  
so that they may receive from him the power of the resurrection  
and may give witness to your glory before others.  
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Then if this can be done conveniently, the celebrant lays hands in silence on each one of the elect.

Then, with hands extended over the elect, the celebrant continues:

Lord Jesus Christ,  
who commanded Lazarus to come forth alive from the tomb  
and by your own Resurrection freed all people from death,

we humbly pray to you for your servants,  
who hasten to the waters of rebirth  
and the banquet of life.  
Do not let the power of death hold back those  
who by their faith  
will share in the triumph of your Resurrection.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

If circumstances suggest, a suitable chant may be sung, for example, Psalms 6, 26 (25), 32 (31), 38 (37), 39 (38), 40 (39), 51 (50), 116:1-9 (114), 130 (129), 139 (138), or 142 (141).

#### 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 Deacon or the celebrant dismisses the elect, saying:

Go in peace,  
and may the Lord be with you always.

**Elect:** Amen.

**B**

As an optional formula for dismissing the elect, the Deacon or the celebrant may use these or similar words:

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, however, for serious reasons the elect do not leave (cf. no. 75.3) and must remain with the faithful, they are to be instructed that, though they are present at the celebration of the Eucharist, they cannot take part as the baptized do. They may be reminded of this by the Deacon or the celebrant in these or similar words:

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 Holy Spirit to recreate the  
face of the earth.

## D

If, however, the Eucharist is not celebrated, a suitable chant, as circumstances suggest, may be added, and the faithful and the elect may be dismissed, using these or similar words:

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

**All:** Thanks be to God.

## CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

**177.** After the dismissal, the Eucharist is celebrated. The Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful) for the needs of the Church and the whole world begins immediately. Then if required, the Creed is said, and the Preparation of the Gifts follows. But for pastoral reasons the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful) and the Creed may be omitted. In the Eucharistic Prayer there is to be a remembrance of the elect and their godparents (cf. Ritual Masses: For the Celebration of the Scrutinies).