

Texts for Liturgy of Exposition [and Benediction]

Opening Prayer

(See the first of the prayers for Christian Unity on reverse of page)

Responsory *(The responsory may be used after each of the readings)*

Leader: The living Father has sent me and I have life from the Father.
He who eats me, has life from me.

Response: The Lord has fed him on the bread of life and understanding.
He who eats...

Readings

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

They remained faithful to the brotherhood and to the breaking of bread.

Psalm 147:12-15.19-20

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

Gospel: John 10:11-18

The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.

Prayer before Blessing

Lord our God,
you have given us the true bread from heaven.
In the strength of this food
may we live always by your life
and rise in glory on the last day.
We ask this through Christ the Lord.

Prayers for Christian Unity: *Roman Missal*, Masses for Various Needs and Occasions, 29, For Unity of Christians; Eucharistic Prayer for Masses for Various Needs and Occasions; **Responsory:** *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist outside Mass* (HCW) (Appendix 3. Responsories); **Readings:** Biblical Readings for HCW Acts and Psalm from *On the theme of the most Holy Eucharist* (New Testament reading 1 and Psalm 8); Gospel from *On the theme of God's Love for All* (4). **Prayer before Blessing:** *HCW*, 68 alternative. English translation of *The Roman Missal, Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass*; Eucharistic Prayer for Masses for Various Needs and Occasions © 1973, 1974, 1994 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. Editorial arrangement © 2004, Bishops Conference of England and Wales

Year of the Eucharist October 2004 – October 2005



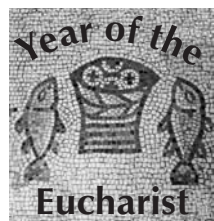
3. The Communion of the Church

Resources for Liturgy of Eucharistic Exposition

'C'hris't's Church is a communion, a community whose members share or hold in common the divine life and the mystery of salvation: 'one Lord, one faith, one baptism'. The Catholic Church claims, in all humility, to be endowed with all the gifts with which God wishes to endow his Church, all the invisible and visible elements needed by the Body of Christ for its life of discipleship and mission. This is what we mean by our firm conviction that the one Church of Christ 'subsists in the Catholic Church', that the fullness of the means of salvation, the entirety of revealed truth, the sacraments and the hierarchical ministry are found within the Catholic communion of the Church. These means of grace are there to serve our communion with each other in Christ, to keep us open and listening to one another in the Spirit of Truth, and to bring us into conformity with the Father's will. Christians are in 'full communion' with the Catholic Church when they hold in common all the gifts of grace with which Christ has endowed his Church.

Our belief that the Catholic Church is uniquely gifted in this way does not imply that Catholic people and their ordained ministers are perfect in the life of the Spirit. As Catholics we should be very conscious of our failings over the centuries. We have much of which to repent, and we know very well that we have not made and do not make full use of the many means of grace entrusted to the Church by our Lord. We can often be put to shame by the holiness, love and missionary zeal of our fellow Christians. The fullness of communion which we claim is not only a gift, but also a challenge to the Catholic Church from the Lord: to become more fully and truly in its life and work what it already is by God's free gift of grace. This claim still means, however, that the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church of Christ is to be found in its fullness, though imperfectly, in the visible Catholic Church as it is here and now.'

Paragraphs 20, 21 from *One Bread One Body*



Resources for Year of the Eucharist

- Exposition of the Holy Eucharist — Guide
- Holy Hours

for more information: www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/

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From a sermon of Saint Augustine

May all shepherds be one in the One Shepherd;
may they let the one voice of the Shepherd be heard;
may the sheep hear this voice and follow their Shepherd,
not this or that, but the only One;
in Him may they all let one voice be heard and not a babble of voices...
the voice free of all division, purified of all heresy, that the sheep may hear.

cf Ut Unum Sint, 94

Prayers for Unity of Christians

Lord,
hear the prayers of your people
and bring the hearts of believers together in your praise
and in common sorrow for their sins.
heal all divisions among Christians
that we may rejoice in the perfect unity of your Church
and move together as one
to eternal life in your kingdom

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

The Roman Missal

Renew by the light of the gospel
the Church in England and Wales.
Strengthen the bonds of unity between the faithful and their pastors,
that together with John Paul our Pope, N. our bishop,
and the whole college of bishops,
your people may stand forth
in a world torn by conflict and strife
as a sign of oneness and peace.

Eucharistic Prayer for Masses for Various Needs and Occasions

As this broken bread, once dispersed over the hills,
was brought together and became one loaf,
so may your Church be brought together
from the ends of the earth into your Kingdom.

Didache, no 9.4