



SOLEMN EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

RED WEDNESDAY

25 November 2020



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN PHILIPPINES



Liturgical Notes:

- 1. All who will participate in the Eucharistic Celebration must bring a candle.*
- 2. There will be a special collection which will be intended to support the mission of ACN Philippines to help suffering Christians around the world.*
- 3. A video about Christian persecution is to be shown before/during the second collection. It may also be downloaded from this link: <http://bit.ly/acnph-redwednesday-2020>*
- 4. The Candle Lighting rite and the subsequent lighting of the façade of the Church must be done **observing the proper protocols, i.e., the faithful must wear face masks, and they must observe social distancing.** It is highly suggested that Frontliners and/or Covid survivors be invited to the celebration. Some parts of the service i.e narration/readings, prayer of supplication during the candle lighting and the prayer for persecuted and suffering Christians may be assigned to them.*
- 5. The rite of lighting will be presided by the priest and may be done before the Final Blessing (just like in previous years). In this case, the Final Blessing and Dismissal will be done outside the Church.*



INTRODUCTORY RITE

While the Presider and the concelebrants, vested in red, proceed to the altar, the Entrance Hymn is sung.

Entrance

When the Presider comes to the altar, he makes the customary reverence with the ministers and kisses it.

GREETING

Presider:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

People:

Amen.

Presider:

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.**

People:

And with your spirit.



INTRODUCTION TO THE CELEBRATION AND PENITENTIAL RITE

The Presider introduces the celebration and leads the people to the penitential rite:

Presider:

My dear brothers and sisters,
As we join Jesus' offering of himself to the Father,
let us pray for our persecuted
Christian brothers and sisters,
for their oppressors,
for those who foster persecution,
and for those who ignore it.

Let us implore the forgiveness
by which we are renewed and saved
and place our lives in the mercy of God.

A brief pause for silence follows. Then all recite together the formula of general confession:

*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,*

And, striking their breast, they say:

*through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;*

Then they continue:

*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.*



Presider:

**May Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.**

People:

Amen.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.



COLLECT

Presider:

Let us pray.

Pause for silent prayer.

O God, who in your inscrutable providence will that the Church be united to the sufferings of your Son, grant, we pray, to your faithful who suffer for your name's sake a spirit of patience and charity, that they may be found true and faithful witnesses to the promises you have made. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R: Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Revelation 15:1-4

A reading from the book of Revelation

I, John, saw in heaven another sign, great and awe-inspiring: seven angels with the seven last plagues, for through them God's fury is accomplished.

Then I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire. On the sea of glass were standing those who had won the victory over the beast and its image and the number that signified its name. There were holding God's harps, and they sang the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:

"Great and wonderful are your works, Lord God almighty. Just and true are your ways, O king of the nations. Who will not fear you, Lord, or glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All the nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

97, 1. 2-3ab. 7-8. 9 (R: Rev. 15,3b)

R. Great and wonderful are all your works, Lord, mighty God!

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done wondrous deeds; His right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm.



R. Great and wonderful are all your works, Lord, mighty God!

**The Lord has made his salvation known:
in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.
He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness
toward the house of Israel.**

R. Great and wonderful are all your works, Lord, mighty God!

**Let the sea and what fills it resound, the world and those
who dwell in it; Let the rivers clap their hands, the
mountains shout with them for joy.**

R. Great and wonderful are all your works, Lord, mighty God!

**Before the Lord, for he comes,
for he comes to rule the earth;
He will rule the world with justice and
the peoples with equity.**

R. Great and wonderful are all your works, Lord, mighty God!

ALLELUIA

**Remain faithful until death, and I will give you the crown
of life.**



GOSPEL

Luke 21, 12-19

V. The Lord be with you

R. And with your spirit.

V. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the crowd:

“They will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name.

It will lead you to your giving testimony.

Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute.

You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death.

You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

HOMILY



LITANY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Presider:

Loving God, we come before you as a Church born from the Cross of Christ, a Church that has grown through two thousand years from the glorious blood of martyrs.

Let our response be: *Deliver your people Lord!*

From discrimination against believers and against the whole community of the Church,

Deliver your people Lord

From the isolation of prisons camps and the loneliness of exile due to our faith in Christ,

Deliver your people Lord

From the anguish of meeting in hiding places for worship because Christianity is not authorized

Deliver your people Lord

From injustice, war, terrorism, kidnapping, torture, murder and all human suffering because of Christian faith

Deliver your people Lord

From infection of the corona virus, especially for the frontliners risking their lives to protect everyone

Deliver your people Lord

Let us now say together after every invocation: *In you Lord we place our hope!*



For bishops and priests prohibited from exercising
ministry in Church or in public gatherings,

In you Lord we place our hope!

For religious and missionaries dispersed unable to live
their life of consecration

In you Lord we place our hope!

For generous young men and women prevented from
realizing their religious or priestly formation

In you Lord we place our hope!

For parents denied from giving their children education in
the faith,

In you Lord we place our hope!

For manual workers, intellectuals and professionals who
run the risk of being deprived of opportunities because
they profess faith in God

In you Lord we place our hope!

For those infected with the corona virus that they may be
restored to health soon

In you Lord we place our hope!

For the victims of the pandemic brought about by the
corona virus that God may give them eternal rest in His
Kingdom

In you Lord we place our hope!



Presider:

Loving God we have seen "life and death face each other in a wondrous duel" in the life of Jesus your Son, our hope of glory. That duel continues in our day. Ease our fears, console us in our pain. May the sufferings of your Church be the life giving sap, the balm of healing that our world needs in Christ our Lord.

People:

Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND THE GIFTS

During the preparation of the gifts, the Offertory song is sung and the altar table is prepared. The Presider takes the paten with the bread and, holding it slightly raised above the altar says:

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.

Through your goodness
we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given
and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

People:

Blessed be God forever.



The deacon pours wine and a little water into the chalice saying inaudibly:

**By the mystery of this water and wine
may we come to share in the divinity of Christ,
who humbled himself to share in our humanity.**

Then the Presider takes the chalice and, holding it slightly raised above the altar says:

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.

**Through you goodness
We have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become our spiritual drink.**

People:

Blessed be God forever.

The Presider bows and says inaudibly:

**Lord God, we ask you to receive us
and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer you
with humble and contrite hearts.**

He may now incense the offerings and the altar. Afterwards the deacon or a minister incenses the Presider and people.

Next the Presider stands at the side of the altar and washes his hands saying inaudibly:

**Lord, wash away my iniquity;
cleanse me from my sin.**

Standing at the center of the altar, facing the people, he extends and then joins his hands, saying:

**Pray, brethren, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to
God, the Almighty Father.**



People:

*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.*

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Presider:

Receive, we ask O Lord, the prayers and sacrificial
gifts we offer in humility
and grant that those who suffer persecution
for their faithful service to you
may rejoice to be united to the sacrifice
of Christ your Son and may know that their names
are written in heaven among the company of the elect.
Through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

PREFACE

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, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Father most holy, through your Beloved Son, Jesus Christ,
your Word through whom you made all things, whom you
sent as our Savior and Redeemer, incarnate by the Holy
Spirit and born of the Virgin.

Fulfilling your will and gaining for you a holy people, he
stretched out his hands as he endured his Passion, so as to
break the bonds of death and manifest the resurrection.

And so, with the Angels and all the Saints, we declare your
glory as with one voice we acclaim:

SANCTUS



The Priest, with hands extended, says:

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,
the fount of all holiness.

He joins his hands and, holding them extended over the offerings, says:

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the
dewfall,

He joins his hands and makes the Sign of the Cross once over the bread and the chalice together, saying:

so that they may become for us
the Body and ✠ Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

He joins his hands.

In the formulas that follow, the words of the Lord should be pronounced clearly and distinctly, as the nature of these words requires.

At the time he was betrayed
and entered willingly into his Passion,

He takes the bread and, holding it slightly raised above the altar, continues:

he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:



He bows slightly.

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

He shows the consecrated host to the people, places it again on the paten, and genuflects in adoration.

After this, he continues:

In a similar way, when supper was ended,

He takes the chalice and, holding it slightly raised above the altar, continues:

**he took the chalice
and, once more giving thanks,
he gave it to his disciples, saying:**

He bows slightly.

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,
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU
AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

*He shows the chalice to the people, places it on the corporal, and genuflects in adoration.
Then he says:*

The mystery of faith.



And the people continue, acclaiming:

*We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.*

Then the Priest, with hands extended, says:

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.

Celebrant or One Concelebrant:

Remember, Lord, your Church,
spread throughout the world,
and bring her to the fullness of charity,
together with **Francis** our Pope
and **N.** our Bishop,
and all the clergy.



Celebrant or One Concelebrant:

Remember also our brothers and sisters
who have fallen asleep in the hope of the
resurrection,
and all who have died in your mercy:
welcome them into the light of your face.
Have mercy on us all, we pray,
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with Blessed Joseph her spouse,
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

He joins his hands.

through your Son, Jesus Christ.

He takes the chalice and the paten with the host and raising both, he says:

THROUGH HIM,
AND WITH HIM, AND IN HIM,
O GOD, ALMIGHTY FATHER,
IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
ALL GLORY AND HONOR IS YOURS,
FOREVER AND EVER.

The people acclaim:

Amen.



COMMUNION RITE

Presider:

At the Savior's command and formed by divine
teaching we dare to say:

He extends his hands and, together with the people, continues:

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sinned against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.*

With hands extended, the Priest alone continues, saying:

**Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

He joins his hands.

The people conclude the prayer, acclaiming:

*For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.*



SIGN OF PEACE

Then the Priest, with hands extended, says aloud:

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.

He joins his hands.

Who live and reign forever and ever.

The people reply:

Amen.

The Priest, turned towards the people, extending and then joining his hands, adds:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

The people reply:

And with your spirit.

Then, if appropriate, the Deacon, or the Priest, adds:

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

And all offer one another a sign, in keeping with local customs, that expresses peace, communion, and charity. The Priest gives the sign of peace to a Deacon or minister. Then he takes the host, breaks it over the paten, and places a small piece in the chalice, saying quietly:



**May this mingling of the Body and Blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ
bring eternal life to us who receive it.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Meanwhile the following is sung or said:

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.*

*The invocation may even be repeated several times if the fraction is prolonged. Only the
final time, however, is grant us peace said.*

PRIVATE PREPARATION

Then the Priest, with hands joined, says quietly:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
who, by the will of the Father
and the work of the Holy Spirit,
through your Death gave life to the world,
free me by this, your most holy Body and Blood,
from all my sins and from every evil;
keep me always faithful to your commandments,
and never let me be parted from you.

Or:

May the receiving of your Body and Blood,
Lord Jesus Christ,
not bring me to judgment and condemnation,



but through your loving mercy
be for me protection in mind and body
and a healing remedy.

COMMUNION

The Priest genuflects, takes the host and, holding it slightly raised above the paten or above the chalice, while facing the people, says aloud:

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.

And together with the people he adds once:

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

The Priest, facing the altar, says quietly:

May the Body of Christ keep me safe for eternal life.

*And he reverently consumes the Body of Christ.
Then he takes the chalice and says quietly:*

May the Blood of Christ keep me safe for eternal life.

*And he reverently consumes the Blood of Christ.
After this, he takes the paten or ciborium and approaches the communicants. The Priest
raises a host slightly and shows it to each of the communicants, saying:*

The Body of Christ.



The communicant replies:

Amen.

While the Priest is receiving the Body of Christ, the Communion Chant begins.

When the distribution of Communion is over, the Priest or a Deacon or an acolyte purifies the paten over the chalice and also the chalice itself.

While he carries out the purification, the Priest says quietly:

What has passed our lips as food, O Lord,
may we possess in purity of heart,
that what has been given to us in time
may be our healing for eternity.

Then the Priest may return to the chair. If appropriate, a sacred silence may be observed for a while, or a psalm or other canticle of praise or a hymn may be sung.

Then, standing at the altar or at the chair and facing the people, with hands joined, the Priest says:

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Presider:

Let us pray.

Pause for silent prayer.

By the power of this Sacrament, O Lord,
confirm your servants in the truth and grant to your
faithful who suffer tribulation that, as they follow your
Son in bearing their cross, they may in every trial, give
glory in the name of Christians.

Through Christ our Lord.



R: Amen.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Commentator:

We shall now have a special collection to support the Pontifical Foundation Aid to the Church in Need's projects and mission to help the Church wherever it is persecuted, oppressed and suffering material need.

VIDEO PRESENTATION

After the video is played and the collection done, the commentator asks the faithful to stand for the candle lighting rite.

A lectern must be placed in the center with the lighted Paschal Candle near it.

CANDLE LIGHTING RITE

Presider:

We have listened to God's Word
finding there the stories and witness of hope
borne by those who lived through ordeals
to the glory of God,
and hear the promises of the gospel
for all who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
those who are afflicted by the corona virus
and those whose lives and generous service
have been unmistakable signs of God's compassion.

Let us enter into their suffering,
repenting of our ignorance,
refusing to be silent,
ready to reach out to them in their isolation.



The candles held by the faithful are lighted from the paschal candle while the narration is read. The part of the readers may be assigned to the invited Frontliners or Covid survivors.

Readers:

In the beginning, the universe was dark and cold
- and the Spirit hovered and brooded and whispered
“Let there be life!...Let there be light!”

The Word was spoken and light and life came into being!
God handed the light to human beings
and they handed the light on to their children
and their children handed the light on to their children.

The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light
on those who lived in shadows - on them God’s light has
shone.

In the dark of a stable in the town of Bethlehem
a new light was given to the world:
the one who was there in the beginning came into the
world
in him was life - and the life was the light of peoples.
The Word became flesh and lived among us. .

In the darkest hours just before sunrise
darkness gave way to a new dawn
an eternal dawn:
eternal light shone upon the world.

The light became divided
and humans tried to possess it:



to claim it as their own.
Yet the light was not defeated.

The light passed to those who loved God's Word -
who translated it - and placed it into the hands of
believers.

The light passed to those who sought
to understand God's creation -
and explored its wonders.

The light passed to those who saw
the dignity of human beings
and fought to bring justice to the poor -
freedom to those who were slaves.

The light waits -
Who will keep the light burning in our day?
Who will take the light into the world?
Who will carry the light - if we do not?
Who will carry the light - if you do not?

*The faithful makes a procession to the Church facade holding their
lighted candles as the choir leads them in singing Christ be our
Light or Liwanag ng aming Puso.*

*As soon as the people are gathered in front of the Church, the
red lights of the facade will be turned on, the priest will
invite the faithful to pause for a moment of silence to pray.*



INVITATION FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE

Let us pause for a moment and pray for all Christians around the world who are persecuted, oppressed and discriminated against because of their faith in Christ.

We beg the almighty and merciful God, the source of all life, health and healing, to look with compassion on our world, brought low by the corona virus pandemic to protect us in the midst of the grave challenges that assail us and in his fatherly providence grant recovery to the stricken, strength to those who care for them, and success to those working to eradicate this scourge and grow in faith and charity as disciples of the Lord.

A moment of prayerful silence will be observed. Afterwards, he leads the people in prayer.

LITANY OF SUPPLICATIONS

(from the prayer of Pope Francis)

R. Save us, O Lord.

From every evil that afflicts humanity, *R.*

From hunger, famine, and self-centeredness, *R.*

From sickness, epidemics, and fear of our fellowmen, *R.*

From devastating follies, from ruthless interests, and violence, *R.*

From deception, false information, and manipulation of consciences, *R.*

Pause for silent prayer.



R. Comfort us, O Lord.

Protect your Church, as she crosses the desert, *R.*

Protect humanity, terrified with fear and anguish, *R.*

Protect the sick and the dying, oppressed by loneliness, *R.*

Protect the doctors and health care providers, exhausted by fatigue, *R.*

Protect the politicians and civil leaders,
who bear the weight of making decisions, *R.*

Pause for silent prayer.

R. Grant us your Spirit, O Lord.

In the hour of trial and confusion, *R.*

In temptation and our weakness, *R.*

In the battle against evil and sin, *R.*

In the search for what is truly good and true joy, *R.*

In the decision to remain in You and in Your friendship, *R.*

Pause for silent prayer.

R. Open us to hope, O Lord.

Should sin oppress us, *R.*

Should hatred close our hearts, *R.*

Should sorrow visit us, *R.*

Should indifference cause us anguish, *R.*

Should death overwhelm us, *R.*



PRAYER

Since you, O God, are with us,
nothing that has happened,
nothing still to come,
can rob us of our hope in Christ.
In your enduring love we trust,
bind up our wounds.

You alone can heal our broken hearts;
you alone can wipe away the tears that well up inside us;
you alone can give us the peace we need;
you alone can strengthen us to carry on.
We ask you to be near those whose time of joy
has been turned into sadness.
Assure them that with you nothing is wasted or incomplete,
and uphold them with your tender love.
Supported by your strength,
may our love for one another be deepened
by the knowledge of your love for us all.

R. Amen

Presider:

Brothers and Sisters,
The light we bear is a symbol of Christ,
the Light of the World,
We received this light when we were baptized.
We vowed to spread this light
when we were confirmed,



We fulfill this vow when we faithfully respond
to our sacred calling as Christians
to be a communion even of flickering lights
amidst the darkness of persecution in the world.

I ask you now:

Keep the flame of faith alive in your hearts.

Let us be fire that kindles other fires,
a communion of many sparks

coming from the Light of the World.

Walk always as children of the light.

Jesus said “Blessed are the merciful
for they shall receive mercy” (Matthew 5:7).

I now send you to your homes,
workplaces, schools and communities.

Let us be in solidarity with our persecuted brothers and
sisters,

with those who are suffering during this time of pandemic,

with those who offer their lives in loving service

and tell the story of God’s mercy and compassion through
your lives.

The choir leads the faithful in singing Pananagutan.

CONCLUDING RITE

Presider:

The Lord be with you.

People:

And with your spirit.

Presider:



May Almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ Holy Spirit.

People:

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Presider / Deacon:

The Eucharist has been offered.
Let us go in the peace of Christ.

People:

Thanks be to God.

The Final Hymn is sung.

Suggested song: Aid to the Church in Need Hymn.

Please find the music sheet together with this liturgy. The MP3 file/music video may be downloaded from this link:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ty1LV9AqMDw



Aid to the Church in Need

Words:
Archbishop Socrates Villegas

Music:
Ryan Cayabyab

$\text{♩} = 100$

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

Piano

$\text{♩} = 100$

mf

The world is rich - ly blessed
suf - fer - cry - ing for help

6

Great is the good-ness of God But so ma-ny can - not rest, With
Do you care? can you share? Their blood cries from the earth_____

10

no one to give them love Aid to the Church in need
 Are you hurt? Will you pray? in need

f

15

Aide a l'eg-lise dans le be-soin Es a - yu - da pa-rael se - nor De-nen hel-fen,

20

die Lei-den rac-cog-lie-ra ri-com-pen-se per sem-pre Chris-tians



25 2.

sem - pre

2.

ff sem - pre Aide to the Church

ff

28

in need Aid to the Church in need

rit.

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