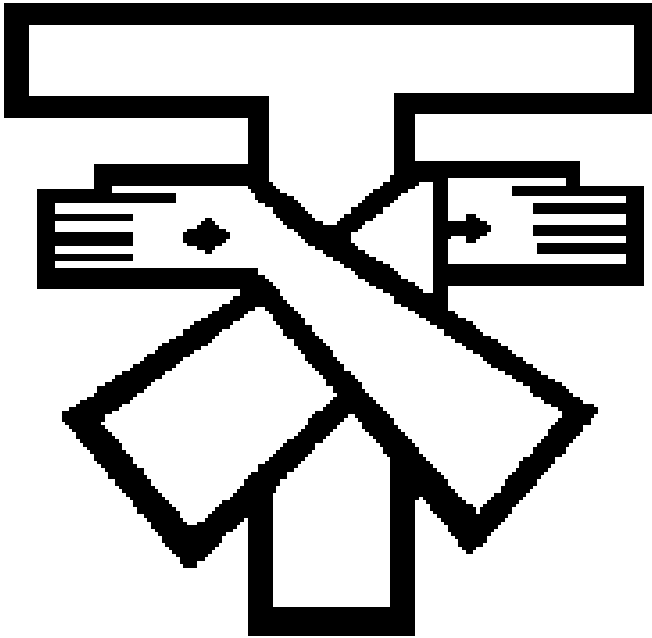


A EUCHARIST
For the Transitus of
St Francis



The Gathering

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Rejoice in the Lord always
And again I say, Rejoice!

God forbid that we should glory
Save in the cross of Christ our Lord

Hymn of Praise

A Litany of Confession

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer, this is your world
and we are your people: come among us and save us.

We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;
Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

We have seen the ill-treatment of others and have not gone to their aid;
Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

We have condoned evil and dishonesty and failed to strive for justice;
Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

We have heard the good news of Christ but have failed to share it with others;
Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

We have not loved you with all our heart, nor our neighbours as ourselves;
Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

Let us return to the Lord our God and say to Him:

Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you.

We are not worthy to be called your children.

We turn to you again.

Have mercy on us,

bring us back to yourself as those who once were dead

but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Transitus of St Francis of Assisi

Lord Jesus Christ,

Who, when the world was growing cold

raised up blessed Francis

bearing in his body the marks of your passion;

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 you,

for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

From the earliest days of the Franciscan Order, the followers of St. Francis have gathered on the anniversary of his death to celebrate his transitus, that is, St. Francis' passage from earthly life into everlasting life.

Here in this place, we, too, gather to celebrate the light which Francis was to his world. But, this celebration is not only a memorial, a remembering of one who has gone before us. It is also a celebration of the spirit of Francis in our midst today, in each of us. This is a time when we, inspired by Francis, consider how we can be light for our world.

PSALM 142

Francis, poor and lowly, enters heaven rich,
While saints and angels sing their songs of praise.

I pray, I plead, I cry for mercy, Lord;
I pour out all my troubles, the story of my distress. My spirit fails me.

You know the road I walk and the traps hidden from me.
See what they are doing! No one befriends me or cares for me.

There is no escape, so, I turn to you, Lord. I know you are my refuge, all I have in the
land of the living.
I am pleading, hear me! I have no strength. God, rescue me!

They hunt me down, and overwhelm me. Free me from this cage!
**Then I will praise your name and gather with the just to thank you for your
kindness.**

Glory be to God, our Creator, to Jesus, the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Francis, poor and lowly, enters heaven rich,
While saints and angels sing their songs of praise.

The Story of the Death of Francis

The story is read by five people each holding a lit candle to represent the Stigmata.

After each reading, the candle may be placed on a habit in such a way as to mark the five wounds Francis received. Someone other than the Narrators reads the Gospel.

Narrators:

1) At this time Francis was staying in the palace of the Bishop of Assisi, and he asked the brothers to take him as quickly as possible to the place of St. Mary of the Portiuncula. For he wished to give back his soul to God in that place where, as has been said, he first knew the way of truth perfectly.

2) Then blessed Francis, despite the overpowering burden of his sickness, praised the Lord in a great joyful outburst of body and soul, saying to his companion: 'Since I must soon die, have Brother Angelo and Brother Leo come and praise our Sister Death for me.' Both arrived and, forcing back their tears, sang the Canticle of Brother Sun and of the other creatures, which the saint had composed during his sickness for the glory of God and for the consolation of his soul and of that of the others.

3) While therefore the brothers were weeping very bitterly and grieving inconsolably, the holy father commanded that bread be brought to him. He blessed and broke it and gave a small piece of it to each one to eat. Commanding also that a book of the Gospels be brought, he asked that the Gospel according to St. John be read to him from the place that begins: 'Before the feast of the Passover.' He was recalling that most holy supper which the Lord celebrated as his last supper with his disciples. He did all of this in reverent memory of that supper, showing thereby the deep love he had for his brothers.

4)

The Gospel Reading:

John 13:1-17

(Please Stand)

4) Then Francis spent the few days that remained before his death in praise, teaching his companions whom he loved so much to praise Christ with him. He himself, in as far as he was able broke forth in this psalm, 'I cried to the Lord with my voice: with my voice I made supplication to the Lord.' He also invited all creatures to praise God. He exhorted death itself, terrible and hateful to all, to give praise, and going joyfully to meet it, he invited it to make its lodging with him

5) Then Francis said to the brothers: "When you see that I am brought to my last moments, place me naked upon the ground just as you saw me the day before yesterday; and let me lie there after I am dead for the length of time it takes one to walk a mile unhurriedly." The hour therefore came, and all the mysteries of Christ being fulfilled in him, he winged his way happily to God.

The bell is tolled 44 times - once for each year of the life of St Francis.

(THE SERMON)

The Mark of A Christian

(A version of the Creed)

What is the mark of a Christian?

That we be holy and blameless and so to eat the body of Christ and drink his blood.

What is the mark of those who eat the bread and drink the cup of Christ?

That we always remember Jesus who died for us and rose again.

What is the mark of those who remember this?

That we live not for ourselves but for Jesus who died and rose again.

What, then, is the mark of a Christian?

That we are good living in everything and full of justice according to the Lord's Gospel.

What is the mark of a Christian?

**To put the way of the Lord always before us.
Prepared to serve all people that Christ may find us holy when he returns.**

So, then, what is the mark of a Christian?

That we love one another as Christ loves us

The Prayers

That Christians of every culture, race, and nation joyfully bring the gospel to the whole world, we pray...

Merciful One, hear our prayer

That all of us as followers of Christ, show compassion to people who are poor or suffering, we pray...

Merciful One, hear our prayer

That those who serve the common good, elected officials and public servants, might serve in wisdom and love, we pray...

Merciful One, hear our prayer

That all who work, nurture, teach, sustain and guide may recognize the good they do, and be themselves nurtured and sustained, we pray...

Merciful One, hear our prayer

That all of us who are called to prayer and contemplation find refreshment, wonder and transformation in the experience, we pray...

Merciful One, hear our prayer

Loving and Merciful God, you have gifted your mystical body with the life of Francis, a light for us on our journey to you. Continue to pour out your Spirit on all creation, reconciling all in love and in the peace which you promised us. We ask this in your name.

Amen.

The Peace

As a sign of the blessing and peace we are for each other, let us extend our hand in blessing and pray...

**May God bless and protect you,
May God look on you with mercy,
May God give you peace.**

Let us offer each other a sign of that peace.

Offertory Hymn

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is Here

God's Spirit is with us

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give God thanks and praise

When you spoke we were created, Father. You brought us and all things into Your saving presence. You walked in the garden in the cool of the evening and promised us freedom from the bonds of evil. You sent Moses to free Your people and he drew courage from Your name and Your promise: 'I am the one who will be with you.'

Come Lord Jesus! Be with us now and always.

When You sent Isaiah to comfort Your people, You told him: 'I have called you by name and you are mine ... fear not for I am with You.' To Jeremiah's protest, You answered: 'Be not afraid ... for I am with you to deliver you,' and You sent him to proclaim a new covenant to be written on our hearts. Your angel proclaimed to Mary, 'Hail, favoured one, the Lord is with you,' and by the overshadowing of Your Spirit the Word of Your presence, Emmanuel, became a human being and came to live with us.

Come Lord Jesus! Be with us now and always.

We give you thanks, Father, because Your Word, Jesus, by His life and by the wonders He worked among us, spoke Your love and proclaimed Your presence in our world.

He gave sight to the blind and His word to us was, 'I am the light of the world'. He told the lame to get up and walk, and proclaimed, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life'. He opened our deaf ears, revealed You as our Father, and helped us to realize we are Your children.

He told His followers, 'I am the resurrection and the life,' and when He raised Lazarus from the dead He spoke to us of the freedom we are given to live always in Your loving presence.

Come Lord Jesus! Be with us now and always.

And finally, He called us friends and gave proof of His love by giving up His life for us. We remember that at the final meal He shared with His disciples, on the night He was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and when He had given You thanks, He broke it, and said, 'This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way after supper, He took the cup, praised Your Name, and said, 'This cup is the new covenant made in my blood, shed for you and for all. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

And so we come together, Father, to remember the life of Your Word, Jesus, among us. We celebrate His gift of life to us through His dying and rising, His return to You and His sending of the Holy Spirit among us. This is the mystery of Your great faithfulness: Your abiding, saving, and comforting presence in our lives, and for this we give you thanks.

Come Lord Jesus! Be with us now and always.

Open our hearts, Father, to receive the Spirit of Your Son. Joined to the worship Jesus offers You, may we be brought together in community. Send Your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine and let our sharing of the body and blood of Jesus keep us united always. May the life of our community be a sign to all that You are a loving God and worthy of all praise. Together we proclaim the saving Name of Jesus and make our prayer in His spirit of love.

Come Lord Jesus! Be with us now and always. AMEN!

Our Daily Bread

(A version of the Lord's Prayer)

This bread which we break is the new manna in the desert.
Though fear may stalk us like a lion or despair like a wolf,
still this bread of life will be ours to bless, break, and share.

Let us pray to the Father:

Give us this day our daily bread.

When we are in desert places and our spirits wither like grass:

Give us this day our daily bread.

When the fire of Christian love dies down in us and the ashes of self-love
threaten to choke our souls:

Give us this day our daily bread.

When we forget your promises, Lord, and hope vanishes like smoke:

Give us this day our daily bread.

When we taste the tears of sorrow and forget the bread of life:

Give us this day our daily bread.

When we are tempted to turn our faces and look away
from our brothers and sisters in need:

Give us this day our daily bread.

When we drift from this table of fellowship and starve in the desert of loneliness:

Give us this day our daily bread.

The President breaks the bread using these words.

Our Father gives us the bread from heaven and the saving cup brimming with life.
May this bread broken and cup poured out bring us together in charity and peace
so that we may become living signs of the Lord's kingdom.

Come now and receive the body and blood of Christ.

The President and people receive communion.

Conclusion

The Word was made flesh and lived among us

This is the Gospel we proclaim!

Christ has brought us out of darkness

To dwell in the light of His glory.

Most High and glorious God, enlighten the darkness of our hearts and give us a true faith, a certain hope and a perfect love. Give us a sense of the Divine and knowledge of Yourself so that we may do everything in fulfilment of your holy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

(Francis of Assisi)

**May the power of Your love,
Lord Christ,
fiery and sweet as honey,
so absorb our hearts
as to withdraw them
from all that is under heaven.**

**Grant that we may be ready
to die for love of Your love,
as You died for love of our love.**

Assisi)

(Francis of

The Blessing

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 Antony, illustrious preacher, pray for you.

May Saint Bonaventure, seraphic doctor, pray for you.

May Saint Bernardine, 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 you and watch around you to protect you

And I will pronounce upon you the blessing

which Francis gave to Brother Leo, his companion:

the LORD bless you and watch over you,

the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you,

the LORD look kindly on you and give you peace.

My brothers and sisters, the LORD bless you. **Amen.**

In the footsteps of Christ, Francis did what was his to do. Let us celebrate this gift and go forth in the footsteps of Francis, to do what is ours to do!

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the Name of Christ. Amen.

Final Hymn

(T. Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory)

My ears have heard the music of the herald of the King
As he danced the hills of Umbria God's praises glad to sing
While calling us to journey to our homes in heaven above
In poverty and love

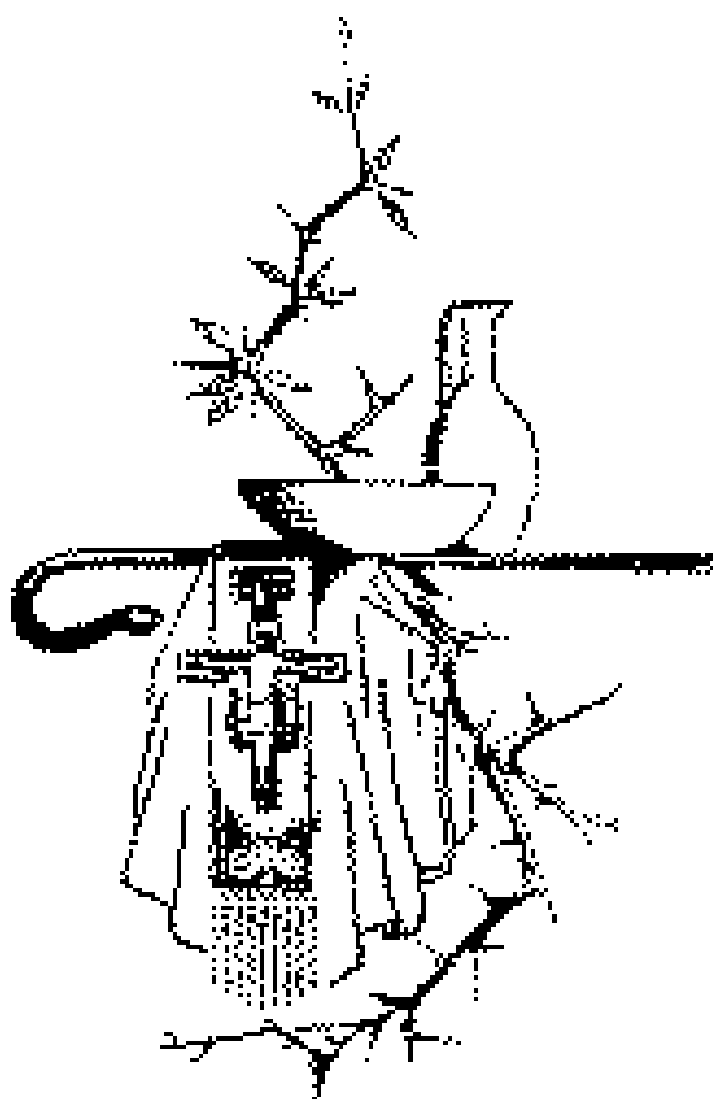
*Praise we now the King of Heaven
Sing all peoples alleluia
Christ who came to dwell among us
In the fullness of his love.*

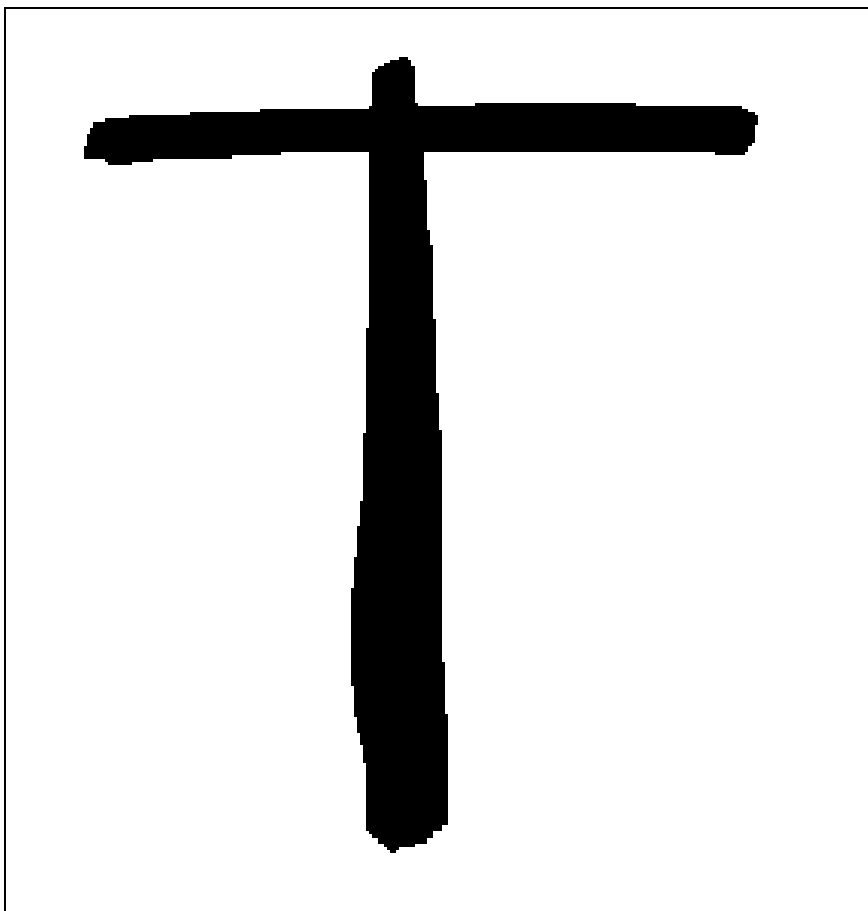
My life will speak in silence of the splendour of his grace
As I kneel in contemplation of the beauty of his face
As I now in supplication that the world may be set free
By the Son who died for me

*Praise and glory to the Saviour
Sing all peoples alleluia
Worship Jesus the Redeemer
Who died to win our love*

My eyes have seen the radiance of the everlasting hills
And my ears have heard the music which all earthly clamour stills
My heart is filled with longing for my Lord in heaven above
and the fullness of his love

*Glory be to God the Father
Sing all peoples Alleluya
Praise to son and Holy Spirit
Blest Trinity of Love*





THE THIRD ORDER, SOCIETY OF SAINT FRANCIS
European Province,

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