

**Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]  
Mystagogical Reflection on Texts of the *Roman Missal***

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
March 30, 2014

**Prayer after Communion:**

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world,  
illuminate our hearts, we pray,  
with the splendor of your grace,  
that we may always ponder  
what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty  
and love you in all sincerity.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Reflection:**

The earliest version of this prayer, found in the 7<sup>th</sup> century *Gelasian Sacramentary*, was used on the Vigil of the Epiphany (see Paul Turner, *Pastoral Companion to the Roman Missal*, page 42). Epiphany, illumination, manifestation. Revelation of the Christ *ad gentes*, to the nations. These wondrous themes of Epiphany find a pleasant home in this *Laetare* Sunday in the middle of Lent.

We can rejoice that this image of light is borne in the Gospels of all three Lectionary years. Most surely in Year A's story of the man born blind. But also in Year B's recounting of light and darkness, of coming toward the light, so that works may be clearly seen as done in God. And also in Year C's story of the prodigal son who "saw the light" and left death for life.

What, then, does this prayer illumine? These truths: each and every person born in this world is bathed in God's light; each and every person born anew in Baptism is awash in the splendor of God's grace; each graced person must behave accordingly, as one belonging to God. After eating and drinking Christ the Lord, we live, not in darkness, but in light.

**Prayer:**

O Christ the Lord,  
after eating and drinking you,  
let us be unafraid to stand in your light and bask in your grace  
so that we may reflect your light, your goodness, your grace in all we do and say.

Submitted by:  
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