



A LITURGY  
PREPARATION AID

FOR THE  
SOLEMNITY OF  
THE MOST HOLY  
BODY AND BLOOD  
OF CHRIST

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024



Federation of Diocesan  
Liturgical Commissions

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## INTRODUCTION

On June 19, 2022, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) launched a Eucharistic Revival initiative. On June 11, 2023 the country entered a phase which more directly impacts parish celebrations and formation efforts. With this campaign, we recommit ourselves to our Eucharistic identity and reaffirm our faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

We believe that the best way to increase faith in the Eucharist is the full and authentic celebration of the Mass – the source and summit of our faith (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 10). Adoration of the Eucharist flows from the Mass and leads us back to it.

### RESOURCES FROM THE FDLIC

- This booklet is an updated version of our 2022 resource – now written in harmony with the readings for Lectionary Year B.
- The Federation continues to offer downloadable print materials, website postings, and free webinars which will aid your parish formation. <https://fdlc.org/eucharistic-revival-resources/>
- Please take note of our 2022 webinar series on the Mass “The Work of our Redemption” (now archived on our website).
- Also recall the series on the History of the Mass which was offered in June 2023. That, too, is archived on our website.
- Join us May 1, 8, 15, and 22 and on June 5, 2024 as we examine the practice of Eucharistic adoration and exposition – its history, its rich theology, music repertoire, best parish practices, and the newly-revised liturgical text, *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery outside Mass*.
- We also encourage you to examine the many popular FDLIC books and bulletin articles on the Mass (in English and Spanish) which are already available. [www.fdlc.org/publications](http://www.fdlc.org/publications)

### LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS AND PRAYER FOR JUNE 2

The Bishops have asked that dioceses and parishes celebrate this solemnity with great festivity and joy. This will include, of course, the worthy celebration of the Mass with its assigned texts. It may be the perfect day for pastors to commission Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (*Book of Blessings*, Chapter 63).

It might also include a eucharistic procession after the principal Mass, a Holy Hour, an extended period of exposition, or a renewed invitation to spend time with the Lord in adoration. The day may conclude with the celebration of Evening Prayer II and reposition of the Blessed Sacrament. If the day concludes with a Sunday evening Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is reposed in the tabernacle, since it is never exposed during Mass.

Resources to assist your preparations for all of these are found on the following pages.

### **About the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**

Originally called *Corpus Christi* [the Body of Christ], the solemnity had its origins in thirteenth-century France. St. Juliana (1192 – 1258) was the abbess at the Augustinian Sisters at Mont Carvillon near Liege in Belgium. After a vision, she persuaded Bishop Robert de Thorte of Liege to institute a feast to the Blessed Sacrament; he established it in 1246. The feast was extended to the universal Church by Pope Urban IV in 1264. Pope Clement V (d. 1314) and Pope John XXII (d. 1334) formalized the celebrations further.

None of those three popes mention a procession with the Blessed Sacrament. It first appears in Cologne around 1279 and the idea was approved by Popes Martin V (d.1431) and Eugene IV (d.1447).

The texts for the Divine Office for this feast were composed by St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274).

Since the Second Vatican Council, the feast has been called “The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.” The name change is significant. The emphasis is no longer on the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle and presented for adoration by the faithful. The emphasis is on the celebration of the Eucharist. Indeed, the preface from Holy Thursday is used. In the Collect (Opening Prayer), we acknowledge that we “revere the sacred mysteries” of the Body and Blood of Christ, and that through this sacrament, we experience redemption.

### **THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST**

It will be important to precede this day with liturgical formation and catechesis on the Eucharist. Use the resources within these pages and elsewhere to teach about the theological and liturgical significance of this day. Meet with members of the parish staff, of the school and religious education programs, RCIA teams, music ministry and others to coordinate efforts. Draw on materials for all age groups. Make items available on the parish website that families or the homebound can access at home.

On this day, especially, make a concerted effort to bring Holy Communion to prisoners, nursing homes, hospitals, or to those who are homebound... and to their caregivers.

Certainly, we will focus on the Body and Blood of Christ, the Sacrament of unity. Let us also recall that we are the Body of Christ -- intimately connected to each other and to Him; united as one body with Christ as the head.

### **THE EUCHARIST AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

In the First Reading (Year B) Moses relays all the ordinances of the Lord to the Israelites. He erects an altar, adds twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel, and sprinkles the people with the blood of the covenant. In the Second Reading, the Apostle reminds us that the Blood of Christ was far greater than the blood of goats and bulls. For Christ was the mediator of a new covenant and his death delivered us from our sins. In the Gospel, Mark recounts the preparations for the Christ’s Passover meal with his disciples and Christ’s words on institution at that Last Supper (Mark 14:12-16, 22-26). Participating in Mass, listening to Sacred Scripture, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, and reflecting on the Paschal Mystery, inevitably involves some sacrifice of self. Christians who gather at the table of the Lord are sent forth to bring the Good News to others, to share our faith with those who hunger for the love of God, and to share our food with those who hunger and thirst. The grace of our baptism equips us for mission and makes us accountable for how we serve the Lord and one another. This process only ends when we enter the kingdom of God and feast at the heavenly banquet. Strengthened by the Eucharist and formed by our

weekly participation in the sacrificial meal which is the ultimate model for self-giving love, we must see those in need around us.

### **ART AND ENVIRONMENT**

The sanctuary and altar of exposition should be adorned as befits this solemnity. Four to six candles should be in place for the celebration of Mass. Extra candles and flowers may be in place, and banners (without words) may be hung.

In the gathering space or vestibule, consider hanging banners with the names of the children who have received their First Holy Communion or the names of those initiated or received at Easter Vigil.

### **PROTOCOLS AND REGULATIONS**

When planning any of the above, remember that the Church provides resources and rubrics for public displays of the Blessed Sacrament. Check with your diocesan Office of Worship if you are uncertain; your Bishop may have additional diocesan guidelines.

The norms for the universal Church are found in Canon Law and in a universal liturgical text: *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery outside Mass* (1976). A new edition will be in use after September 14, 2024.

The U.S. Bishops have a helpful collection of resources to be used during a period of exposition: *Order for the Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist*. It includes Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, prayer services, litanies, scripture, and hymnody.

The papal document *Redemptionis sacramentum* (no. 132) notes that “No one may carry the Most Holy Eucharist to his or her home or to any other place contrary to the norm of law.”

Finally, in all circumstances, bear in mind respect for the Eucharist.

MASS PREPARATION - YEAR B  
Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

**INTRODUCTORY RITES**

Entrance Hymn \_\_\_\_\_  
Greeting \_\_\_\_\_  
Penitential Act \_\_\_\_\_  
Glory to God Setting: \_\_\_\_\_  
Collect Roman Missal

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**Lectionary 168**

First Reading Exodus 24: 3-8  
*This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you.*

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18  
*I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord OR Alleluia.*

Second Reading Hebrews 9:11-15  
*The Blood of Christ will cleanse our consciences.*

Sequence [optional] *Lauda Sion*  Long form  Short Form  omit

Gospel Acclamation John 6:51  
*Alleluia, alleluia.*  
*I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord;  
whoever eats this bread will live forever.*  
*Alleluia, alleluia.*

Gospel Mark 14:12-16, 22-26  
*This is my Body. This is my Blood.*

Homily **The homily might touch upon various aspects of Eucharistic doctrine (e.g., the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist; the Sacrifice of the New Covenant; Christ nourishing his Church in the Eucharist).**

Profession of Faith

Universal Prayer **See suggestions herein on page 8.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of the Offerings

Presentation Hymn \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer over the Offerings

Eucharistic Prayer

Preface I of the Most Holy Eucharist: "The Sacrifice and the Sacrament of Christ"

OR

Preface II of the Most Holy Eucharist: "The Fruits of the Most Holy Eucharist"

Acclamations

Holy, holy, holy

Memorial Acclamation

Great Amen

Communion Rite

Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread      Lamb of God (setting): \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution of Holy Communion

Hymn(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer after Communion

## THE CONCLUDING RITE

### Option A

If a eucharistic procession is to follow, the Concluding Rite is omitted. When the Communion of the faithful is over, a large host, consecrated at this Mass, is placed in the monstrance upon the altar. Then the Prayer after Communion is recited. The monstrance is incensed. A humeral veil is brought to the presider and he carries the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance.

The procession forms. For details on the procession, please see pages 10-12 herein.

### Option B

If a Eucharistic Procession will not follow the Mass, the Concluding Rite is celebrated in the usual way.

Greeting

Blessing                       Solemn (Ordinary Time I-VI)       Simple

Dismissal

[Concluding Hymn] \_\_\_\_\_

### Option C

A lengthy period of adoration may follow.

SAMPLE INTERCESSIONS  
SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

*Please choose from among the following suggestions.*

For the Church, fed by the sacrament of unity, that it may be a beacon of unity to the world, we pray.

For all priests, who generously offer the sacraments and offer themselves for their flock, we pray.

For all those who serve as Ordinary and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, may their reverent service bear witness to the truth of Christ's abiding love, we pray.

For all Christians, that we may one day be reunited around the Lord's Table, we pray.

That the grace of this Eucharist will motivate us to serve all those who hunger and thirst, we pray.

For all those who doubt the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, that their faith may be strengthened and their hearts may be healed through the grace of the sacrament, we pray.

For all those who seek spiritual nourishment, may we share the Good News with them and invite them to the Lord's bountiful Table, we pray.

For all who serve our liturgical assemblies, that we may worthily celebrate the Eucharist in all its fullness, we pray.

For our neophytes, our First Communicants, and for all those who recently have joined us at the Lord's Table for the first time, may they always rejoice in the nearness of the Lord, we pray.

For those who are absent from our assembly today and for all those who bring Holy Communion to them, we pray.

For all those in religious communities who pray before the Blessed Sacrament on behalf of the whole Church, we pray.

For those who have died and who in this life were nourished by the Eucharist, may they rejoice forever at the heavenly banquet, we pray.

*Lord, hear our prayer!*



## HYMN SUGGESTIONS FOR USE DURING MASS

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>COMPOSER(S)</u>	<u>PUBLISHER</u>
All Who Hunger	Dunstan/Moore	GIA
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus	Dix/ Prichard	Various
Amen. El Cuerpo de Cristo	Schiavone	OCP
As the Grains of Wheat	Haugen	GIA
At that First Eucharist	Turton/ Monk	Various
Behold the Lamb	John 1/ Willett	OCP
Bread for the World	Farrell	OCP
Bread of Life	Farrell	OCP
Bread of Life from Heaven/Pan de Via Eterna	John 6/ Briehl/ Cortez. Haugen	GIA
Bread of Life, Cup of Blessing	Dufner/ Guimont	GIA
Come and Eat This Living Bread	Glover	GIA
Draw Near	tr. Neal/ Janco	WLP
Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether	Dearmer/Friedell	Oxford Univ Press
Eat This Bread	John 6/Batastini/Taize/Berthier	GIA
Emmaus	Alonso	GIA
Gusten y Veán/Taste and See	Grail/Alonzo	GIA
I Am the Bread of Life/ Yo Soy el pan de Vida	Toolan	GIA
I Received the Living God	Proulx	GIA
I Received the Living God	Geoffrey/Krisman/Jacob	GIA
In Christ There is a Table Set for All	Stamps	Dawn Treader Music
In Remembrance of You	Tate	WLP
In the Breaking of the Bread/Cuando	Hurd/Dean/Oroszco	OCP
Partimos el Pan del Señor		
Let Us Be Bread	Porter	GIA
Let Us Break Bread Together	Hurd/ Amer Folk	GIA
Life-giving Bread, Saving Cup	Chepponis	GIA
Lord, Who at that First Eucharist	Turton/ Monk	Various
Now in this Banquet	Haugen	GIA
O Taste and See	Psalm 34 /Haugen	GIA
Oh buen Jesús	León	Augsburg
One Bread, One Body	Didache/ Foley	New Dawn Music
Pan de Vida	John 13/ Hurd/Moriarity	OCP
Seed, Scattered and Sown	1 Cor 10 / Dan Feiten	Ekklesia Music
Shepherd of Souls	Montgomery/ Dykes/Proulx	GIA
Take and Eat	Quinn / Joncas	GIA / Selah
Take the Bread, Children	Brokering/Schalk	GIA
Taste and See	O'Brien	GIA
This Body	1 Cor 11 / 1 Timothy/Willcock	OCP
This is the Body of Christ	Bell / Iona Community	GIA
Ubi Caritas	Hurd	Various
Unless a Grain of Wheat	Hurd	OCP
We Come to Your Feast	Joncas	GIA
When We Eat this Bread	1 Cor 11/Mt 18/ Rev 21/Joncas	OCP
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart	Westendorf/ Kruetz	GIA

## ABOUT A EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION ON THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

The Church has a rich tradition of holding eucharistic processions on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. The procession is one method for venerating the Blessed Sacrament. It is also an act of public witness – a wonderful opportunity for evangelization with those who may not yet know Jesus or understand our faith.

However, not every circumstance is favorable for a public procession, and the diocesan Bishop is given the authority to decide “on both the advisability of such processions in today’s conditions and on the time, place, and plan for them that will ensure their being carried out with decorum and without loss of reverence toward the Blessed Sacrament” (*Ceremonial of Bishops*, 386).

As with Exposition and Adoration, there are official rubrics for Eucharistic processions, and they are contained in the same ritual book: *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass*, specifically in paragraphs 101-108. (Elaborations may be found in the *Ceremonial of Bishops*, paragraphs 386-394).

This solemnity is a golden opportunity to familiarize the faithful with the way these devotional practices are envisioned and regulated by Church documents. In the last decades, and particularly during the pandemic, many parishes developed practices which, while they may have been pursued in good faith, carried the possibility of distorting the Church’s teaching on the Eucharist and the Real Presence. At times, when enthusiasm might have overwhelmed solemnity, practices might have minimized the import of the Blessed Sacrament and its profound effect on the life of the faithful. Good intentions and motives are always improved by careful attention to the Church’s instructions regarding eucharistic rituals.

### **Q. When is a eucharistic procession conducted?**

A. It is preferred that the procession immediately follow a Mass at which the host is consecrated; in this way, the action can be seen as flowing from our Eucharistic celebration, emphasizing the Mass as the source and summit of our faith. However, it is permitted to begin this procession after a period of exposition.

### **Q. Where do we walk in procession?**

A. Since processions bear public witness to our faith in the Real Presence, they are conducted in public places. They are not held within the church itself. They may be held on church grounds or they might move from one Catholic church to another (especially if a merged parish has multiple worship sites). Ideally, scout a few places along the route where you can set up “stations” and pause for prayer.

Prior planning and clear organization will be essential. Identify a clear route well in advance. Receive any necessary permits or permissions from civil authorities. You may need assistance from police to provide security, limit traffic access, etc.

How will you ensure a safe and reverent event? Will the elderly or persons with disabilities encounter steps or steep hills? Will the route be too long? Will the weather be too hot for a long procession? Will the surrounding neighborhood have potential for profanation?

### **Q. What requisites should we prepare?**

A. Before Mass, the sacristan and ministers should prepare:

- a large host (one that is the proper size for your monstrance) This is in addition to the one that the presider will consume during Mass. Place the larger hosts in the ciboria of hosts which will be presented and consecrated at Mass.
- a monstrance (and a stand for the monstrance, if available)
- a humeral veil
- two thuribles, charcoal, the incense boat, and matches
- candles or torchieres for servers (with glass followers or chimneys to protect the flame)
- candles for those in the procession who are not carrying something already

### **Q. Will we need a canopy?**

A. Ideally, the parish should have a canopy, but it is not necessary. If it is used, the canopy and poles should be prepared outside the sanctuary. Canopy Bearers should rehearse how they will move together in unison and turn corners. Torches, too, if used, may be readied outside the sanctuary.

### **Q. Should we also prepare images of Mary or our patron saint?**

A. While these may be carried in other festivals during the year, they are not appropriate in a eucharistic procession. "Never to be carried in this procession are images of Our Lady or the saints" (*Ceremonies of the Modern Roman Rite*, 697).

### **Q. What happens after the Communion Rite?**

A. The following order should be followed:

- During the distribution of Communion to the faithful, a monstrance is set on the altar, to the left of the corporal.
- When the Communion procession is completed, and smaller hosts are reserved in the tabernacle and the deacon or priest celebrant places the larger host in the lunette and places it in the monstrance. He sets it on the corporal, facing the people, and genuflects.
- The presider says the Prayer after Communion. The Concluding Rites are omitted.
- The presider may remove his chasuble and don a white cope.
- All (except the cross bearer and the candle bearers) genuflect, then kneel. A hymn of adoration is sung.
- The Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance is incensed.
- The humeral veil is brought to the presider.
- Wearing the humeral veil and with his hands covered, he takes the monstrance.
- He moves to his place in the procession, holding the monstrance slightly above eye level.
- All stand.

## THE ORDER OF PROCESSION

Crossbearer

Server w/Candle    Server w/Candle

Clergy in choir dress (those who did not concelebrate)

Concelebrants of the Mass (in chasubles)

MC

Server    Thurifer 1    Thurifer 2    Server

Celebrant, wearing chasuble or cope, carrying monstrance	
Deacon	Deacon

Choir and Music Ministers

The Faithful

### NOTES:

- Singing and chanting may accompany the procession, with printed worship aids to assist the people, and members of the choir in the procession to support the singing.
- The celebrant may offer prayers or bless the people with the monstrance at various stations along the way. This will look different in each community and depends upon what stops may be convenient or appropriate.
- Some processions may go from church to church or include shrines, etc., along their route.
- The procession ends with Solemn Benediction, either at the church where it began or at another church "or other suitable place" at the end of the route.
- All the faithful arrive at the terminus of the route, kneel, and sing a hymn of adoration.
- Benediction occurs as usual.
- More silent adoration may occur, or the Blessed Sacrament may be reposed at this point.
- If the Divine Praises are used, they are recited after the reposition.



Presider Text: Morning Prayer with Exposition

Presider Text: Evening Prayer with Exposition

Scripture Suggestions for a Period of Exposition

Music Suggestions for a Period of Exposition

Vocabulary

Relevant Liturgical Books and Church Documents

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## MORNING PRAYER WITH EXPOSITION THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

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*These texts may be used in the celebration of Morning Prayer on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ or on other days (as the liturgical day allows) to begin a period of exposition.*

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### EXPOSITION AND ADORATION

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#### Entrance of the Ministers

*The ministers enter in silence.*

#### Exposition

*The assembly kneels. The presider goes to the tabernacle, removes the Blessed Sacrament which has been reserved there within the lunette, and places it in the monstrance which has been prepared on the altar.*

*A thurible (with hot coals) and the incense boat is brought to the presider. He prepares the thurible and, kneeling, incenses the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance. Meanwhile, a song is sung:*

#### Incensation and Song

*Come Adore/Tantum Ergo  
or other suitable song of adoration*

Come adore this wondrous presence, bow to Christ the source of grace.  
Here is kept the ancient promise of God's earthly dwelling place.  
Sight is blind before God's glory. Faith alone may see his face.

Glory be to God the Father, praise to his co-equal Son,  
Adoration to the Spirit, bond of love in Godhead one.  
Blest be God by all creation joyously while ages run.

Text: Thomas Aquinas; tr. by James Quinn, S.J. © 1969 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. Tune: ST. THOMAS.

#### A Period of Silent Prayer

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## INTRODUCTORY RITES

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### Introductory Verse

Presider: O God, ✠ come to my assistance.

All: Lord, make haste to help me.

### Doxology

Presider: Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

### Hymn

Praise to the Lord  
*or other suitable song*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty the King of creation!  
Oh my soul praise him for he is your health and salvation!  
All you who hear, now to his altar draw near,  
Praise him in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen, all you have needed has been  
Met by his gracious ordaining?

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.  
Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN. Straisund Gesaangbuch, 1665.

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## PSALMODY

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### Antiphon I

*Please be seated.*

Presider: You fed your people with the food of angels;  
you gave them bread from heaven. Alleluia.

### Psalm 63:2-9

Left: O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you;  
for you my soul is thirsting.  
For you my flesh is pining,  
like a dry, weary land without water.  
I have come before you in the sanctuary,  
to behold your strength and your glory.

Right: Your loving mercy is better than life;  
my lips will speak your praise.  
I will bless you all my life;  
in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet;  
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you.

Left: When I remember you upon my bed,  
I muse on you through the watches of the night.  
For you have been my strength;  
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.  
My soul clings fast to you;  
your right hand upholds me.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

### Psalm Prayer

*Please stand.*

Presider: Father, creator of unfailing light,  
give that same light to those who call to you.  
May our lips praise you;  
our lives proclaim your goodness;  
our work give you honor,  
and our voices celebrate you for ever.

All: Amen.



Antiphon I

*Please be seated.*

All: You fed your people with the food of angels;  
you gave them bread from heaven. Alleluia.

Antiphon II

Presider: Holy priests will offer incense and bread to God. Alleluia.

Old Testament Canticle

*Daniel 3:57-88, 56*

Left: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.  
Praise and highly exalt him forever.

Right: Heavens, bless the Lord,  
angels of the Lord, bless the Lord.  
All waters above the heavens, bless the Lord,  
all powers, bless the Lord.

Left: Sun and moon, bless the Lord,  
stars of heaven, bless the Lord.  
Every shower and dew, bless the Lord,  
all winds, bless the Lord.

Right: Fire and heat, bless the Lord,  
Cold and chill, bless the Lord.  
Dew and rain, bless the Lord,  
frost and cold, bless the Lord.

Left: Ice and snows, bless the Lord,  
nights and days, bless the Lord.  
Light and darkness, bless the Lord,  
lightnings and clouds, bless the Lord.

All: Let the earth bless the Lord,  
praise and highly exalt him forever.

Right: Mountains and hills, bless the Lord,  
all that grows on the earth, bless the Lord.  
Seas and rivers, bless the Lord,  
springs of water, bless the Lord.

Left: Sea beasts and all that move in the water, bless the Lord,  
all birds of heaven, bless the Lord.

All: All wild beasts and cattle, bless the Lord,  
All you people, bless the Lord.  
O Israel, bless the Lord.  
Praise and highly exalt him forever.

Right: Priests of the Lord, bless the Lord,  
servants of the Lord, bless the Lord.  
Spirits and souls of the just, bless the Lord,  
holy and humble of hearts, bless the Lord.  
Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael, bless the Lord,  
praise and highly exalt him forever.

All: Let us bless the Father, and the Son, with the Holy Spirit.  
Let us praise and highly exalt him forever.  
Blessed are you Lord, in the firmament of heaven.  
worthy of praise and highly exalted forever.

#### Antiphon II

All: Holy priests will offer incense and bread to God. Alleluia.

#### Antiphon III

Presider: I will give to the one who is victorious  
the hidden bread and a new name, alleluia.

#### Psalm 149

Left: Sing a new song to the LORD,  
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.  
Let Israel rejoice in its Maker;  
let Sion's children exalt in their king.  
Let them praise his name with dancing,  
and make music with timbrel and harp.

Right: For the LORD takes delight in his people;  
he crowns the poor with salvation.  
Let the faithful exult in glory,  
and rejoice as they take their rest.  
Let the praise of God be in their mouths  
and a two-edged sword in their hand,

Left: To deal out vengeance to the nations  
and punishment upon the people;  
To bind up their kings in chains  
and their nobles in fetters of iron;

to carry out the judgment decreed.  
This is an honor for all his faithful.

All: Give praise to the Father Almighty,  
to his Son, Jesus Christ the Lord,  
to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts,  
both now and for ever. Amen.

#### Psalm Prayer

*Please stand.*

Presider: Let Israel rejoice in you, Lord,  
and acknowledge you as creator and redeemer.  
We put our trust in your faithfulness  
and proclaim the wonderful truths of salvation.  
May your loving kindness embrace us now and forever.  
All: Amen.

#### Antiphon III

*Please be seated.*

All: I will give to the one who is victorious  
the hidden bread and a new name, alleluia.

---

### THE WORD OF GOD

---

#### Reading

*Malachi 1:11*

Reader: From the rising of the sun, even to its setting,  
my name is great among the nations;  
And everywhere they bring sacrifice to my name,  
and a pure offering;  
For great is my name among the nations,  
says the Lord of hosts.

#### Silence

#### Responsory

Presider: You bring forth bread from the earth, alleluia, alleluia.  
All: You bring forth bread from the earth, alleluia, alleluia.

Presider: And wine which gives warmth to men's hearts,  
All: Alleluia, alleluia.

Presider: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
All: You bring forth bread from the earth, alleluia, alleluia.

---

## GOSPEL CANTICLE

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Antiphon

*Please stand*

Presider: I am the living bread come down from heaven;  
anyone who eats this bread will live forever, Alleluia.

Benedictus/Canticle of Zachariah

**Luke 1:68-79**

All: ✠ Blessed be the Lord God of Israel;  
for he has visited his people and redeemed them.  
he has raised up for us a horn of salvation  
in the House of David his servant,  
as he spoke through the mouth of his holy ones  
his prophets of ages past:

To grant salvation from our foes,  
and from the hand of all who hate us,  
showing mercy to our fathers,  
remembering his holy covenant,  
the oath he swore to Abraham our father;

To grant that, freed from the hands of our foes,  
we may serve him without fear  
in holiness and righteousness  
all the days of our life.

And you, little child, will be called  
the Prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord  
to make ready his ways:  
to grant knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

Through the tender mercy of our God,  
the Dawn from on high will visit us  
to shine on those who sit in darkness  
and those in the shadow of death;  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

## Antiphon

All: I am the living bread come down from heaven;  
anyone who eats this bread will live forever, alleluia.

---

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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## Invitation to Prayer

Presider: Brethren [Brothers and Sisters],  
let us pray to Jesus Christ, the bread of life,  
as we joyfully say:  
All: Happy are those who are called to your heavenly banquet.

## Petitions

Presider: Priest of the new and eternal covenant,  
you offered perfect sacrifice to the Father on the altar of the Cross,  
All: teach us to offer ourselves with you.

Presider: King of justice and peace,  
you consecrated bread and wine as a sign of your offering,  
All: unite us as victims with you.

Presider: True worshiper of the Father, your perfect offering  
is celebrated by the Church from the rising to the setting of the sun,  
All: unite in your body those who partake of the one bread.

Presider: Manna from heaven, you nourish the Church with your Body and Blood,  
All: grant that we may walk strengthened by this food.

Presider: Unseen host of our banquet, you stand at the door and knock,  
All: come to us, stay and share the evening meal with us.

## Lord's Prayer

Presider: Gathering our prayer and praises into one,  
let us offer the prayer that Christ himself taught us:  
All: Our Father, ...

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## BENEDICTION

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Hymn

O Saving Victim/ *O Salutaris*  
*or other suitable song*

O saving Victim, op'ning wide the gate of heav'n to us below!  
Our foes press on from ev'ry side; your aid supply your strength bestow.

To your great name be endless praise, immortal Godhead, One in Three;  
O grant us endless length of days, when our true native land we see.

Text: Thomas Aquinas, 1227-1275; tr. by Edward Caswell, 1814-1878, alt.  
Tune: DUGUET, LM Dieu donne Duguet, d. 1767.

Prayer

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, we worship you living among us  
in the sacrament of your Body and Blood.  
May we offer to our Father in heaven  
a solemn pledge of undivided love.  
May we offer to our brothers and sisters  
a life poured out in loving service of that kingdom  
where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Blessing

*A humeral veil is brought to the presider. He takes the monstrance and facing the people, blesses them in the pattern of the Cross.*

Reposition

*The monstrance is returned to the altar. The Blessed Sacrament is removed from the monstrance and placed into the tabernacle.*

Presider Text prepared by the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, 2023.

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English translation of Old Testament Canticle, Psalm 149 and the Gospel Canticle  
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EVENING PRAYER II WITH EXPOSITION AND ADORATION  
SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

*Evening Prayer II may be prayed on Sunday evening, June 11. (These texts may also be used on another day when the liturgical day allows).*

*This may also be used to close an extended period of exposition. If the Blessed Sacrament is already exposed, one may omit the reference to exposition in the Introductory Rites below.*

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INTRODUCTORY RITES

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Entrance of the Ministers

*in silence*

Exposition

Hymn

Pange Lingua

I shall praise the Savior's glory,  
of His flesh the mystery sing,  
and the blood, all price excelling,  
shed by our immortal King;  
God made man for our salvation,  
Who from virgin pure did spring.

Born for us, and for us given,  
born a man like us below,  
Christ as man with man residing,  
lived the seed of truth to sow,  
suffered bitter death unflinching,  
and immortal love did show.

On the night before He suffered,  
seated with His chosen band,  
Jesus, when they all had feasted,  
faithful to the law's command,  
far more precious food provided;  
gave Himself with His own hand.

Word made flesh, true bread of heaven  
by His word made flesh to be;  
from the wine His blood is taken,  
though our senses cannot see;  
faith alone which is unshaken  
shows pure hearts the mystery.

Pange lingua gloriosi  
Corporis mysterium,  
Sanguinisque pretiosi,  
Quem in mundi pretium  
Fructus ventris generosi  
Rex effudit Gentium.  
Nobis datus, nobis natus  
Ex inacta Virgine,  
Et in mundo conversatus,  
Sparso verbi semine,  
Sui moras incolatus  
Miro clausit ordine.  
In suprema nocte coenae  
Recumbus cum fratribus  
Observata lege plene  
Cibis in legalibus,  
Cibum turbae duodenae  
Se dat suis manibus.  
Verbum caro, panem verum  
Verbo carnem efficit:  
Fitque sanguis Christi merum,  
Et si sensus deficit,  
Ad firmandum cor sincerum  
Sola fides sufficit.  
Tantum ergo Sacramentum  
Veneremur cernui:  
Et antiquum documentum

Therefore we, before Him falling,  
this great sacrament revere;  
ancient forms are now departed,  
for new acts of grace are here;  
faith our feeble senses aiding,  
makes the Savior's presence clear.

To the everlasting Father,  
and to His Son Who reigns on high,  
with the Holy Ghost proceeding  
forth from each eternally,  
be all honor, glory, blessing,  
power and endless majesty. Amen.

Novo cedat ritui:  
Praestet fides supplementum  
Sensuum defectui.

Genitori, Genitoque  
Laus et jubilatio,  
Salus, honor, virtus quoque  
Sit et benedictio:  
Procedenti ab utroque  
Compar sit laudatio. Amen.

Original Text: St. Thomas Aquinas; tr. Edward Caswall; Music: Pange Lingua 87.87.87 Mode III plainsong

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## PSALMODY

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### Antiphon I

Presider: Christ the Lord is a priest for ever in the line of Melchizedek;  
he offered up bread and wine.

### Psalm 110:1-5, 7

Left: The Lord's revelation to my lord:  
"Sit on my right hand:  
until I make your foes your footstool."

Right: The LORD will send from Zion  
your scepter of power:  
rule in the midst of all your foes.

Left: With you is princely rule on the day of your power.  
In holy splendor from the womb before the dawn,  
I have begotten you.

Right: The LORD has sworn an oath he will not change.  
"You are a priest for ever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek."



Left: The Lord at your right hand  
shatters kings on the day of his wrath.

Right: He brings a judgment among the nations,  
and heaps the bodies high;  
he shatters heads throughout the whole wide earth.  
He shall drink from the stream by the wayside,  
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

### Antiphon I

All: Christ the Lord is a priest for ever in the line of Melchizedek;  
he offered up bread and wine.

### Antiphon II

Presider: I will take up the cup of salvation,  
and I will offer a sacrifice of praise.

### Psalm 116:10-19

Left: I trusted, even when I said:  
"I am sorely afflicted,  
and when I said in my alarm:  
"These people are liars."

Right: How can I repay the LORD  
for all his goodness to me?  
The cup of salvation I will raise;  
I will call on the name of the LORD.

Left: My vows to the Lord I will fulfill  
before all his people  
How precious in the eyes of the LORD  
is the death of his faithful.

Right: Your servant, LORD, your servant am I,  
the son of your handmaid;  
you have loosened my bonds.  
I will offer you a thanksgiving sacrifice;  
I will call on the name of the LORD.

Left: My vows to the Lord I will fulfill  
before all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the LORD,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem. Alleluia.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

### Antiphon II

All: I will take up the cup of salvation,  
and I will offer a sacrifice of praise.

### Antiphon III

Presider: You are the way, the truth and the life of the world, O Lord.

### New Testament Cantic

*cf. Revelation 19:1-2, 5-7*

Left: Alleluia! Salvation, glory, and power to our God:  
(R. Alleluia!)  
for his judgments are true and just.  
R. Alleluia (alleluia).

Right: Alleluia! Sing praise to our God, all you his servants,  
(R. Alleluia!)  
all who fear him, small and great.  
R. Alleluia (alleluia).

Left: Alleluia! For the Lord, our God the Almighty reigns.  
(R. Alleluia!)  
Let us rejoice and exult, and give him the glory.  
R. Alleluia (alleluia).

Right: Alleluia! The marriage feast of the Lamb has come,  
(R. Alleluia!)  
And his bride has prepared herself.  
R. Alleluia (alleluia).

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

### Antiphon III

All: You are the way, the truth and the life of the world, O Lord.

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## THE WORD OF GOD

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### Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Reader: I received from the Lord what I handed on to you,  
namely, that the Lord Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed  
took bread, and after he had given thanks,  
broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."  
In the same way, after the supper, he took the cup, saying,  
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.  
Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

### Responsory

Reader: He gave them bread from heaven, alleluia, alleluia.  
All: He gave them bread from heaven, alleluia, alleluia.  
Reader: Man has eaten the bread of angels,  
All: alleluia, alleluia.  
Reader: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
All: He gave them bread from heaven, alleluia, alleluia.

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## GOSPEL CANTICLE

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### Antiphon

Presider: How holy this feast in which Christ is our food;  
his passion is recalled;  
grace fills our hearts;  
and we receive a pledge of the glory to come, alleluia.

### Canticle of Mary

Luke 1:46-55

All: ✠ My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord  
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked upon his handmaid in her lowliness;  
for behold, from this day forward,  
all generations shall call me blessed.

For the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is from age to age for those who fear him.

He has made known the strength of his arm,  
and he has scattered the proud in their conceit of heart.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones  
and has exalted those who are lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,  
mindful of his mercy,  
even as he promised to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his descendants forever.

### Antiphon

Presider: How holy this feast in which Christ is our food;  
his passion is recalled; grace fills our hearts;  
and we receive a pledge of the glory to come, alleluia.

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## INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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### Invitation to Prayer

Presider: Christ invites all to the supper in which he gives his Body and Blood for the world. Let us ask him:  
All: Christ, the bread of heaven, grant us everlasting life.

### Petitions

Presider: Christ, Son of the living God,  
you commanded that this thanksgiving meal be done in memory of you,  
All: enrich your Church through the faithful celebration of these mysteries.

Presider: Christ, eternal priest of the Most High,  
you have commanded your priests offer your sacraments,  
All: may they help them to exemplify in their lives  
the meaning of the sacred mysteries which they celebrate.

Presider: Christ, bread from heaven,  
you form one body out of all who partake of the one bread,  
All: refresh all who believe in you with harmony and peace.

Presider: Christ, through your bread you offer the remedy for immortality  
and the pledge of future resurrection,  
All: restore health to the sick and living hope to sinners.

Presider: Christ, our king who is to come, you commanded that the mysteries which  
proclaim your death be celebrated until you return,  
All: grant that all who die in you may share in your resurrection.

### Lord's Prayer

Presider: Gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
let us pray in the words our savior gave us.

All: Our Father...

### Collect

Presider: Lord, Jesus Christ,  
you gave us the Eucharist  
as the memorial of your suffering and death.  
May our worship of this sacrament of your Body and Blood  
help us to experience the salvation you won for us  
in the peace of your kingdom  
where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

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## CONCLUDING RITE

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### Greeting

Presider: The Lord be with you.  
All: and with your spirit.

### Blessing

Presider: May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

OR

Lay Presider: May the Lord bless us, ✠  
protect us from all evil  
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

### Dismissal

Presider: Go in peace.  
All: Thanks be to God.

Presider Text prepared by the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, 2023.

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English translation of Old Testament Canticle, Psalm 149 and the Gospel Canticle  
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## READINGS ON THE EUCHARIST

The following Scripture passages may be proclaimed during an extended period of adoration or exposition. The reading(s) should be accompanied by preaching and periods of silence. You might also use these passages to prepare prayer services for the classroom or a parish meeting.

The full pericopes can be found in *The Lectionary for Mass for the Dioceses of the United States*. Please see:

- Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ -- nos. 167 (Year A), 168 (Year B), 169 (Year C)
- Votive Mass: The Most Holy Eucharist -- nos. 976-981
- Votive Mass: The Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ -- nos. 989-994

### OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 14:18-20	Melchizedek brought forth bread and wine.
Exodus 12:21-27	Seeing the Blood on the lintel and the two door posts, the Lord will pass over that house.
Exodus 24: 3-8	This is the Blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you. (no. 989)
Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15	I will now rain down bread from heaven for you.
Exodus 24:3-8	This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you.
Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a	He fed you with manna, a food unknown to you and your fathers.
1 Kings 19:4-8	Strengthened by that food, he walked to the mountain of God.
Proverbs 9:1-6	Come, eat of my food and drink of the wine I have mixed.

### EASTER SEASON

Acts 2:42-47	They devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes
Acts 10 14a:, 37-43	We ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.
Revelation 1:5-8	To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his Blood.
Revelation 7:9-14	They have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6	The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Psalm 34: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11	Taste and see the goodness of the Lord OR Alleluia
Psalm 40:2 and 4ab, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10	Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will.
Psalm 78: 3 and 4a and 7ab, 23-24, 25 and 54	The Lord gave them bread from heaven.
Psalm 110:1, 2, 3, 4	Christ the Lord, a priest for ever in the line of Melchizedek OR You are a priest forever in the line of Melchizedek
Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18	Our blessing cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ (1 Cor 10:16)
Palm 145: 10-11, 15-16, 17-18	You open your hand to feed us, Lord, you answer all our needs.
Psalm 147: 12-13, 14-15, 19-20	Whoever eats this bread will live forever.

## **NEW TESTAMENT**

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1 Cor 10:16-17	We, though many are one bread, one body.
1 Cor 11:23-26	For as often as you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord
Hebrews 9:11-15	The blood of Christ will cleanse our consciences OR He entered once for all into the sanctuary with his own blood (no. 992)
Hebrews 12:18-19,22-24	You have approached the sprinkled Blood that speaks more eloquently than that of Abel.
1 Peter 1:17-21	You were ransomed with the precious Blood of Christ...
1 John 5:4-8	So there are three that testify, the Spirit, the water, and the Blood.

## **GOSPEL**

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Mark 14:12-16, 22-26	This is my Body. This is my Blood.
Mark 15:16-20	They clothed him in purple and weaving a crown of thorns, they placed it on him.
Luke 9:11b-17	They all ate and were satisfied
Luke 22:39-44	His sweat became like drops of blood, falling on the ground.
Luke 24:13-35 OR 24:13-16, 28-35	They recognized him in the breaking of the bread.
John 6:1-15	He distributed to those who were reclining as much as they wanted.
John 6:24-35	Whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.
John 6:41-51	I am the living bread that came down from heaven.
John 6:51-58	My flesh is true food and my Blood is true drink.
John 19:31-37	One soldier thrust his lance into his side and immediately Blood and water flowed out.
John 21:1-14	Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them.



## MUSIC SUGGESTIONS FOR ADORATION & EXPOSITION

Adoro te devote – Latin Mode V, text: Thomas Aquinas, +1274

“Adoro te devote” – Various translations in English

e.g., Godhead, Here in Hiding, tr. G. M. Hopkins (Public Domain)

Humbly I Adore Thee, Hidden Deity, tr. John Mason Neale (Public Domain)

**Español:** Con devoto Anheló

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

Text: Revelation 5:9, William Dix (1837-1898)

Tune: HYFRYDOL 8787D; Rowland H. Prichard (1811-1887)

Ave Verum Corpus, Mode VI

Ascribed to Innocent VI, d. 1362

Blessed be God (Divine Praises)

Text: Luigi Felici (1736-1818)

Chant: Theodore Norbert Marier (1912-2001)

Alt. Tune: Matt Maher

Ecce Panis Angelorum, Mode VII

Verses from *Lauda Sion*, Aquinas

Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All

Text: Frederick W. Faber (1814-1863)

Tune: SWEET SACRAMENT

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O Panis dulcissime, Mode I Sequence

In Honor of the Blessed Sacrament (O most sweet Bread, O faithful and soul-nourishing food.)

O Salutaris / O Saving Victim / ¡Oh Víctima de Salvación!

Tune(s): WERNER, DUGUET, *Creator alme siderum*, Mode IV

Panis Angelicus, Mode IV chant

Also TUNE: LAMBILLOTTE

Pange Lingua / Tantum Ergo, Mode III, Aquinas

Pange Lingua, tune: ST. THOMAS

Pange Lingua, Ricky Manalo

Various English translations:

Sing, My Tongue, the Savior's Glory

Down in Adoration Falling, tr. Edward Caswell

Canta Lengua Jubilosa (Español) / Al Augusto Sacramento © OCP

## ESPAÑOL

- ¡Oh Víctima de Salvación! / O Salutaris Hostia
- Con devoto Anhelos/Adoro te devote, Mode V
- Canta Lengua Jubilosa/Pange Lingua, Mode III
- Alabado Sea el Santísimo, tradicional, siglo XVI
- Cantemos al Amor, Letra: , Restituto del Valle, OSA  
Musica: Juan Ignacio Busca Sagastizába, siglo XX
- Bendito, Bendito, Tradicional
- Que la Lengua Humana Cante, Francisco Palazón
- ¡Oh Buen Jesús!, Letra: Anónimo  
Música: SACRUM CONVIVIUM
- Altísimo Señor, Tradicional
- Al Augusto Sacramento / Tantum Ergo, Mode, ST. THOMAS

## AFRICAN AMERICAN SACRED MUSIC

“We’ve Come to Worship You.” Text and Tune: Stephen Key  
<https://youtu.be/vg82je1nSyU>

“Day and Night Praise.” Text and tune by Margaret Pleasant Douroux.  
<https://youtu.be/gm2jtpNcXfc>

“O King, O Lord, O Love.” Text and tune by Timothy Watson.  
<https://youtu.be/Ni9s-nPAqwl>

Hallelujah, Amen! Text and Tune: Nolan Williams, Jr.  
<https://youtu.be/QRzvJqRA0SI>

“And He Blessed My Soul.” Text and Tune: Anita Watkins-Stevens  
<https://youtu.be/5QccZsgaKu4>  
<https://www.giamusic.com/store/resource/and-he-blessed-my-soul-print-g7987>

“O Come, Let Us Adore Him.” Text: John Francis Wade; Translator: Frederick Oakeley.  
Tune: ADESTE FIDELES. Lead Me, Guide Me (2nd ed.)  
[https://youtu.be/7Xg\\_T4zkjbw](https://youtu.be/7Xg_T4zkjbw)

## TAIWANESE

“Ban-bin ah (lin toil old)” or “Let All Nations (Praise the Lord).”  
Text and Music: Xiangqi Zhang (or Hsiang-chi Chang) and I-to Log. Tune: O-LO.  
O-lo means “praise” in Taiwanese.

## VIETNAMESE

My God and My All. Rufino Zaragoza, OFM.  
<https://youtu.be/Zqm8WnjMQxM> Available in English and Bilingual, OCP

## VOCABULARY: IMPORTANT DISTINCTIONS

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

- ❖ A devotional act; no official rite or ritual involved
- ❖ Private or communal prayer before the Blessed Sacrament housed within the tabernacle
- ❖ One or more people
- ❖ Available anytime that the church or chapel is open

### PERPETUAL ADORATION

- ❖ The Blessed Sacrament remains in the tabernacle (except during the Triduum).
- ❖ The church or chapel is always open for adoration.

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

- ❖ The Blessed Sacrament is exposed in a monstrance (or uncovered ciborium) for public veneration.
- ❖ A liturgical act; rites are composed and regulated by the Catholic Church
- ❖ A public celebration that enables the faithful to perceive more clearly the relationship between the reserved sacrament and the celebration of Mass.
- ❖ In the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, a period of prayer, readings from the word of God, songs, and times of silent prayer
- ❖ At least two people must be present when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed.
- ❖ During lengthy periods of exposition, the Blessed Sacrament is reposed in the tabernacle when Mass is celebrated in the same space where exposition occurs.
- ❖ If interrupted because of too few worshippers, the Blessed Sacrament is reposed in the tabernacle at times announced beforehand, however this reposition may not take place more than twice per day and at pre-determined times.
- ❖ The period of exposition concludes with Benediction.

### PERPETUAL EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

- ❖ This requires the permission of the Local Ordinary (Bishop).
- ❖ The Blessed Sacrament is exposed in a monstrance (or uncovered ciborium) for public veneration twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week (but never during the Triduum).
- ❖ Follows liturgical rites composed and regulated by the Church.
- ❖ In the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, silent prayer is interspersed with periods of communal prayer, readings from the word of God, exhortations (homilies), and songs.
- ❖ At least two people must be present when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed.
- ❖ The Blessed Sacrament is exposed in a monstrance in a separate chapel, since it cannot be exposed in a monstrance in the same space where Mass is being celebrated.
- ❖ This is a public celebration that enables the faithful to perceive more clearly the relationship between the reserved sacrament and the celebration of Mass.
- ❖ If ever interrupted because of too few worshippers, the Blessed Sacrament is reposed in the tabernacle. However, this reposition may not take place more than twice per day and at pre-determined times. Permission for perpetual exposition would be re-evaluated in these cases.

# THE LITURGICAL BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS

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## FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING RESERVATION AND EXPOSITION

This information is drawn from the USCCB Resource  
“Thirty-one Questions on Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament”  
<https://store.usccb.org/products/thirty-one-questions-on-adoration-of-the-blessed-sacrament>

See also *BCDW Newsletter* Volume XLII, September 2006, pages 33-34.

### **Is the Holy Eucharist ever exposed for the purpose of private devotion?**

No. The liturgical rites for exposition of the Blessed Sacrament are found in the ritual book *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist outside Mass*. These presume the presence of a number of people during the period of exposition (see Canon 942).

### **What types of prayers should we use during a period of exposition?**

These rites require that during the period of exposition “there should be prayers, songs, and readings to direct the faithful to the worship of Christ the Lord.” The Liturgy of the Hours may also be celebrated during the period of exposition. While popular devotions should not be offered during this period of exposition, the recitation of the Rosary, based on its Christological dimensions, is permitted.

### **Can the Eucharist be exposed permanently by building tabernacles of glass or tabernacles with small windows?**

No. *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist [Mystery] outside Mass* states: “The holy eucharist is to be reserved in a solid tabernacle. It must be opaque and unbreakable” (HCWEOM 10). See also Canon 938§3.

### **Can a door or a drape be erected so that the exposed Blessed Sacrament can be temporarily closed off from public view?**

No. The use of drapes or doors to shield the monstrance, even for a short period of time, is not the required reposition of the Blessed Sacrament. If the period of exposition is ever interrupted because of too few worshippers, the Blessed Sacrament is reposed in the tabernacle at times announced beforehand. This should not take place more than twice per day, for example at noon and at night.

### **In order to enhance security, may the Blessed Sacrament be exposed behind a glass window?**

No. The Blessed Sacrament may only be exposed in a monstrance or a ciborium. It is usually placed on the altar for adoration.