

Mass for the Opening of the Synod of Bishops (2021-2023)
at the Diocesan Level

17 October 2021 (Sunday)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (*Cf. Jn 14: 26; 15: 26*)

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will teach you all truth, says the Lord.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

COLLECT

O God, to whom every heart lies open, every desire speaks plainly and from whom no secret is hidden, cleanse, we pray, the thoughts of our heart by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, that we may merit to love you perfectly and offer you worthy praise. 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.

FIRST READING (*They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak.*)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2:1-11)

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, the apostles were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language.

They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God." —The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (104(103):1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34)

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (*Cf. Ps 104:30*)

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, you are great indeed! How manifold are your works, O Lord! The earth is full of your creatures. (R)

If you take away their breath, they perish and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth. (R)

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord be glad in his works! Pleasing to him be my theme; I will be glad in the Lord. (R)

SECOND READING (*You are Christ's body and individually parts of it.*)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians (12:27-30)

Brothers and sisters:

Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

—The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

R. Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. (R)

GOSPEL (*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (4:16-22)

Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Jesus unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."



Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, “Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.” And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth.

—The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

CREED

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Celebrant: The theme of the Synod of Bishops 2023 is: ‘For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission’. The Synod has several phases. Today, 17 October 2021, marks the opening of the Diocesan Phase in local Churches. Let us pray together for the Church.

1. For God’s holy Church: That it may be a light to the nations, the universal sacrament of salvation and a companion to all peoples on their way to the Kingdom of God.
- R. Lord, hear our prayer.
2. For the Universal Church and the People of God in the Diocese of Hong Kong: That the celebration of this Synod may help us to discern God’s will and to boldly carry it out. *(R.)*
3. For all civil authorities: That they may always seek the common good, acting with justice and integrity. *(R.)*
4. For the sick, the lonely, the oppressed, and the suffering: That the Church may care for them, recognizing in them the face of Christ in a suffering world. *(R.)*
5. For ourselves, gathered here: That this Synodal Process may lead us ever more deeply into the communion of the Church, enhance our participation in it, and equip us for our Christian mission. *(R.)*

Celebrant: Let us implore the Holy Spirit.

All recite The Prayer of the Synod: Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look, we pray, O Lord, on the spiritual sacrifice placed on your altar with loving devotion and give your servants a right spirit, so that their faith may make these gifts pleasing to you and their humility commend them. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

PREFACE II OF THE HOLY SPIRIT *(The action of the Spirit in the Church)*

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For you bestow gifts suited to every season and guide the governing of your Church in wonderful ways. By the power of the Holy Spirit you come unfailingly to her aid, so that with a heart always subject to you, she may never fail to seek your help in time of trouble, nor cease to give you thanks in time of joy, through Christ our Lord. And so, in company with the choirs of Angels, we praise you, and with joy we proclaim: *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *(Jn 15: 26; 16: 14)*

The Spirit, whom I will send you from the Father, will glorify me, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, who have been pleased to nourish us with heavenly food, pour, we pray, the delights of your Spirit into the recesses of our heart, that what we have devoutly received in time we may possess as a gift for eternity. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

Released by the Hong Kong Diocesan Liturgy Commission

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