

THE CALENDAR

Some comments on the Celebration of the Eucharist by Third Order Groups

A Third Order Eucharist is a celebration of the gathered community in communion with the whole church, with a Franciscan character. The way the Eucharist is celebrated needs to reflect these things.

This gives rise to some key questions for the community to think through, preferably as they plan the Eucharist together (in order that the concerns of one person do not dominate the service):

- How does the Eucharist connect with the other activities of the community (eg the rest of the local group/area meeting)? Does the Eucharist embrace the life and activities of the community, or is it tacked on?
- How does the Eucharist reflect the group's membership of the wider church (including the Franciscan family)?
- How is the space in which the Eucharist is celebrated to be ordered to enable the celebration of a community meal? (Should the celebration be in the round?)
- How is the president's role within the community to be expressed, in terms of where s/he sits, what s/he wears, etc?
- What rite is most appropriate for this Eucharist?
- What part will silence, music and movement play in the service? Have the hymns got a Franciscan feel?
- How will members of the community share in the leadership of different sections of the service (The Gathering, The Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Sacrament, The Dismissal)? Will this contribute to the group experiencing the shape and movement of the rite?
- How will the different sections reflect the Franciscan character of the group and the humility, love and joy of the Franciscan way of life? In particular, how can the community make the most of sections of the rite where the use of alternatives is encouraged to make the rite their own?

The Calendar, which follows includes a number of propers for particular days (collects, readings, proper prefaces and post communion prayers). The following represent examples of alternatives for other parts of the service. Third Order groups may like to use them, or to draw on material from other books, such as *The Daily Office SSF, Exciting Holiness*, the Common Worship series or to write their own!

WORDS OF WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:

As we celebrate this Eucharist we are united with Francis and Clare, and with Franciscans in every age. We celebrate together our unity in Christ and commit ourselves afresh to follow him and to spread the knowledge and love of Christ which we encounter here.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

That we may live joyfully a life of simplicity and humble service after the example of St Francis, let us confess our sins and rejoice in our utter dependence on God.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PEACE:

As Franciscans we are called to promote the way of love and unity with all creation. Let us be strengthened by the peace of Christ that we may be peacemakers, the children of God.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, let there be pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;
for your mercy and for your truth's sake. Amen.

BLESSING:

The Lord bless you and keep you:
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you:
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you
and give you his peace.
My brothers and sisters, the Lord bless you. Amen.

THE CALENDAR AND PROPERS

*The dates here commemorated are some of those kept by the Anglican Franciscan Family.
For others, consult the "Franciscan Supplement to Exciting Holiness" Available from The
Friary Bookshop, Hilfield Friary, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 7BE*

The First Franciscan Martyrs. 16th January

Collect God of our salvation,
we thank you for the first Franciscan martyrs
who shared in the passion of your beloved Son.
May we also persevere until death
in bearing witness to you
And share with them in the glory of eternity;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

Readings. 1 Corinthians 4; 9-14 Matthew 10;16-22

Post Communion

Eternal God,
Who gave this holy meal
in which we have celebrated the glory of the cross
And the victory of the first Franciscan martyrs;
by our communion with Christ
in his saving death and resurrection,
give us, with all your saints, the courage to conquer evil
and so to share the fruit of the tree of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

On this day we give thanks for the vision of those who established the Franciscan life in the Anglican Communion. We remember the Christa Seva Sangha and the communities that united to form the SSF, Douglas the first Minister, and Algy the first Guardian.

Collect Lord God
you kept the pioneers of the revival
of the Franciscan life in the Anglican Communion
faithful to Christ's pattern of poverty and humility.
May we, inspired by their example,
live in fidelity to our calling
and come to the perfection
you have shown us in your son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever..

Readings 1 John 4:7-12 Psalm 84 Mark 10:17-31

Post Communion Sentence

The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for many.

The Day of Penitence

(Sometimes kept of the Friday of Passion Week)

See the Friday preceding the Feast of the Stigmata and the Day of Penitence material, pages D13-16)

The Birthday of the Third Order of the SSF. 28th April

Collect O God of Love
who inspired our first brothers and sisters
to refound this our Order,
grant that we may be true to their vision
and spread the knowledge and love of Christ
promote the way of love and unity with all creation
and live joyfully a life of simplicity and humble service
through Jesus Christ our Lord

Readings Acts 2.42-47
Luke 10.29-37 or Luke 14.27-33

Post Communion

Almighty God,
you have called us into the fellowship
of the Third Order of the Society of S Francis.
Grant that like St Francis
we may ever faithfully walk with you,
who are the Way, the Truth and the Life.
and who lives and reigns now and for ever,

Clare of Assisi. 11th August.

Collect. God of peace,
gave us a clear light to shine in the darkness of this world:
give us grace to follow in her footsteps
that we may, at the last rejoice with her
who in the poverty of the blessed Clare
in your eternal glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings Hosea 2:14-15 & 19-20
John 15.4-10

Proper Preface

And now we give you thanks
as we honour Saint Clare, humble handmaid of Christ;
the little seed of Saint Francis
planted in the garden of poverty;
in joyful obedience she was faithful to her calling;
devoted in prayer and aflame with your love,
inspiring us to follow her in purity of heart. Therefore.....

Post Communion

Merciful God,
who gave such grace to your servant Clare
that she served you with singleness of heart
and loved you above all things;
help us, whose communion is with you
has been renewed in this sacrament,
to forsake all that holds us back from following Christ
and to grow into his likeness from glory to glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord

The Day of Penitence.

(The Friday preceding the feast of the Stigmata)

There are two alternative dates in the year when the Day of Penitence has traditionally been kept in the Third Order SSF. Either can be used, as is appropriate. If kept by celebrating the Eucharist, use as follows. If kept privately, or out of the context of the Eucharist, see pages D13-16.

Confession.

For the confession, use the penitential section from the Third Order Litany, on page C1.

Collect Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent.
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10

Matthew 6.16-21

Post Communion

Almighty God,
you have given your only Son to be for us
both a sacrifice for sin
and also an example of Godly life;
give us grace
that we may always most thankfully receive
these his inestimable gifts
and also daily endeavour to follow
the blessed steps of his most holy life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Stigmata of S Francis. 17th September

Collect Almighty God,
when the world was growing cold
you raised up blessed Francis
bearing in his body the marks of the Passion of your Son.
Inflame our hearts by the fire of your love
and mercifully grant to us, your people true penitence
and grace to bear the Cross for love of Him,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings Galatians 6.14-18

Luke 9.23-26

Proper Preface

And now we give you thanks because you raised up our holy father Francis to
burn as a shining light in your Church; that inflamed with love for God and all
creation and bearing in his body the marks of your Son's passion. he might
bring to glory many sons and daughters; therefore...

Post Communion

Lord God,
you made your Church rich
through the poverty of blessed Francis:
help us, like him not to trust in earthly things

but to seek your heavenly gifts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Transitus. 3rd October

(This may be said on the evening and replace the Cross Prayers in the Third Order Office)

The Officiant Francis poor and lowly enters heaven rich.

While saints and angels sing their songs of praise.

Psalm 142 I cry aloud to the Lord; *
to the Lord I make my supplication.

I pour out my complaint before him *
and tell him of my trouble.

When my spirit faints within me, you know my path; *
in the way wherein I walk have they laid a snare for me.

I look to my right hand, and find no one who knows me; *
I have no place to flee to, and no one cares for my soul.

I cry out to you, O Lord, and say: *
'You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.'

'Listen to my cry, for I am brought very low; *
save me from my persecutors,
for they are too strong for me.

'Bring my soul out of prison,
that I may give thanks to your name; *
when you have dealt bountifully with me,
then shall the righteous gather around me.'

Officiant With arms outstretched, let us pray to the Lord

SILENCE

Let us pray.
O God, who made your Church rich
through the poverty of blessed Francis,
help us, who remember his death,
not to trust in earthly things
but to seek your heavenly gifts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Then is given a solemn blessing and a bell is tolled 44 times to mark the years of his life.

To the prayers of the saints I commend you.
May the most pure Virgin, Mother of God
Patroness of all Franciscans, pray for you.
May Saint Francis our father
who bore the marks of the Lord Jesus, pray for you.
May Saint Anthony, illustrious preacher, pray for you.

May Saint Bonaventure, seraphic doctor, pray for you..
May Saint Bernadine, lover of the Holy name of Jesus.
pray for you,

May Saint Clare, first born of the second order
pray for you.

May Saint Louis, Saint Elizabeth and the illustrious saints
of the Third Order pray for you.

May all the saints of God pray for you.

May the holy angels befriend and watch around you
to protect you.

and I will pronounce upon you the blessing
which our holy father, Francis

gave to brother Leo, his companion:

The Lord bless you and keep you:

The Lord make his face shine upon you

and be gracious to you:

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you
and give you his peace.

May the Lord give you his holy benediction. Amen.

S Francis of Assisi. 4th October.

Collect O God, you ever delight to reveal yourself
to the child-like and lowly of heart:
grant that, following the example of blessed Francis,
we may count the wisdom of this world as foolishness
and know only Jesus and him crucified,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings Galatians 6.14-18

Luke 12.22-34

Proper Preface and Post Communion. As for the Stigmata.

All Franciscan Saints. 29th November.

Collect Everlasting God,
you have adorned your Church
with the splendours of the saintly followers
of our holy father, Francis:
grant that as we commemorate their holiness
we may come at last with all the pure of heart
to share the vision of your eternal glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings. Revelation 7.2-4, 9-12

Matthew 5.1-12

Post Communion

Merciful God,
who gave such grace to all Franciscan saints
that they served you with singleness of heart
and loved you above all things:
help us, whose communion with you
has been renewed in this sacrament,
to forsake all that holds us back
from walking with our holy father Francis
on the Way that leads to Christ
and to grow into his likeness from glory to glory.

Requiem for Departed Franciscans.

This material may be used, as in other Provinces of the Third Order, as a corporate remembrance. Alternatively, suitably amended, it may be used, on any date, to commemorate the life and death of particular people,

Sentence Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. 'Blessed indeed' says the Spirit 'for they shall rest from their labours'

Collect Living Lord Jesus Christ, you have conquered sin and death
We pray to you for our Franciscan brothers and sisters
who have died and gone before us
marked with the sign of faith
Grant to them,
to Francis and to Clare
and to all who sleep in you, your peace,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Psalm 103; 8-22

Readings Isaiah 25; 6-9 I Cor 15; 50-56 John 6; 37-40

Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ
You made your Church rich
through the poverty of blessed Francis.
Help us all, like him, not to trust in earthly things
but to seek your heavenly gifts
through Jesus Christ our Lord

The Day of Penitence. (Alternative Material)

The Third Order was originally described by Francis as an Order of Penitents and it has always been accepted that one of our duties is to turn to God in penitence for the sins of the world, offering prayers towards His healing work of reconciliation in the world.

*This material is particularly suitable for private use, or for non Eucharistic Corporate use.
It may be set in the Third Order Office after the Cross prayers*

Create in me a clean heart O God
And renew a right spirit within me.

Grant Lord that being knit together in fellowship and prayer
we may worship you after the example of Saint Francis.
Make us obedient, Lord.

Make us humble, Lord, so that we may acknowledge all created things as our
brothers and sisters;
Make us humble, Lord.

Make us faithful, Lord, so that in all things we will trust you, rejoice in your
faithfulness, and celebrate hospitality to all people.
Make us faithful, Lord.

Make us repentant Lord, so that we may be transformed and empowered by
the energy of your love.
Make us repentant, Lord.

We have failed to love you with all our heart
Lord have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We have failed to love others as you love us.
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy.

We have failed to be faithful members of your Church
and good stewards of your spiritual gifts
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

God is light and in Him is no darkness at all
If we walk in the light as God is the light
we have fellowship with one another
and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from sin.
Thanks be to God.

*Alternatives, Hosea;6;1-6.11b. Psalm 103;1-12. Philippians2;5-11.
2 Corinthians 5;1-15 (16-end). Luke15;11-end. Luke 18; 9-14.*

Make us channels of your peace

Let there be love in all places where there is violence, hatred, cruelty and
prejudice.
Teach us to love one another, Lord,
Make us channels of your peace.

Let there be pardon where there is injury, impatience, lack of respect, resentments.

Grant us pardon, O Lord.

Make us channels of your peace.

Let there be healing where there is discord, fear, narrowness of vision, difference of opinion.

Bring wholeness, Lord.

Make us channels of your peace

Let there be faithfulness where people doubt themselves, where there is no longer trust, honesty and goodwill.

Make us faithful, Lord.

Make us channels of your peace.

Let there be hope where poverty, oppression and crime foster despair and loss of dignity and erode the face of the earth. Lord of all hopefulness

Make us channels of your peace.

Let there be light in the dark places of the world where evil lurks, where fear and death torture minds and bodies.

Shine in our darkness Lord and give us new life.

Make us channels of your peace.

Let there be joy where there is sadness, loneliness, and pain. Let the grace of compassion renew us. Let us celebrate holy playfulness in laughter song and dance, so that true prayer may emerge.

Make us channels of your peace.

The Song of Manasseh

**Full of compassion and mercy and love
is God, the Most High, the Almighty.**

Lord almighty and God of our ancestors, *
you who made heaven and earth in all their glory:

All things tremble with awe at your presence, *
before your great and mighty power.
Immeasurable and unsearchable is your promised mercy, *
for you are God, Most High.

You are full of compassion, long-suffering and very merciful, *
and you relent at human suffering.

O God, according to your great goodness, *
you have promised forgiveness for repentance
to those who have sinned against you.

The sins I have committed against you *
are more in number than the sands of the sea.

I am not worthy to look up to the height of heaven, *
because of the multitude of my iniquities.

And now I bend the knee of my heart before you, *
imploring your kindness upon me.

I have sinned, O God, I have sinned, *
and I acknowledge my transgressions.

Unworthy as I am, you will save me, *
according to your great mercy.

For all the host of heaven sings your praise, *
and your glory is for ever and ever.

Manasseh 1a, 2, 4, 6, 7a, b, 9a, c, 11, 12, 14b, 15b

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

**Full of compassion and mercy and love
is God, the Most High, the Almighty.**

Lord our God,
give us grace to desire you with our whole heart
that so desiring we may seek and find you;
and so finding may love you;
and so loving may hate those sins
from which you have delivered us
through Jesus Christ our Lord.