

**PROPER CALENDAR
OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE
MISSIONARIES OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD**

February

4	Saint Maria de Mattias, virgin Foundress of the Congregation of the Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ	memorial
---	--	----------

May

12	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy	optional memorial
24	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Help of Christians Secondary Patron of the Congregation	memorial

July

1	The Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ Titular Solemnity of the Congregation	solemnity
---	---	-----------

September

15	Our Lady of Sorrows, “Woman of the New Covenant”	memorial
----	---	----------

October

21	Saint Gaspar del Bufalo, priest Founder of the Congregation	solemnity
----	--	-----------

December

3	Saint Francis Xavier, priest Patron of the Congregation	feast
---	--	-------

**PROPER CALENDAR
OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE
SISTERS ADORERS OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST**

February

4	Saint Maria de Mattias, virgin Foundress of the Congregation	solemnity
---	---	-----------

May

24	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Help of Christians	memorial
----	---	----------

July

1	The Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ Titular Solemnity of the Congregation	solemnity
---	---	-----------

September

15	Our Lady of Sorrows, “Woman of the New Covenant” Patron of the Congregation	solemnity
----	---	-----------

October

21	Saint Gaspar del Bufalo, priest Inspirer of the Congregation Founder of the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood	feast
----	--	-------

December

3	Saint Francis Xavier, priest Secondary Patron of the Congregation	memorial
---	--	----------

February 4

**SAINT MARIA DE MATTIAS, VIRGIN
Foundress of Congregation of the Sisters
Adorers of the Blood of Christ**

**Solemnity for ASC
Memorial for CPPS**

Maria De Mattias was born on February 4, 1805, at Vallecorsa (Frosinone) in Italy. As a child, she learned from her father that Jesus, the Paschal Lamb, shed his Blood for us sinners. During the years of her adolescence, she discovered in the Crucified Christ the supreme proof of the infinite love of God for every person. She felt the need to consecrate her whole self to God through the adoration of the mystery of the Cross and through service to her brothers and sisters. Inspired by St. Gaspar del Bufalo, founder of the Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood, and guided by Venerable Giovanni Merlini, the third General Moderator of that Congregation, Maria discovered that God had a great plan for her. On March 4, 1834, at Acuto (Frosinone) she founded the Congregation of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ to collaborate in the work of the world's redemption. The spirit of the Congregation is expressed well in the words of Maria De Mattias: "Charity toward God and toward our dear neighbor". Maria De Mattias died at Rome on August 20, 1866.

Evening Prayer I

HYMN

Father, we thank you; you loved us
and redeemed us in Christ, your Son,
To Him, the Sacrificial Lamb, we raise
our hymn of eternal praise and blessing.

Through the Blood he shed for us,
he lavished upon us the great gift
of Saint Maria De Mattias,
imbued with the charism of love.

We glorify you, Holy Spirit;
with your love you sanctified her,
and fashioned her into a faithful adorer
of the most precious blood of Christ.

With Saint Maria we sing eternal praise,
to the Father, source of life,
to the Son for the gift of love,
passed on to us by the Divine Spirit. Amen

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastic authority.

Ant. 1 How lovable and infinitely good is Jesus;
in him we find everything: the fullness of grace and love.

PSALM 113 **Praise the name of the Lord**

He has thrown down the powerful from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly. (Luke 1:52).

Praise, you servants of the Lord *
praise the name of the Lord.
Blessed be the name of the Lord *
both now and forever.

From the rising of the sun to its setting *
let the name of the Lord be praised.
High above all nations is the Lord; *
above the heavens God's glory.

Who is like the Lord, our God *
enthroned on high, looking down on heaven and earth?

The Lord raises the needy from the dust, *
lifts the poor from the ash heap,
Seats them with princes, *
the princes of the people,

Gives the childless wife a home, *
the joyful mother of children.

Ant. 1 How lovable and infinitely good is Jesus;
in him we find everything: the fullness of grace and love.

Ant. 2. Let us glorify the Father;
in his Son he speaks to us and redeems us.

PSALM 147 **Jerusalem Restored**

Come, I will show you the bride, the spouse of the Lamb. (Revelation 21:9).

O, praise the Lord, Jerusalem! *
Zion, praise your God!
He has strengthened the bars of your gates, *
he has blessed the children within you,

He established peace on your borders, *
he feeds you with finest wheat.
He sends out his word to the earth; *

and swiftly runs his command.

He showers down snow white as wool, *
he scatters hoar-frost like ashes.
He hurls down hailstones like crumbs. *
The waters are frozen at his touch.

He sends forth his word and it melts them; *
at the breath of his mouth the waters flow.
He makes his work known to Jacob, *
to Israel his laws and decrees.

He has not dealt thus with other nations; *
he has not taught them his decrees.

Ant. 2 Let us glorify the Father;
in his Son he speaks to us and redeems us.

Ant. 3 Blessed be the Lord Jesus Christ,
who has scattered the darkness of my ignorance
and called me to adoring and redeeming love.

CANTICLE *cf. Ephesians 1: 3-10* **God our Savior**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, †
who has blessed us in Christ *
with every spiritual blessing in the heavens.

God chose us in him, †
before the foundation of the world, *
to be holy and without blemish before him.

In love he destined us †
for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, *
in accord with the favor of his will,
for the praise of the glory of his grace *
that he granted us in the beloved.

In Christ we have redemption by his blood, *
the forgiveness of transgressions,
in accord with the riches of his grace *
that he lavished upon us.

In all wisdom and insight †
God has made known to us the mystery of his will *
in accord with his favor that he set forth in him,
as a plan for the fullness of times, *
to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth.

Ant. 3 Blessed be the Lord Jesus Christ,
who has scattered the darkness of my ignorance
and called me to adoring and redeeming love.

READING

Romans 8:28-30

We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.

RESPONSORY

R. The Lord has chosen you * and has favored you.
-- The Lord has chosen you and has favored you.
V. He has taken you to live with him,
-- and has favored you.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
-- The Lord has chosen you and has favored you.

Magnificat Ant. Do not fear, for I have ransomed you;
I have called you by name; you belong to me.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; *
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; *
behold, from now on all ages will call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, *
and holy is his name.

His mercy is from age to age *
to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm, *
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones*
but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things; *
the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped Israel his servant, *

remembering his mercy,

according to his promise to our fathers, *
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Magnificat Ant. Do not fear, for I have ransomed you;
I have called you by name; you belong to me.

INTERCESSIONS

We joyfully thank God our Creator, who in his goodness has filled Saint Maria De Mattias with many gifts of nature and grace, making her an apostle of the blood of his Son.

Let us acclaim him:

We praise you, Father, with the entire Church redeemed by the blood of Christ.

Father most merciful, we glorify you because in Saint Maria De Mattias you showed the world your charity and your mercy,

- grant that we, too, may be imbued with these virtues and witness them with courage and fidelity.

Father most holy, may we be filled with your Spirit, poured out on your sons and daughters,

- according to your loving plan.

Father of infinite goodness, you made Saint Maria De Mattias a fearless herald of your word and a faithful witness of your love,

- awaken in your Church young people who will enthusiastically follow the footsteps of your crucified and risen Son.

Father most just, who called Saint Maria De Mattias to “labor for the glories of the divine Blood”,

- grant that we may celebrate your justice and clemency with renewed hearts.

Father, source of light, grant that all those who sang the glories of the Lamb on earth,

- may join the chorus of the blessed in heaven singing your glories forever.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Father most holy, who in your loving plan adorned Saint Maria De Mattias with exceptional gifts of grace so that in the Church she might be a witness to the blood of Christ; grant that, through her intercession, we may faithfully adore the Lamb without blemish who died and rose for us, celebrate with thanksgiving the new and eternal covenant in his blood and with zeal proclaim to all peoples the power of the love of Christ crucified. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Office of readings

INVITATORY

Ant. Come, let us adore Christ, the Son of God,
who has redeemed us with his blood.

PSALM 95 **Invitation to praise God**
Encourage yourself daily while it is still "today" (Heb 3:13).

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
and shout with joy to the Rock who saves us.
Let us approach him with praise and thanksgiving, *
and sing joyful songs to the Lord. **(Ant.)**

The Lord is God, the mighty God, *
the great king over all the gods.
He holds in his hands the depths of the earth *
and the highest mountains as well.
He made the sea; it belongs to him, *
the dry land, too, for it was formed by his hands. **(Ant.)**

Come, then, let us bow down and worship, *
bending the knee before the Lord, our maker.
For he is our God and we are his people, *
the flock he shepherds. **(Ant.)**

Today, listen to the voice of the Lord: Do not grow stubborn, *
as your fathers did in the wilderness, †
when at Meriba and Massah
they challenged me and provoked me, *
Although they had seen all of my works. **(Ant.)**

Forty years I endured that generation; †
I said: "They are a people whose hearts go astray *
and they do not know my ways."
So I swore in my anger, *
"They shall not enter into my rest." **(Ant.)**

Glory to the Father and to the Son *
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever will be. Amen **(Ant.)**

Alternative Invitatory Psalms: 100, 67, 24

HYMN

Father, mysterious creative power,
in your love, you raise up life;
we sing hymns of praise to your mercy
which has redeemed us in the Blood of Christ.

With the everlasting light that shines
from the open wounds in his Body
He drew to himself, beside his cross,
the virgin Saint Maria De Mattias.

She gave herself unhesitatingly,
and responded with intense joy
to the sublime invitation of her Spouse,
consecrating her whole life to him.

Praise to the everlasting Blessed Trinity:
to the Father who generously gives us life,
to the Son who saves us on the cross
and to the powerful breath of the Spirit. Amen.

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Ant. 1 The announcement has gone out to the entire world:
Jesus loves us; he washes us in his blood.

PSALM 19 A

Hymn to God the Creator

*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who brings glad tidings, announcing peace,
bearing good news, announcing salvation (Isaiah 52:7).*

The heavens proclaim the glory of God *
and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands.
Day unto day takes up the story *
and night unto night makes known the message.

No speech, no word, no voice is heard †
yet their span extends through all the earth, *
their words to the utmost bounds of the world.

There he has placed a tent for the sun; †
it comes forth like a bridegroom coming from his tent, *
rejoices like a champion to run its course.

At the end of the sky is the rising of the sun; †
to the furthest end of the sky is its course. *
There is nothing concealed from its burning heat.

Ant. 1 The announcement has gone out to the entire world:
Jesus loves us; he washes us in his blood.

Ant. 2 I love you and want to love you forever.
You are my love and I am all yours.

PSALM 45, 2-10 (I) The marriage of the king

At midnight there came a cry, "Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!" (Matthew 25:6).

My heart overflows with noble words. †
To the king I must speak the song I have made; *
my tongue as nimble as the pen of a scribe.

You are the fairest of the children of men †
and graciousness is poured upon your lips: *
because God has blessed you for evermore.

O mighty one, gird your sword upon your thigh; †
in splendor and state, ride on in triumph *
for the cause of truth and goodness and right.

Take aim with your bow in your dread right hand. †
Your arrows are sharp: peoples fall beneath you. *
The foes of the king fall down and lost heart.

Your throne, O God, shall endure forever.*
A scepter of justice is the scepter of your kingdom.

Your love is for justice; your hatred for evil. †
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you *
with the oil of gladness above other kings.

Your robes are fragrant with aloes and myrrh. *
From the ivory palace you are greeted with music.
The daughters of kings are among your loved ones. *
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Ant. 2 I love you and want to love you forever.
You are my love and I am all yours.

Ant. 3 God wanted me wholly for himself,
and I wanted to belong wholly to God.

PSALM 45,11-18 (II) The Queen and the Bride

I saw the new Jerusalem...prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Revelation 21:2).

Listen O daughter, give ear to my words: *
forget your own people and your father's house.

So will the king desire your beauty: *
he is your lord, pay homage to him.

And the people of Tyre shall come with gifts, *
the richest of the people shall seek your favor.

The daughter of the king is clothed with splendor, *
her robes embroidered with pearls set in gold.

She is led to the king with her maiden companions. †
They are escorted amid gladness and joy; *
they pass within the palace of the king.

Sons shall be yours in place of your fathers: *
you will make them princes over all the earth.

May this song make your name forever remembered.*
May the peoples praise you from age to age.

Ant. 3 God wanted me wholly for himself,
and I wanted to belong wholly to God.

V. The Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them
R. and lead them to springs of life-giving water.

FIRST READING

From the Book of Revelation of Saint John, the apostle **Revelation 7: 1-4, 9-17**

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb

I, John, saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth so that no wind could blow on land or sea or against any tree. Then I saw another angel come up from the East, holding the seal of the living God. He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were given power to damage the land and the sea, “Do not damage the land or the sea or the trees until we put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” I heard the number of those who had been marked with the seal, one hundred and forty-four thousand marked from every tribe of the Israelites.

After this I saw before me a huge crowd, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb.”

All the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They prostrated themselves before the throne, worshiped God, and exclaimed:

“Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”

Then one of the elders spoke up and said to me, “Who are these wearing white robes, and where did they come from?”

I said to him, “My lord, you are the one who knows.” He said to me, “These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

“For this reason they stand before God's throne and worship him day and night in his temple. The one who sits on the throne will shelter them.

They will not hunger

or thirst anymore,

nor will the sun

or any heat strike them.

For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne

will shepherd them

and lead them to springs of life-giving water,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

RESPONSORY 10

cf. Revelation 7:9-

R. The redeemed cried out in a loud voice: * Salvation comes from our God and from the Lamb.

V. To our God be blessing, glory and wisdom.

R. Salvation comes from our God and from the Lamb.

SECOND READING

From the writings of Saint Maria de Mattias, virgin

(Rules and Constitutions of 1857, Preface; Letters of Saint Maria De Mattias, nn. 91; 151; 254; 328; ed. 1944 and 1947)

We are called to work in the vineyard of Jesus Crucified

For the triumph of his mercy and to show his infinite love for us, our divine Redeemer Jesus Christ shed all his precious Blood with great suffering and humiliation, as price of salvation and of glory. He gave it all, he gave it for all, and he does not stop giving it. His Blood is a fountain, or rather, a life-giving river available to all. It springs up and flows on unendingly for all the children of Adam and remains with them, accompanying them every moment of their life on earth to make them holy and to bring them to eternal joy of life in heaven.

This lowly Congregation, which lives and labors under the glorious title of the most precious Blood of Jesus Christ, must itself take on the shape and pattern of a living image of that divine love with which it was shed, and of which it was and is symbol, expression, measure and pledge.

The spirit of this holy work is all charity. We have carved this word in our minds and on our hearts. I repeat: *Charity! Charity* toward God and our dear neighbor.

What a beautiful consolation it is to see the spouses of the divine Lamb, the Adorers of his most precious Blood, motivated by one sole will, the will of God, forming but one heart and one soul, and thus united, making the heavens resound with a hymn of thanksgiving to the infinite goodness of God, while at the same time they offer the Blood of his Son for the reconciliation of heaven with earth, and of earth with heaven.

We are called to labor in the vineyard of Jesus Crucified. Oh, what a beautiful honor it is for us to weary ourselves so that souls may be forever happy in the beautiful Jerusalem where Jesus will reunite us one day!

Be strong in the vocation you have chosen, which will one day reunite all of us in heaven with Jesus our Spouse, carrying the palm of victory in our hands and chanting the glories of the divine Blood.

RESPONSORY
19:5

cf. Rev 5:9-10,

R. You have redeemed us for God with your blood. * You have made us a kingdom for our God.

V. Praise our God, all you his servants, the small and great, who revere him.

R. You have made us a kingdom for our God.

Or

SECOND READING

From the Funeral Oration written by Venerable Fr. Giovanni Merlini, Missionary of the Most Precious Blood, spiritual director of Maria De Mattias

(Giovanni Merlini's Letters to Maria De Mattias, vol. II, n. 400, p. 106)

We celebrate a life

We are celebrating Maria De Mattias, a strong woman, a tireless worker, a mirror of Christian virtues, an ornament of the Church, the Foundress of the Congregation of the Adorers of the Most Precious Blood.

She lives, and will live for all eternity in the company of the blessed, in the kingdom of heavenly bliss, victor over the world and even over death. She lives, and will live in the memory of humankind and, as I hope, will live also in the annals of the Church.

She lives and will live forever because God wanted her to be wholly his and she wanted to belong entirely to him.

When God selects anyone and wishes to use this person for works pertaining to his glory, he usually prepares the way and dispenses those gifts of nature and grace necessary for the attainment of the end. And so he designed to establish an institute of religious women in his Church ... and having chosen Maria De Mattias, he granted her special protection and favored her in advance with special aptitudes for such a noble and difficult position. Therefore, he gave her a heart that was sensitive and open

to the impressions of grace, a ready and energetic spirit and a character of angelic purity.

The holy Virgin took it upon herself to instruct her in her inner heart, and she gave her explanations, reproving her for her vanity and showing her Jesus, her divine Son, and the desire that he had to be loved by the souls he redeemed with his most precious Blood. The most holy Virgin showed her Calvary and the cross, and invited her to ascend.

Thus, by degrees, grace began molding that soul which was destined to form numerous religious and instruct many other women whom God would send to her. Furthermore, God wanted to perfect her virtue and prepare her to carry out his will. As it is a grace to know how to suffer for God out of love, God purified her with sufferings of mind and spirit, which became all the more painful when they involved also her soul.

But what will you say when I reveal also those gifts of nature which the most gracious God was pleased to add to those of his grace, so that nothing would be lacking to make of her an excellent foundress, a woman able to govern numerous communities and many daughters dispersed here and there in various towns to promote the glory of God? You may find this hard to believe. Yet you need only recall what she said, what she did, and you will find a woman of talent and genius, of charity and sweetness, strong and kind, wise and alert, joyous, friendly and lively, compassionate, affectionate and loving; simple as a dove, prudent as a serpent, accurate in judgment; sensible, just in her principles, beautiful. In a word, you will find in her a mingling of qualities that will delight and charm you.

And oh! how many and various are the sufferings she has to endure! She suffers for her sisters who are in pain and makes all their troubles her own. For herself she reserves the bitter and gives others all the sweetness she can.

She is wholly sold to the glory of God and the neighbor's wellbeing. She no longer thinks of herself; her days are consecrated to God and she wants to live only to please him.

RESPONSORY

R. She lives and will live forever * because God wanted her totally for himself.

V. In the assembly of the just and in the kingdom of happiness, she will live forever.

R. because God wanted her totally for himself.

Hymn Te Deum

We praise you, O God; *
we acclaim you Lord and Master.
Everlasting Father, *
all the world bows down before you.

All the angels sing your praise, *
the hosts of heaven and all the angelic powers;
All the cherubim and seraphim *
call out to you in unending chorus:

Holy, holy, holy *
is the Lord God of angel hosts!
The heavens and the earth are filled, Lord, *
with your majesty and glory.

Your praises are sung *
by the renowned Apostles;
By all the prophets, *
who themselves deserve our praise;

By that mighty white-robed army *
who shed their blood for Christ.
And to the ends of the earth, *
the holy Church proclaims her faith in you:

Father, *
whose majesty is boundless;
Your only Son, *
who is true God and who is to be adored;

The Holy Spirit, *
sent to be our Advocate.
O Christ, the King of glory! *
You alone are the Father's eternal Son.

When you were to become man so as to save humankind, *
you did not shrink back from the chaste Virgin's womb.
When you triumphantly destroyed death's sting, *
you opened up to believers the kingdom of haven.

You are now enthroned at God's right hand, in the Father's glory: *
We believe that you will come for judgment.
We therefore implore you to grant your servants grace and aid, *
for you shed your precious blood for their redemption.

Admit them all to the ranks of your saints *
in everlasting glory.
Be their Shepherd, Lord, *
uphold and exalt them forever and ever.

Day by day we praise you, *
daily we acclaim you.
We will confess and glorify your hold name, *
now and for all eternity.

In your great mercy, Lord, throughout this day *
keep us free from sin by your protection.
Have mercy on us, we humbly pray; *
Lord, have mercy on us.

May your mercy, Lord, your loving-kindness, always remain with us; *
for we have placed our confidence in you.
In you alone, Lord, I have hoped; *
may I not be disappointed.

PRAYER

Father most holy, who in your loving plan adorned Saint Maria De Mattias with exceptional gifts of grace so that in the Church she might be a witness to the blood of Christ; grant that, through her intercession, we may faithfully adore the Lamb without blemish who died and rose for us, celebrate with thanksgiving the new and eternal covenant in his blood and with zeal proclaim to all peoples the power of the love of Christ crucified. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Morning prayer

HYMN

O Father, you surround us with unspeakable love
and bathe us in new light,
while, at daybreak, a shining joy
brightens our hearts.

You crowned Saint Maria De Mattias
with honor and glory;
and now, unceasingly, the eternal light
of your dwelling envelops her.

In heaven she experiences and enjoys
the treasure that she earned by loving on earth.
Faithful Adorer of the Lamb,
she suffered, lived and died for him.

Glory to the Father, king of the universe,
to the Son, suffering redeemer,
sacrificed on the cross for love,
and to the Holy Spirit, who groans within us. Amen.

Or:

Clap your hands, all you peoples, *
Sing unto God with a voice of jubilation.

For the Lord high and mighty *
has shown to us his mercy,

For he has not spared his own Son *

but has delivered him up in our behalf,

That we might be redeemed by his blood *
and freed from our sins;

That justified in his blood *
we might be saved from his wrath;

That we who were separated from him *
might be reconciled through the blood of his Son.

O Lord, my God, what can I render unto you *
for all the good you have bestowed upon me?

I will take the chalice of salvation *
and I will call upon the power of this blood.

Sing to Jesus, all you saints, *
and make known the memory of his holiness.

For he has loved us and has washed us in his blood *
and he has become our helper and our redeemer.

Blessed forever be the blood of Christ *
which has wrought such wonders in us.

Blessed be Jesus for all eternity, *
and may the heavens and the earth be filled with the glory of his blood.

Come, let us adore Christ, the Son of God, *
who has redeemed us with his blood. Amen

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Ant.1 I sought him whom my heart loves;
I found him and I will not leave him.

PSALM 63: 2-9 **A soul thirsting for God**

The Church thirsts for her Savior, yearning to drink at the fount of living water that springs up for eternal life. (Cf Cassiodorus).

O God, you are my God, for you I long; *
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you *
like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary *
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life, *
my lips will speak your praise.

So 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, *
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you. *
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help; *
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.

Ant. 1 I sought him whom my heart loves;
I found him and I will not leave him

Ant. 2. May every creature praise God
in the Blood of Jesus.

CANTICLE Daniel 3: 57-88, 56 Let all creatures praise the Lord
Praise our God, all you his servants. (Rv 19:5)

Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise and exalt him above all forever.
Angels of the Lord, bless the Lord, *
you heavens, bless the Lord,

All you waters above the heavens, *
all you hosts of the Lord, bless the Lord;
sun and moon, bless the Lord; *
stars of heaven, bless the Lord;

every shower and dew, bless the Lord; *
all you winds, bless the Lord;
fire and heat, bless the Lord; *
cold and chill, bless the Lord;

dew and rain, bless the Lord; *
frost and chill, bless the Lord;
ice and snow, bless the Lord; *
nights and days, bless the Lord;

light and darkness, bless the Lord; *
lightning and clouds, bless the Lord;
let the earth bless the Lord, *
praise and exalt him above all forever.

Mountains and hills, bless the Lord; *
everything growing from the earth, bless the Lord;
you springs, bless the Lord; *
seas and rivers, bless the Lord;

you dolphins and all water creatures, bless the Lord; *
all you birds of the air, bless the Lord;
all you beasts, wild and tame, bless the Lord; *
you sons of men, bless the Lord;

O Israel, bless the Lord; *
praise and exalt him above all forever.
Priests of the Lord, bless the Lord; *
servants of the Lord, bless the Lord;
spirits and souls of the just, bless the Lord; *
holy men of humble heart, bless the Lord;
Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael, bless the Lord; *
praise and exalt him above all forever.

Let us bless the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *
Let us praise and exalt him above all forever.
Blessed are you in the firmament of heaven, *
praiseworthy and glorious forever.

At the end of the canticle the Glory be to the Father is not said.

Ant. 2. May every creature praise God
in the Blood of Jesus.

Ant. 3 Standing before the throne of God,

PSALM 149 The joy of God's holy people

Let the sons of the Church, the children of the new people, rejoice in Christ, their King (Hesychius).

Sing a new song to the Lord, *
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its maker, *
let Zion's sons exult in their king.

Let them praise his name with dancing *
and make music with timbrel and harp.
For the Lord takes delight in his people. *
He crowns the poor with salvation.

Let the faithful rejoice in their glory, *
shout for joy and take their rest.
Let the praise of God be on their lips *
and a two-edged sword in their hand,

to deal out vengeance to the nations *
and punishment on all the peoples;
to bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles in fetters of iron;

to carry out the sentence pre-ordained; *
this honor is for all his faithful.

let us sing a new song to the Lamb.

Ant. 3 Standing before the throne of God,
let us sing a new song to the Lamb.

READING

1 Corinthians 1:26-30

Consider your own calling, brothers and sisters. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God. It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

RESPONSORY

R. God sustains her * with the light of his face.
-- God sustains her with the light of his face.
V. She cannot waver: God is with her
-- with the light of his face.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
-- God sustains her with the light of his face.

Benedictus Ant. Let us bless the Lord;
in Jesus Christ he has visited and redeemed us.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old †
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

to give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

to shine on those who dwell in darkness and 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 ever shall be *
world without end. Amen

Benedictus Ant. Let us bless the Lord;
in Jesus Christ he has visited and redeemed us.

INTERCESSIONS

With confidence, we address our prayer to Christ, spouse and crown of virgins:
Lord, may your kingdom come.

Lord Jesus, in baptism you made us a royal priesthood:

- make our whole life a sacrifice pleasing to you.

Lord Jesus, by the blood you shed on the cross you reconciled the entire world:

- overcome human injustice and be our peace.

Lord Jesus, in the Eucharistic sacrifice you render the sacrifice of the cross present:

- make our hearts attentive to the cry of suffering humanity.

Lord Jesus, you associated your Virgin Mother to your work of salvation:

- grant us the grace to collaborate in this mystery of saving love through our life.

Lord Jesus, in Saint Maria De Mattias you offer us an example of a strong, wise woman:

- grant us evangelical wisdom and strength in our times of trial.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Father most holy, who in your loving plan adorned Saint Maria De Mattias with exceptional gifts of grace so that in the Church she might be a witness to the blood of Christ; grant that, through her intercession, we may faithfully adore the Lamb without blemish who died and rose for us, celebrate with thanksgiving the new and eternal covenant in his blood and with zeal proclaim to all peoples the power of the love of Christ crucified. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Daytime prayer

Complementary psalmody. However, if the solemnity is celebrated on Sunday, the psalms are taken from Sunday, Week I.

Mid-morning

Ant. The blood of Jesus is all our hope
and all our good.

READING

1 Peter 4: 13-14

Rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

V. Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example,
R. so that you will follow in his footsteps.

Midday

Ant. Let us offer the most precious blood of Jesus Christ
for the reconciliation of heaven with earth and of earth with heaven.

READING

Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.

V. Let us draw near to the throne of God,
R. to receive mercy and find grace.

Mid-afternoon

Ant. Blessed be the Lord Jesus Christ
who for love of us willed to die amid terrible suffering
and to pour out his blood until the last drop.

READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-

2

When I came to you, brothers, proclaiming the mystery of God, I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

V. We speak of a divine wisdom,
R. that is mysterious and remains hidden.

PRAYER

Father most holy, who in your loving plan adorned Saint Maria De Mattias with exceptional gifts of grace so that in the Church she might be a witness to the blood of Christ; grant that, through her intercession, we may faithfully adore the Lamb without blemish who died and rose for us, celebrate with thanksgiving the new and eternal covenant in his blood and with zeal proclaim to all peoples the power of the love of Christ crucified. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Evening prayer II

HYMN

Father, we thank you; you loved us
and redeemed us in Christ, your Son,
To Him, the Sacrificial Lamb, we raise
our hymn of eternal praise and blessing.

Through the Blood he shed for us,
he lavished upon us the great gift
of Saint Maria De Mattias,
imbued with the charism of love.

We glorify you, Holy Spirit;
with your love you sanctified her,
and fashioned her into a faithful adorer
of the most precious blood of Christ.

With Saint Maria we sing eternal praise,
to the Father, source of life,

to the Son for the gift of love,
passed on to us by the Divine Spirit. Amen

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastic authority.

Ant. 1 You gather us on the mountain of your delight
and give us your word of peace and salvation.

PSALM 122 **Greeting to the holy city Jerusalem**

You have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22).

I rejoiced when I heard them say: *
“Let us go to God’s house.”
And now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city *
strongly compact.

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. †
For Israel’s law it is, *
there to praise the Lord’s name.

There were set the thrones of judgment *
of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: *
“Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls, *
in your palaces, peace!”

For love of my brethren and friends, *
I say: “Peace upon you!”
For love of the house of the Lord, *
I will ask for your good.

Ant. 1 You gather us on the mountain of your delight
and give us your word of peace and salvation.

Ant. 2 Founded on the love of Christ the Lord,
we remain firm in our vocation.

PSALM 127 **Apart from God our labor is worthless**

Therefore, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth. You are God’s field, God’s building. (1 Corinthians 3:7, 9).

If the Lord does not build the house, *
in vain do its builders labor;

if the Lord does not watch over the city, *
in vain does the watchman keep vigil.

In vain is your earlier rising, †
your going later to rest,
you who toil for the bread you eat: *
when he pours gifts on his beloved while they slumber.

Truly sons are a gift from the Lord, *
a blessing, the fruit of the womb.
Indeed the sons of youth *
are like arrows in the hand of a warrior.

O the happiness of the man *
who has filled his quiver with these arrows!
he will have no cause for shame *
when he disputes with his foes in the gateways.

Ant. 2 Founded on the love of Christ the Lord,
we remain firm in our vocation.

Ant. 3 With Saint Maria De Mattias,
we sing to the Father of his mystery of love,
revealed to us in his son, Jesus Christ.

CANTICLE **Ephesians 1:3-10** **God our Savior**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, †
who has blessed us in Christ *
with every spiritual blessing in the heavens.

God chose us in him, †
before the foundation of the world, *
to be holy and without blemish before him.

In love he destined us †
for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, *
in accord with the favor of his will,
for the praise of the glory of his grace *
that he granted us in the beloved.

In Christ we have redemption by his blood, *
the forgiveness of transgressions,
in accord with the riches of his grace *
that he lavished upon us.

In all wisdom and insight †

God has made known to us the mystery of his will *
in accord with his favor that he set forth in him,
as a plan for the fullness of times, *
to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth.

Ant. 3 With Saint Maria De Mattias,
we sing to the Father of his mystery of love,
revealed to us in his son, Jesus Christ.

READING

1 John 4: 7-11

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another.

RESPONSORY

R. The Lord has chosen you * and favored you.
-- The Lord has chosen you and favored you.
V. In his tent he invited you to live *
-- and favored you.
Glory to the Father...
-- The Lord has chosen you and favored you.

Magnificat Ant. Those who are washed in the blood of the Lamb follow him and will be sharers in his endless glory.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; *
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; *
behold, from now on all ages will call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, *
and holy is his name.

His mercy is from age to age *
to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm, *
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones*
but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things; *
the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped Israel his servant, *
remembering his mercy,

according to his promise to our fathers, *
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Magnificat Ant. Those who are washed in the blood of the Lamb
follow him and will be sharers in his endless glory.

INTERCESSIONS

As evening approaches, with Saint Maria De Mattias we join our voice with that of
the whole Church who in this hour recalls Christ's evening sacrifice on the Cross:
You have redeemed us, O Lord, with your Blood.

Lord Jesus, you were raised up on the cross to draw all peoples to you,
- direct and lead all peoples back to you.

Lord Jesus, you walked beside the disciples of Emmaus to encourage and teach them,
- infuse new vigor in all those whom you call to lead your pilgrim Church in
the world.

Lord Jesus, your death is our life,
- grant that leaders of institutions be able to create justice and peace and
combat all forms of exploitation.

Lord Jesus, you moved among us providing peace, comfort and dignity,
- make us instruments of your consolation for those crucified by illness,
desperation and poverty.

Lord Jesus, in your great goodness open your Kingdom to our deceased brothers and
sisters,
- let them participate at the banquet of eternal joy with Maria De Mattias and
all the saints.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Father most holy, who in your loving plan adorned Saint Maria De Mattias with
exceptional gifts of grace so that in the Church she might be a witness to the blood of
Christ; grant that, through her intercession, we may faithfully adore the Lamb without
blemish who died and rose for us, celebrate with thanksgiving the new and eternal
covenant in his blood and with zeal proclaim to all peoples the power of the love of

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

May 12

**THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,
QUEEN AND MOTHER OF MERCY**

Optional Memorial for CPPS

This memorial observes an extraordinary event that occurred in Rimini, Italy, in 1850, in the church of St. Clare, staffed by the Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood. In a painting of the Virgin Mary, under the title of Mother of Mercy, the eyes of the image were seen moving by countless citizens and visitors. “The pupils of the sacred image were raised up toward heaven and then lowered toward the faithful. At times the eyes were shining like stars, other times as if shedding tears. The face would appear sometime rose-colored and then pale”. The miracle was immediately submitted to the Bishop for the proper investigation; he declared the authenticity of the motion of the eyes that had taken place for several months, from May 12 to December, 1850.

From the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, except as follows:

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From the sermons of Saint Bernard, abbot

(Sermon of the Twelve Stars, 2)

Give thanks to Him who in his mercy gave us a Mediatrix so benign.

Why should a frail human being be afraid of approaching Mary? There is nothing harsh and fear-provoking in her: she is gentleness personified who offers everyone milk and wool. Consider carefully all the accounts of the Gospel: should you discover in Mary a trace of anger, of harshness, or even a slightest sign of disinterest, then, yes, you might well have your doubts and be afraid to approach her. But if you discover her to be, as she is, full of holiness and grace, of meekness and mercy, then be grateful toward the One who, with the most loving condescension, has granted us such a Mediatrix worthy of the greatest trust. After all, since she became all things to all people, she made herself debtor of boundless charity to the wise as well as to the ignorant. She opened to all her merciful heart, so that all could receive comfort: freedom for the slave, healing for the sick, relief for the down-trodden, forgiveness for the sinners, grace for the righteous, joy for the angels.

Mary does not inquire about our past merits, but she is considerate and loving toward all; in her great love she responds to the needs of all.

She is that woman, promised ages ago by God, who by her virtue would have crushed the head of the old serpent: this one with deceit had tried to allure her, to no avail. Mary, alone, has routed out all perverse heresies. The heretics were exposed and silenced; and all generations call her blessed.

Let us cast ourselves at Mary's feet; let us prostrate ourselves with immense devotion before her. Let us keep hold of her and not let go of her until she has blessed us; she is very powerful. Like the fleece of Gideon which is between the dew and the chaff, as the woman in the Book of Revelation who is between the sun and the moon, so Mary stands between Christ and the Church.

RESPONSORY

V. Blessed are you among women for you have changed the curse of Eve into a blessing.

***** Through you, the Father's blessing has shone upon all people.

V. Through you, your ancestors have found salvation.

R. Through you, the Father's blessing has shone upon all people.

Prayer

O God, whose mercy is without measure, through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of mercy, grant that we may know your loving kindness on earth and come at last to the glory of heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

May 24

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS

Memorial for CPPS and ASC

The liturgical celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Help of Christians, was instituted in 1814 by Pope Pius VII during a difficult time of the Church and for the end of his exile. St. Gaspar del Bufalo, who also returned to Rome at the same time after four years in exile, wished to have the Blessed Virgin Mary, Help of Christians as patron of his Congregation. He consecrated all his ministries to her and directed that her image be exposed for veneration during the missions, and that her feast be celebrated annually in the churches of the Congregation. St. Maria De Mattias also loved this devotion very much, as we read in the Rule of 1838 and in many of the letters addressed to her daughters.

From the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, except as follows.

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church of the Second Vatican Council

(Lumen gentium, nn. 61-62)

Mary's motherhood in the order of grace

The predestination of the Blessed Virgin as Mother of God was associated with the incarnation of the divine word: in the designs of divine Providence she was the gracious mother of the divine Redeemer here on earth, and above all others and in a singular way the generous associate and humble handmaid of the Lord. She conceived, brought forth, and nourished Christ; she presented him to the Father in the temple and shared her Son's sufferings as he died on the cross. Thus, in a wholly singular way she cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope and burning charity in the work of the Savior in restoring supernatural life to souls. For this reason she is a mother to us in the order of grace.

This motherhood of Mary in the order of grace continues uninterruptedly from the consent which she loyally gave at the Annunciation and which she sustained without wavering beneath the cross, until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect. Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation. By her maternal charity, she cares for the brethren of her Son, who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and difficulties, until they are led into their blessed home. Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix. This, however, is so understood that it neither takes away anything from nor adds anything to the dignity and efficacy of Christ the one Mediator.

No creature could ever be counted along with the Incarnate Word and Redeemer; but just as the priesthood of Christ is shared in various ways both by his ministers and the faithful, and as the one goodness of God is radiated in different ways among his creatures, so also the unique mediation of the Redeemer does not exclude but rather gives rise to a manifold cooperation which is but a sharing in this one source.

The Church does not hesitate to profess this subordinate role of Mary, which it constantly experiences and recommends to the heartfelt attention of the faithful, so that encouraged by this maternal help they may the more closely adhere to the Mediator and Redeemer.

RESPONSORY

- R. Blessed are you, holy Virgin Mary, worthy of all praise:
* from you is born the sun of justice, Christ our Savior. (Alleluia).
V. We celebrate your feast with joy, O Virgin Mary:
-- from you is born the sun of justice, Christ our Savior (Alleluia).

Prayer

Lord our God, who chose the mother of your beloved Son to be the mother and help of Christians; grant that we may live under her protection and that your Church may enjoy unbroken peace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Morning prayer

Benedictus Ant. Rejoice, Virgin Mother;
through you the Lord rescues us from our enemies. (Alleluia).

Prayer

Lord our God, who chose the mother of your beloved Son to be the mother and help of Christians; grant that we may live under her protection and that your Church may enjoy unbroken peace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Evening prayer

Magnificat Ant. We call on you in time of trial, Holy Mother of God;
through you we receive help from the Lord. (Alleluia).

July 1

**THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
Titular Solemnity of the Congregations**

Solemnity for CPPS and ASC

Evening prayer I

The feast of the Blood of Christ has its roots in an annual celebration linked to a relic in the Roman church of St. Nicolas in Prison. According to tradition, the relic is a piece of the hem of centurion's cloak that was stained by the "blood and water" (Jn 19:34) pouring forth from Jesus' side when the centurion pierced the crucified body with a lance to verify that Jesus was dead.

In 1708 the Roman Savelli princes, who were considered descendents of the centurion, gave the precious relic to the church of St. Nicolas in Prison because their family line was facing extinction. The relic was placed under the crucifix that had spoken to the mystic, St. Bridget. A great devotion developed around this precious relic. Each year the feast of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ was celebrated in that church on the first Sunday in June.

In 1808 on the 100th anniversary of the donation of the relic, Father Francesco Alberini, canon at that church, founded a Pious Association in honor of the Most Precious Blood. Father Gaspar del Bufalo, Albertini's friend and spiritual son, was asked by Albertini to speak at the inauguration of this Pious Association. The association was raised to an Archconfraternity in 1815 by Pope Pius VII.

Through his preaching Gaspar del Bufalo was the greatest promoter of the Association. Inspired by this Association, Gaspar founded the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood in St. Felix of Giano in 1815.

The young Maria De Mattias was deeply struck by Gaspar's preaching during a Mission he gave in Vallecorsa in 1822, and she began thinking about starting a Congregation of sisters. Her idea matured and she founded a Congregation in Acuto in 1834 under the title of the Adorers of the Most Precious Blood.

In 1849 Father John Merlini, a Missionary of the Most Precious Blood, visited Pope Pius IX who had been exiled in Gaeta. During that visit he told the Pope that his exile would be ended if the feast of the Most Precious Blood were to be extended to the entire Church. The Pope responded to this prediction, "*I'm not making a vow, but I promise to do it.*" And that is what happened. Soon afterward, Pius XI returned to Rome. Remembering his "promise" with the decree *Redempti sumus* on August 10, 1849, Pius XI extended the feast of the Most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ to the entire Church. The feast continued to be celebrated on the first Sunday of June.

It was Pope Pius X who set July 1 as the date of the liturgical celebration of the feast in 1914. Pope Pius XI, in memory of the Jubilee of the Redemption, raised the celebration to a Solemnity on April 15, 1934. In the liturgical calendar reform, Pope Paul VI united this feast with that of *Corpus Domini* and since then the entire Church has celebrated the “Solemnity of Christ’s Most Holy Body and Blood.”

The Congregations inspired by the spirituality of the blood of Christ, however, also celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ on July 1.

HYMN

Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb,
our garments cleansed in him,
saved and made new by Love,
we sing praise to you, Lord Christ.

With you we are raised on the Cross,
with you, baptized into your death,
in you, O Christ, we are now risen,
and restored to life in the heart of the Father.

O Christ, your life is an immense font
of joy, springing up eternally;
unending splendor, in you is immersed
the human smallness of the redeemed.

Our day passes, declining;
Lord, remain with us this evening,
and may the certainty of our faith
light up the advancing night.

Grant that our death be absorbed
by the glorious light of the Resurrection
and, having died your own death,
may we live in you, who are our life.

O Father of kindness, we ask you this
through your Son who is risen,
and through the eternal Love who leads us
toward the sweet light of your face.
Amen.

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Ant. 1 You have been bought at a great price.
Glorify God, therefore, in your body.

PSALM 115 **Praise to the true God**

You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God (1Titus 1:9).

Not to us, Lord, not to us, †
but to your name give glory, *
because of your faithfulness and love.

Why should the nations say, *
“Where is their God?”
Our God is in heaven; *
whatever God wills is done.

Their idols are silver and gold, *
the work of human hands.
They have mouths but do not speak, *
eyes but do not see.

They have ears but do not hear, *
noses but do not smell.

They have hands but do not feel, †
feet but do not walk, *
and no sound rises from their throats.

Their makers shall be like them, *
all who trust in them.

The house of Israel trusts in the Lord, *
who is their help and shield.
The house of Aaron trusts in the Lord, *
who is their help and shield.

Those who fear the Lord trust in the Lord, *
who is their help and shield.

The Lord remembers us and will bless us, †
will bless the house of Israel, *
will bless the house of Aaron,

Will bless those who fear the Lord, *
small and great alike.

May the Lord increase your number, *
you and your descendants.

May you be blessed by the Lord, *
who made heaven and earth.
The heavens belong to the Lord, *

but the earth is given to us.

The dead do not praise the Lord, *
all those gone down into silence.
It is we who bless the Lord, *
both now and forever.

Ant. 1 You have been bought at a great price.
Glorify God, therefore, in your body.

Ant. 2 May all creation with one voice
sing the power of the blood of Christ.

PSALM 148 **Glorification of God, Lord and Creator**

*To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor, glory and
might, forever and ever (Revelation 5:13).*

Praise the Lord from the heavens; *
give praise in the heights.
Praise him, all you angels; *
give praise, all you hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon; *
give praise, all shining stars.
Praise him, highest heavens, *
you waters above the heavens.

Let them all praise the Lord's name; *
for the Lord commanded and they were created,
assigned them duties forever, *
gave them tasks that will never change.

Praise the Lord from the earth, *
you sea monsters and all deep waters;
you lightning and hail, snow and clouds, *
storm winds that fulfill his command;

You mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;
you animals wild and tame, *
you creatures that crawl and fly;

you kings of the earth and all peoples, *
princes and all who govern on earth;
young men and girls *
women too, old and young alike.

Let them all praise the Lord's name, †
for his name alone is exalted, *
majestic above earth and heaven.

The Lord has lifted high the horn of his people. †
A hymn of praise to the glory of all the faithful, *
of Israel, the people near to their God.

Ant. 2 May all creation with one voice
sing the power of the blood of Christ.

Ant. 3 With the blood of his cross,
Christ has reconciled earthly beings and those of heaven.

CANTICLE Revelation 4:11, 5: 9, 10, 12

Hymn of the Redeemed

Worthy are you, Lord our God,
to receive glory *
and honor and power,

for you created all things; †
because of your will they came to be *
and were created.

Worthy are you O Lord,
to receive the scroll *
and to break open its seals,

for you were slain †
and with your blood you purchased for God *
those from every tribe and tongue, people and nation.

You made them for our God
a kingdom of priests, *
and they will reign on earth.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain †
to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, *
honor and glory and blessing.

Ant. 3 With the blood of his cross,
Christ has reconciled earthly beings and those of heaven.

READING
9:11-12

Hebrews

When Christ came as high priest of the good things that have come to be, passing through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by hands, that is, not

belonging to this creation, he entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

RESPONSORY

- R** We announce Jesus, Love crucified: * his blood reconciles earth with heaven.
-- We announce Jesus, Love crucified: his blood reconciles earth with heaven.
V. He gives peace and redemption to all;
-- his blood reconciles earth with heaven.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
-- We announce Jesus, Love crucified: his blood reconciles earth with heaven.

Magnificat Ant. With the Virgin Mother, origin of the blood of Christ, let us rejoice in God, our salvation.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; *
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; *
behold, from now on all ages will call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, *
and holy is his name.

His mercy is from age to age *
to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm, *
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones*
but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things; *
the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped Israel his servant, *
remembering his mercy,

according to his promise to our fathers, *
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Magnificat Ant. With the Virgin Mother, origin of the blood of Christ, let us rejoice in God, our salvation

INTERCESSIONS

With faith and gratitude, let us beseech Christ who has reconciled humanity with God in his blood:

By your blood poured out for us, hear us, Lord Jesus!

Lord Jesus, you gave your life in a sacrifice of expiation at the close of day;

- we pray for the Church: make her an effective instrument of unity, communion and peace for the whole human race.

Lord Jesus, your blood poured out for us is an expression of your immense love;

- we pray for all peoples: guide and hear their desires for freedom, justice and truth.

Lord Jesus, with your precious blood you justified us before the Father;

- we pray for the poor, the suffering, and the marginalized: in their need, let them experience solidarity, help and support from all of us.

Lord Jesus, by the power of your blood you free us from the Evil One;

- we pray for all those who proclaim the Gospel: give them honesty in communication, integrity of life, and joy in sharing your victory over the powers of evil.

Lord Jesus, with your blood you purify and nourish your Church;

- we pray for this community: may the Eucharist, summit and source of life, be its daily food for mission.

Lord Jesus, crucified and risen for us, you granted pardon to the repentant thief;

- we pray for our dear deceased relatives and friends: grant them a share in the eternal nuptial banquet in the glory of the blessed.

Our Father.

Prayer

Father, who through the blood of Jesus your Son, the Lamb sacrificed on the cross, redeemed us, sanctified us, and made us your people; grant that all may accept this gift of your love, celebrate it joyfully in the Spirit, and drink of it in the Eucharistic chalice, the sign of your covenant and blessing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever

Office of readings

Invitatory

Ant. Come, let us adore Christ Jesus, redeemer of the world:
he shed his blood for our salvation.

PSALM 95

Invitation to praise God

Encourage yourself daily while it is still "today" (Heb 3:13).

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
and shout with joy to the Rock who saves us.
Let us approach him with praise and thanksgiving, *
and sing joyful songs to the Lord. (Ant.)

The Lord is God, the mighty God, *
the great king over all the gods.
He holds in his hands the depths of the earth *
and the highest mountains as well.
He made the sea; it belongs to him, *
the dry land, too, for it was formed by his hands. (Ant.)

Come, then, let us bow down and worship, *
bending the knee before the Lord, our maker.
For he is our God and we are his people, *
the flock he shepherds. (Ant.)

Today, listen to the voice of the Lord: Do not grow stubborn, *
as your fathers did in the wilderness, †
when at Meriba and Massah
they challenged me and provoked me, *
Although they had seen all of my works. (Ant.)

Forty years I endured that generation; †
I said: "They are a people whose hearts go astray *
and they do not know my ways."
So I swore in my anger, *
"They shall not enter into my rest." (Ant.)

Glory to the Father and to the Son *
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever will be. Amen (Ant.)

Alternative Invitatory Psalms: 100, 67, 24

Hymn

Created for the glory of your name,
redeemed by your blood on the cross,
signed by the seal of your Spirit,
we beseech you: save us, O Lord!

You break the bonds of guilt,
protect the meek and free the oppressed.
You lead the people who believe in your love

to the restful meadows in heaven.

Praise and honor to you, good shepherd,
radiant beam of the eternal light,
who live with the Father and the Holy Spirit
in glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Ant. 1 Here I am;
your commands for me are written in the scroll.
To do your will is my delight.

PSALM 2 The Messiah, victorious King

Why do the nations protest *
and the peoples grumble in vain?

Kings on earth rise up †
and princes plot together *
against the Lord and his anointed:

“Let us break their shackles *
and cast off their chains!”

The one enthroned in heaven laughs;*
the Lord derides them,

Then speaks to them in anger, *
terrifies them in wrath:
“I myself have installed my king *
on Zion, my holy mountain.”

I will proclaim the decree of the Lord, †
who said to me, “You are my son; *
today I have begotten you.

Ant. 1 Here I am;
your commands for me are written in the scroll.
To do your will is my delight.

Ant. 2 He was pierced for our sins.
By his wounds we were healed.

PSALM 3 The Lord sustains me

How many are my foes, Lord! *
How many rise against me!
How many say of me,*

“God will not save that one.”

But you, Lord, are a shield around me; *
my glory, you keep my head high.
Whenever I cried out to the Lord, *
I was answered from the holy mountain.

Whenever I lay down and slept, *
the Lord preserved me to rise again.

I do not fear, then, thousands of people †
arrayed against me on every side. *
Arise, Lord! Save me, my God!

You will shatter the jaws of all my foes; *
you will break the teeth of the wicked.
Safety comes from the Lord! *
Your blessing for your people!

Ant. 2 He was pierced for our sins.
By his wounds we were healed.

Ant. 3 I will pour out upon the house of David
a spirit of grace and of consolation;
they will look upon him whom they have pierced.

PSALM 16 The Lord is my inheritance

Keep me safe, O God; *
in you I take refuge
I say to the Lord, you are my Lord, *
you are my only good.

Worthless are all the false gods of the land. *
Accursed are all who delight in them.

They multiply their sorrows who court other gods. †
Blood libations to them I will not pour out *
nor will I take their names upon my lips.

Lord, my allotted portion and my cup, *
you have made my destiny secure.
Pleasant places were measured out for me; *
fair to me indeed is my inheritance.

I bless the Lord who counsels me; *
even at night my heart exhorts me.
I keep the Lord always before me; *
with the Lord at my right, I shall never be shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad, †
my soul rejoices; *
my body also dwells secure,

For you will not abandon me to Sheol, *
nor let your faithful servant see the pit.

You will show me the path to life, †
abounding joy in your presence,*
the delights at your right hand forever.

Ant. 3 I will pour out upon the house of David
a spirit of grace and of consolation;
they will look upon him whom they have pierced.

V. You have redeemed us, Lord, with your blood.
R. And have made us a kingdom for our God.

FIRST READING

From the letter to the Hebrews

9:11-22; 10:19-24

Christ seals the new covenant with his blood

But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that have come to be, passing through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by hands, that is, not belonging to this creation, he entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of a heifer's ashes can sanctify those who are defiled so that their flesh is cleansed, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to worship the living God.

For this reason he is mediator of a new covenant: since a death has taken place for deliverance from transgressions under the first covenant, those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance. Now where there is a will, the death of the testator must be established. For a will takes effect only at death; it has no force while the testator is alive. Thus not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. When every commandment had been proclaimed by Moses to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves (and goats), together with water and crimson wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, "This is 'the blood of the covenant which God has enjoined upon you.'" In the same way, he sprinkled also the tabernacle and all the vessels of worship with blood. According to the law almost everything is purified by blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since through the blood of Jesus we have confidence of entrance into the sanctuary by the new and living way he opened for us through the veil, that is, his flesh, and since we have “a great priest over the house of God,” let us approach with a sincere heart and in absolute trust, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to our confession that gives us hope, for he who made the promise is trustworthy. We must consider how to rouse one another to love and good works.

RESPONSORY

cf Ephesians 2:13-14

R. You who once were far off have become near by the blood of Christ. *

For he is our peace, he who made both one.

V. It pleased God to reconcile all things to himself through him.

R. For he is our peace, he who made both one.

SECOND READING

From the writings of Saint Gaspar del Bufalo, priest

(“Some Reflections on the Confraternity of the Most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ”, respectfully submitted to Pope Leo XIII: *Scritti del Fondatore*, vol. XII, ff. 80-81)

In the devotion to the Precious Blood we go to the heart of our faith

It cannot be denied that God, always rich in mercy, has at all times used efficacious means to recall souls to the study of Christ crucified and to apply to all the divine Blood of redemption.

The first centuries of the Church were fruitful in martyrs; the following centuries witnessed sporadic attacks on one or the other doctrine of the Church, and lack of appreciation of some of her traditions and practices on the part of one or other segment of the Catholic world. In our miserable times, however, the crisis among the people is a general one. The perversion of faith and morals offers insult to the redemption and renders useless, because of human malice, the application of the merits of Jesus Christ, who has redeemed us at the price of his Blood. Consequently, is it not time to stir up our apostolic zeal and follow the light given to souls especially favored by God in order to recall to the minds of people the inestimable price of our redemption and excite them to penance and tears? Does not Sacred Scripture itself trace for us this reform by *making peace through the Blood of his cross for those in heaven as well as those on earth?* Does not divine Wisdom say that *those justified by his Blood shall be saved from God’s wrath?*

It is not enough merely to pronounce the name of God to be saved: *None of those who cry out Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of God, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.* Two things, therefore, must be taken care of in our day. We must, first of all, find a way of placating the eternal, divine Father. For that purpose we have the merits of the divine Blood: *The cup of salvation I will take up.* Secondly, we must seek its effective application to souls, especially by means of missions and spiritual retreats, as well as other salutary religious activities adapted to the needs of the times. These were exactly the reasons which moved the holy Pontiff Pius VII to erect an Arch-confraternity under the august title of the Divine Blood.

Sinners are abusing it terribly, and the Lord in the excess of his love is saying: *What gain is there from my Blood?* There should be dedicated persons who, by means of solemn worship, provide adoration and reparation, and at the same time preach to the people the glories of the divine Blood, emphasizing the fact that in this devotion we go to the heart of our faith. Hence, we say in the consecration of the chalice, *The Mystery of Faith*. There is an intimate connection between the devotion to the Blood of Christ and the salvation of souls.

Such is its centripetal force that all the prophetic utterances, symbols, figures and sacrifices of the Old Testament converge on it as the spokes of a wheel on a hub: *In wine he washes his garments, his robe in the blood of grapes*. Exodus says that the Hebrews were ordered to stain their doorposts with the blood of the lamb in order to be freed from the chastisements of Egypt as a symbol of the liberation of our souls from the servitude of the devil. Skipping many other references which could be made, we note what Moses did to his people: Taking the blood he sprinkled the book and all the people saying: *This is the Blood of the covenant which God has enjoined upon you...Almost everything is purified by blood and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness*. We hear the Apostle saying: *For if the blood of goats and bulls can sanctify those who are defiled, how much more will the Blood of Christ cleanse our consciences from dead works?* We must pass up other references. Indeed, the Holy Scriptures are filled with sacred references to it: *Why is your apparel red? ... He wore a garment sprinkled with blood*.

This devotion calls to mind baptism, through which the divine Blood purifies our souls, and reminds us of penance and the other sacraments, because *you have redeemed us with your Blood, you have made us a kingdom, and priests to serve our God*.

Whereas all other devotions are aids to Catholic piety, this devotion is its foundation, support and essence. Other devotions, products of various times, have holy and praiseworthy beginnings, but they go back only so far. This devotion, on the other hand, goes back to the moment when Adam sinned. Therefore, Jesus was called the *Lamb who was slain from the world's beginning*. St. Thomas says: *The Blood of Christ is the key to Paradise*. St. John Chrysostom affirms: *The Blood of Christ is the salvation of souls...an excellent wine is the Blood of Christ*.

RESPONSORY

1 John 5:6-7

- R. This is the one who came in water and blood, Jesus Christ; *
not in water only, but in water and blood.
V. It is the Spirit who gives testimony, because the Spirit is truth;
R. not in water only, but in water and blood.

Or

From the writings of Saint Maria De Mattias, virgin

(Letters of Saint Maria De Mattias, nn. 77; 701; 328; 355; 407; 543; 812; 710; 874:
ed. 1944 and 1947)

The blood of Jesus is all our hope and all our good

May our hearts never withdraw from that perennial fountain flowing from the loving wound of the side of our most loving Spouse Jesus Crucified! Here all our poor labors borne for love of him will be sweetened.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus Crucified and we can be sure he will not let us perish, provided we are faithful to him. Oh! What a beautiful honor is ours to serve God, to think always of God, to love God, to suffer in order to please God; in short, to live entirely in God. This he permits us in his infinite goodness. I say, he permits us, poor creatures and miserable worms that we are, to be elevated to union with him; nay more, he even commands it. How must not these reflections encourage the soul! She would never depart from the feet of her Lord in order to hear his most loving voice calling her to unite herself ever more to him. She does not tire of always blessing, loving, praising and thanking him with all her heart. She seeks nothing else but to give him pleasure. Her Lord's good pleasure constitutes all her delight, and if she obtains that, she is rich and filled with so much consolation that she does not know how to express it.

Courage, therefore, and confidence in God, that, should everything else be wanting, it matters nothing, provided we enjoy the grace of our beloved Spouse, Jesus Crucified.

Let us pray very much for the Church and ardently love Jesus, our Savior, who founded it with his Precious Blood. Let us have faith in the most holy word of Jesus, who assures us that he will hear those who invoke him. We wish nothing else except his glory and the salvation of souls which cost his Blood; and therefore, let us hope firmly, for all our confidence lies in the merits of the Divine Redeemer who looks upon his spouse, the Holy Church, with tender love. And, if he now chastises her, he does so to purify her in order to make him dearer to his loving eyes. The design of our Lord Jesus Christ is to reunite all peoples in his Church, and therefore the chastisement is being felt everywhere. Oh! What a triumph! Oh! What a triumph! Let us pray, let us pray, let us pray.

What a beautiful consolation it is to see the Spouse of the Divine Lamb, the Adorers of his most Precious Blood, motivated by one sole will (the will of God), forming but one heart and one soul, and thus united, making the heavens resound with a hymn of thanksgiving to the infinite goodness of God, while at the same time they offer the Blood of his Son for the reconciliation of heaven with earth, of earth with heaven.

The Blood of Jesus is our only hope and our only Good – this Blood, shed with so much pain and so much love for our eternal salvation. Let our hearts be filled with courage, fearing nothing, not even death, so that at every moment the Precious Blood be glorified, loved and blessed by all!

My daughter, let us summon our spirit to union with God, in whom we shall find the person of his most holy Son given to us with infinite love, clothed with human flesh and covered with wounds and Blood, inviting us to contemplate him with fixed attention so that our hearts might respond to the delicacy of his most tender love.

Jesus loves us without any merit on our part. Let us love him very much because he is worthy of being loved. Let us love him also for the great gift of the redemption and for the Blood he willed to shed for us.

Let our only thought be to bring all, as far as is possible, to the knowledge of Jesus, our Crucified Love, who is covered with blood and wounds for our salvation.

Do not become disheartened. Courage and great confidence in the Blessed God. Much prayer. Jesus died for love of us; the merits of his sufferings are ours. Do not fear, my daughter. A loving glance at Jesus Crucified, and then take courage to labor

for the school, for the salvation of souls, for the glory of his Precious Blood. I urge you to speak little and to pray much.

We shall pass through many tribulations in order to enter Heaven. Great confidence in the Precious Blood of Jesus. Let us ask God to make us understand the great value of sufferings. Suffering is dear to a soul that loves Jesus Christ, and it always seems to her that she does not suffer for Him who suffered so much and died crucified for love of us.

RESPONSORY

cf Revelation 5:9-10; 19:5

R. You have redeemed us for God with your blood. * You have made us a kingdom for our God.

V. Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.

R. You have made us a kingdom for our God.

Hymn Te Deum

We praise you, O God; *
we acclaim you Lord and Master.
Everlasting Father, *
all the world bows down before you.

All the angels sing your praise, *
the hosts of heaven and all the angelic powers;
All the cherubim and seraphim *
call out to you in unending chorus:

Holy, holy, holy *
is the Lord God of angel hosts!
The heavens and the earth are filled, Lord, *
with your majesty and glory.

Your praises are sung *
by the renowned Apostles;
By all the prophets, *
who themselves deserve our praise;

By that mighty white-robed army *
who shed their blood for Christ.
And to the ends of the earth, *
the holy Church proclaims her faith in you:

Father, *
whose majesty is boundless;
Your only Son, *
who is true God and who is to be adored;

The Holy Spirit, *

sent to be our Advocate.
O Christ, the King of glory! *
You alone are the Father's eternal Son.

When you were to become man so as to save humankind, *
you did not shrink back from the chaste Virgin's womb.
When you triumphantly destroyed death's sting, *
you opened up to believers the kingdom of heaven.

You are now enthroned at God's right hand, in the Father's glory: *
We believe that you will come for judgment.
We therefore implore you to grant your servants grace and aid, *
for you shed your precious blood for their redemption.

Admit them all to the ranks of your saints *
in everlasting glory.
Be their Shepherd, Lord, *
uphold and exalt them forever and ever.

Day by day we praise you, *
daily we acclaim you.
We will confess and glorify your hold name, *
now and for all eternity.

In your great mercy, Lord, throughout this day *
keep us free from sin by your protection.
Have mercy on us, we humbly pray; *
Lord, have mercy on us.

May your mercy, Lord, your loving-kindness, always remain with us; *
for we have placed our confidence in you.
In you alone, Lord, I have hoped; *
may I not be disappointed.

PRAYER

Father, who through the blood of Jesus your Son, the Lamb sacrificed on the cross, redeemed us, sanctified us, and made us your people; grant that all may accept this gift of your love, celebrate it joyfully in the Spirit, and drink of it in the Eucharistic chalice, the sign of your covenant and blessing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Morning prayer

HYMN

Clap your hands, all you peoples, *
sing unto God with a voice of jubilation.

For the Lord high and mighty *
has shown to us his mercy,

For he has not spared his own Son *
but has delivered him up in our behalf,

That we might be redeemed by his blood *
and freed from our sins;

That justified in his blood *
we might be saved from his wrath;

That we who were separated from him *
might be reconciled through the blood of his Son.

O Lord, my God, what can I render unto you *
for all the good you have bestowed upon me?

I will take the chalice of salvation *
and I will call upon the power of this blood.

Sing to Jesus, all you saints, *
and make known the memory of his holiness.

For he has loved us and has washed us in his blood *
and he has become our helper and our redeemer.

Blessed forever be the blood of Christ *
which has wrought such wonders in us.

Blessed be Jesus for all eternity, *
and may the heavens and the earth
be filled with the glory of his blood.

Come, let us adore Christ, the Son of God *
who has redeemed us with his blood. Amen.

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Ant. 1 Let us immerse ourselves in the opened side of Jesus Christ;
let us quench our thirst in the stream of his blood.

PSALM 63: 2-9 A soul thirsting for God

The Church thirsts for her Savior, yearning to drink at the fount of living water that springs up for eternal life. (Cf Cassiodorus).

O God, you are my God, for you I long; *
for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you *
like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary *
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life, *
my lips will speak your praise.

So 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, *
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you. *
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help; *
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.

Ant. 1 Let us immerse ourselves in the opened side of Jesus Christ;
let us quench our thirst in the stream of his blood.

Ant. 2 Heaven and earth, every tongue and every living creature,
proclaim the redemption of the Son of God.

CANTICLE Daniel 3: 57-88, 56 Let all creatures praise the Lord
Praise our God, all you his servants. (Rv 19:5)

Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise and exalt him above all forever.
Angels of the Lord, bless the Lord, *
you heavens, bless the Lord,

All you waters above the heavens, *
all you hosts of the Lord, bless the Lord;
sun and moon, bless the Lord; *
stars of heaven, bless the Lord;

every shower and dew, bless the Lord; *
all you winds, bless the Lord;
fire and heat, bless the Lord; *
cold and chill, bless the Lord;

dew and rain, bless the Lord; *
frost and chill, bless the Lord;
ice and snow, bless the Lord; *
nights and days, bless the Lord;

light and darkness, bless the Lord; *
lightning and clouds, bless the Lord;
let the earth bless the Lord, *
praise and exalt him above all forever.

Mountains and hills, bless the Lord; *
everything growing from the earth, bless the Lord;
you springs, bless the Lord; *
seas and rivers, bless the Lord;

you dolphins and all water creatures, bless the Lord; *
all you birds of the air, bless the Lord;
all you beasts, wild and tame, bless the Lord; *
you sons of men, bless the Lord;

O Israel, bless the Lord; *
praise and exalt him above all forever.
Priests of the Lord, bless the Lord; *
servants of the Lord, bless the Lord;
spirits and souls of the just, bless the Lord; *
holy men of humble heart, bless the Lord;
Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael, bless the Lord; *
praise and exalt him above all forever.

Let us bless the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *
Let us praise and exalt him above all forever.
Blessed are you in the firmament of heaven, *
praiseworthy and glorious forever.

At the end of the canticle the Glory be to the Father is not said.

Ant. 2 Heaven and earth, every tongue and every living creature,
proclaim the redemption of the Son of God.

Ant. 3 With the Church, born from the side of Christ
we rejoice for the gift of salvation.

PSALM 149 The joy of God's holy people

Let the sons of the Church, the children of the new people, rejoice in Christ, their King (Hesychius).

Sing a new song to the Lord, *
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its maker, *
let Zion's sons exult in their king.

Let them praise his name with dancing *
and make music with timbrel and harp.
For the Lord takes delight in his people. *
He crowns the poor with salvation.

Let the faithful rejoice in their glory, *

shout for joy and take their rest.
Let the praise of God be on their lips *
and a two-edged sword in their hand,

to deal out vengeance to the nations *
and punishment on all the peoples;
to bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles in fetters of iron;

to carry out the sentence pre-ordained; *
this honor is for all his faithful.

Ant. 3 With the Church, born from the side of Christ
we rejoice for the gift of salvation.

READING
25a

1 Peter 2:21-

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

RESPONSORY

R. Jesus calls us with the voice of his blood: * immerse yourselves in my wounds.
-- Jesus calls us with the voice of his blood: immerse yourselves in my wounds.
V. Come, be washed in this blood;
-- immerse yourselves in my wounds.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
-- Jesus calls us with the voice of his blood: immerse yourselves in my wounds

Benedictus Ant. Seeing the blood, I will pass over you;
thus, when I strike the land of Egypt, no destructive blow will come upon you.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old †
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

to give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

to shine on those who dwell in darkness and 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 ever shall be *
world without end. Amen

Benedictus Ant. Seeing the blood, I will pass over you;
thus, when I strike the land of Egypt, no destructive blow will come upon you.

INTERCESSIONS

On this solemnity of the Most Precious Blood of Christ, let us praise the Father in the
Holy Spirit and say:

Make us holy in the blood of Jesus!

Father, you desire that the Spouse of your Son be without spot or wrinkle,
- grant that the Church might be renewed continually in the saving power of Christ's
blood.

Father, through the sacrifice of Christ you reconciled heaven with earth,
- grant that all humanity might work toward reconciliation and peace.

Father, you gave us new birth through the offering of your Son,
- grant that our life may always be a sacrifice pleasing to you.

Father, you made one new person in place of the two, through the blood of Christ,
- grant that in the strength of your Spirit all Christians may reach the unity for which
Jesus prayed and was sacrificed.

Father, in Jesus, high priest, you obtained for us eternal redemption,
- grant that its saving power might reach every tribe, tongue, people and nation.

Our Father.

Prayer

Father, who through the blood of Jesus your Son, the Lamb sacrificed on the cross, redeemed us, sanctified us, and made us your people; grant that all may accept this gift of your love, celebrate it joyfully in the Spirit, and drink of it in the Eucharistic chalice, the sign of your covenant and blessing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Daytime prayer

Complementary psalmody. However, if the solemnity is celebrated on Sunday, the psalms are taken from Sunday, Week I.

Mid-morning

Ant. The soldier's lance opened the side of Jesus;
and blood and water came out.

READING

1 John 5: 6-9

This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood. The Spirit is the one that testifies, and the Spirit is truth. So there are three that testify, the Spirit, the water, and the blood, and the three are of one accord. If we accept human testimony, the testimony of God is surely greater. Now the testimony of God is this: that he has testified on behalf of his Son.

V. The blood of Christ has made us clean
R. with the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Midday

Ant. The blood of Christ, crying out from the cross,
speaks of peace and reconciliation.

READING

Colossians

1:19-22

In him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross through him, whether those on earth or those in heaven. You once were alienated and hostile in mind because of evil

deeds. God has now reconciled you in his fleshly Body of Christ through his death, to present you holy, without blemish, and irreproachable before him.

V. Look, O God, our shield,
R. look at the face of your Christ.

Mid-afternoon

Ant. Christ, the Paschal Lamb,
was hung as a victim on a tree.

READING

Revelation 21:3-6

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away." The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Then he said, "Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true." He said to me, "They are accomplished. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water.

V. He was pierced for our faults;
R. and by his wounds we have been healed.

Prayer

Father, who through the blood of Jesus your Son, the Lamb sacrificed on the cross, redeemed us, sanctified us, and made us your people; grant that all may accept this gift of your love, celebrate it joyfully in the Spirit, and drink of it in the Eucharistic chalice, the sign of your covenant and blessing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Evening prayer II

HYMN

Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb,

our garments cleansed in him,
saved and made new by Love,
we sing praise to you, Lord Christ.

With you we are raised on the Cross,
with you, baptized into your death,
in you, O Christ, we are now risen,
and restored to life in the heart of the Father.

O Christ, your life is an immense font
of joy, springing up eternally;
unending splendor, in you is immersed
the human smallness of the redeemed.

Our day passes, declining;
Lord, remain with us this evening,
and may the certainty of our faith
light up the advancing night.

Grant that our death be absorbed
by the glorious light of the Resurrection
and, having died your own death,
may we live in you, who are our life.

O Father of kindness, we ask you this
through your Son who is risen,
and through the eternal Love who leads us
toward the sweet light of your face.
Amen.

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Ant 1 You are a priest forever
according to the order of Melchizedek.

PSALM 110:1-5, 7 The Messiah, king and priest

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet (1 Corinthians 15:25).

The Lord says to you, my lord: *
“Take your throne at my right hand,
while I make your enemies your footstool.”

The scepter of your sovereign might the Lord will extend from Zion. *
The Lord says: “Rule over your enemies!

Yours is princely power from the day of your birth.*
In holy splendor before the daystar,
like the dew I begot you.”

The Lord has sworn and will not waver: *
“Like Melchizedek you are a priest forever.”

At your right hand is the Lord, *
who crushes kings on the day of wrath,
who drinks from the brook by the wayside *
and thus holds high the head.

Ant. 1 You are a priest forever
according to the order of Melchizedek.

Ant. 2 Christ Jesus gave himself
as a ransom for all.

PSALM 116:1-13

Giving Thanks in the Temple

Through him (Christ) let us continually offer God a sacrifice of praise (Hebrews 13:15).

I love the Lord, who listened *
to my voice in supplication,
Who turned an ear to me *
on the day I called.

I was caught by the cords of death; *
the snares of Sheol had seized me;

I felt agony and dread. †
Then I called on the name of the Lord, *
“O Lord, save my life!”

Gracious is the Lord and just; *
yes, our God is merciful.
The Lord protects the simple; *
I was helpless, but God saved me.

Return, my soul, to your rest; *
the Lord has been good to you.

For my soul has been freed from death, †
my eyes from tears, *
my feet from stumbling.

I shall walk before the Lord *
in the land of the living.

I kept faith, even when I said, *
“I am greatly afflicted!”
I said in my alarm, *

“No one can be trusted!”

How can I repay the Lord *
for all the good done for me?
I will raise the cup of salvation *
and call on the name of the Lord

Ant. 2 Christ Jesus gave himself
as a ransom for all.

Ant. 3 To make us holy and spotless before the Father,
Jesus lovingly accepted the cross.

CANTICLE **cf Ephesians 1:3-10** **God our Savior**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, †
who has blessed us in Christ *
with every spiritual blessing in the heavens.

God chose us in him, †
before the foundation of the world, *
to be holy and without blemish before him.

In love he destined us †
for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, *
in accord with the favor of his will,
for the praise of the glory of his grace *
that he granted us in the beloved.

In Christ we have redemption by his blood, *
the forgiveness of transgressions,
in accord with the riches of his grace *
that he lavished upon us.

In all wisdom and insight †
God has made known to us the mystery of his will *
in accord with his favor that he set forth in him,
as a plan for the fullness of times, *
to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth.

Ant. 3 To make us holy and spotless before the Father,
Jesus lovingly accepted the cross.

READING

1 Peter 1:18-21

You realize that you were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of

Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb. He was known before the foundation of the world but revealed in the final time for you, who through him believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

RESPONSORY

- R.** Let us gaze upon the blood of Christ,
* and we will understand how precious it is before the Father.
- Let us gaze upon the blood of Christ, and we will understand how precious it is before the Father.
- V.** It was poured out for our salvation
-- and we will understand how precious it is before the Father.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- Let us gaze upon the blood of Christ, and we will understand how precious it is before the Father.

Magnificat Ant. With Mary, Woman of the New Covenant,
let us glorify the Father who has redeemed us in his Son.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; *
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; *
behold, from now on all ages will call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, *
and holy is his name.

His mercy is from age to age *
to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm, *
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones*
but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things; *
the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped Israel his servant, *
remembering his mercy,

according to his promise to our fathers, *
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Magnificat Ant. With Mary, Woman of the New Covenant,
let us glorify the Father who has redeemed us in his Son.

INTERCESSIONS

With faith and gratitude, let us beseech Christ who has reconciled humanity with God in his blood:

By your blood poured out for us, hear us, Lord Jesus!

Lord Jesus, you gave your life in a sacrifice of expiation at the close of day;

- we pray for the Church: make her an effective instrument of unity, communion and peace for the whole human race.

Lord Jesus, your blood poured out for us is an expression of your immense love;

- we pray for all peoples: guide and hear their desires for freedom, justice and truth.

Lord Jesus, with your precious blood you justified us before the Father;

- we pray for the poor, the suffering, and the marginalized: in their need, let them experience solidarity, help and support from all of us.

Lord Jesus, by the power of your blood you free us from the Evil One;

- we pray for all those who proclaim the Gospel: give them honesty in communication, integrity of life, and joy in sharing your victory over the powers of evil.

Lord Jesus, with your blood you purify and nourish your Church;

- we pray for this community: may the Eucharist, summit and source of life, be its daily food for mission.

Lord Jesus, crucified and risen for us, you granted pardon to the repentant thief;

- we pray for our dear deceased relatives and friends: grant them a share in the eternal nuptial banquet in the glory of the blessed.

Our Father.

Prayer

Father, who through the blood of Jesus your Son, the Lamb sacrificed on the cross, redeemed us, sanctified us, and made us your people; grant that all may accept this gift of your love, celebrate it joyfully in the Spirit, and drink of it in the Eucharistic chalice, the sign of your covenant and blessing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever

September 15

**OUR LADY OF SORROWS
“WOMAN OF THE NEW COVENANT”**

**Solemnity for ASC
Memorial for CPPS**

Saint Maria De Mattias’ devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows, as is clearly seen in her writings and the testimony of her companions, is intense and closely connected to her devotion to Jesus Christ crucified, the precious Cross, and the Blood of the New Covenant. During their XIII General Assembly (1979) the Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ promoted, within the Congregation, the commemoration of Our Lady of Sorrows on September 15, with the title of “Woman of the New Covenant”. The Adorers of the Blood of Christ see in her an authentic model of a woman consecrated to God and to her sisters and brothers, fully dedicated to the Person and the saving work of Christ, Son of God and Son of the Virgin.

Evening prayer I

HYMN

At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last.

Virgin of all virgins blest!
Listen to my fond request:
Let me share your grief divine.

Let me to my latest breath,
In my body bear the death
Of that dying Son of yours.

Wounded with his every wound,
Steep my soul till it has swooned
In his very blood away.

Be to me, O Virgin nigh,
Lest in flames I burn and die,
In his awful judgement day.

Christ, when you shall call me hence,
Be your Mother my defense,
Be your cross my victory.

While my body here decays,
May my soul your goodness praise,
Safe in heaven eternally. Amen.

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastic authority.

Ant. 1 For you we praise the Father,
O sorrowful Virgin;
in the blood of your Son Jesus,
we have the fullness of life.

PSALM 113 Praise the name of the Lord

He has thrown down the powerful from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. (Luke 1:52)

Praise, you servants of the Lord,*
praise the name of the Lord.
Blessed be the name of the Lord*
both now and forever.

From the rising of the sun to its setting*
let the name of the Lord be praised.
High above all nations is the Lord; *
above the heavens God's glory.

Who is like the Lord, our God enthroned on high, *
looking down on heaven and earth?

The Lord raises the needy from the dust,*
lifts the poor from the ash heap,
Seats them with princes,*
the princes of the people,

Gives the childless wife a home, *
the joyful mother of children.

Ant. 1 For you we praise the Father,
O sorrowful Virgin;
in the blood of your Son Jesus,
we have the fullness of life.

Ant. 2 Woman of the New Covenant, standing beside the cross,
your divine Son
named you Mother of his disciples.

PSALM 147 (12-20) God's word restores Jerusalem

Come, I will show you the bride, the spouse of the lamb. (Revelation 21:9)

Glorify the Lord, Jerusalem; *

Zion, offer praise to your God,
Who has strengthened the bars of your gates, *
blessed your children within you.

He has brought peace to your borders, *
and filled you with finest wheat.
The Lord sends a command to earth; *
his word runs swiftly!

Thus snow is spread like wool, *
frost is scattered like ash,
Hail is dispersed like crumbs; *
before such cold the waters freeze.

Again he sends his word and they melt; *
the wind is unleashed and the waters flow.
The Lord also proclaims his word to Jacob, *
decrees and laws to Israel.

God has not done this for other nations; *
of such laws they know nothing.

Ant. 2 Woman of the New Covenant, standing beside the cross,
your divine Son
named you Mother of his disciples.

Ant. 3 Rejoice, full of grace,
and dance, O joyful Mother;
the blood of your Son Jesus
has reconciled heaven and earth.

CANTICLE cf Ephesians 1:3-10

God our Savior

In the Virgin Mother, Christ has revealed to us the mystery of the Father.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, †
who has blessed us in Christ *
with every spiritual blessing in the heavens.

God chose us in him, †
before the foundation of the world, *
to be holy and without blemish before him.

In love he destined us †
for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, *
in accord with the favor of his will,
for the praise of the glory of his grace *
that he granted us in the beloved.

In Christ we have redemption by his blood, *

the forgiveness of transgressions,
in accord with the riches of his grace *
that he lavished upon us.

In all wisdom and insight †
God has made known to us the mystery of his will *
in accord with his favor that he set forth in him,
as a plan for the fullness of times, *
to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth.

Ant. 3 Rejoice, full of grace,
and dance, O joyful Mother;
the blood of your Son Jesus
has reconciled heaven and earth.

READING
25

Colossians 1:24-

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake; and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church, of which I am a minister in accordance with God's stewardship given to me, to bring to completion for you the word of God.

RESPONSORY

R. Obtain salvation for us, * O Virgin Mary.
-- Obtain salvation for us, O Virgin Mary.
V. Through the passion of Christ your Son,
-- O Virgin Mary
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
-- Obtain salvation for us, O Virgin Mary.

Magnificat Ant. Jesus says to his mother: "Woman behold your son!"
And to the disciple whom he loved: "Behold your mother!"

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; *
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; *
behold, from now on all ages will call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, *
and holy is his name.

His mercy is from age to age *
to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm, *

dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones*
but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things; *
the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped Israel his servant, *
remembering his mercy,

according to his promise to our fathers, *
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Magnificat Ant. Jesus says to his mother: “Woman behold your son!”
And to the disciple whom he loved: “Behold your mother!”

INTERCESSIONS

With Our Lady of Sorrows, let us look lovingly at the crucified Christ and pray to our heavenly Father saying:
Reveal to us, Father, the mysterious glory of the Cross.

God of love, in the blood of your Son, poured out on the Cross, you ratified the eternal covenant with your people,
- grant that we may live it as Mary did, faithful to your loving plan and in solidarity with all our sisters and brothers.

God of compassion, in view of Christ’s Paschal Mystery, you preserved the Virgin Mary undefiled,
- keep us free from sin.

God of life, you strengthened Mary at the foot of the Cross and filled her with joy at the resurrection of her Son,
- support us amid the trials of life and strengthen us in hope.

God of peace, in the blood of your Son you reconciled humanity to yourself and restored harmony in creation,
- make us builders of peace, generous in service and solicitous in love.

God of kindness, through your Son, the sole Mediator, who died and rose for us,
- grant to our deceased brothers and sisters a share in the wedding feast of the Lamb.

Our Father

Prayer

Father most holy, who willed to associate Our Lady of Sorrows, Woman of the New Covenant, to the sacrifice of your Son; through the merits of his precious blood, grant, we pray, that your Church, born of Christ’s pierced side, may always celebrate the memorial of his work of redemption with the love of our Mother Mary showed.

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

Office of readings

INVITATORY

Ant. In memory of Mary
united with her Son in his passion,
let us adore Christ our Lord.

PSALM 95 Invitation to praise God

Encourage yourself daily while it is still "today" (Heb 3:13).

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
and shout with joy to the Rock who saves us.
Let us approach him with praise and thanksgiving, *
and sing joyful songs to the Lord. **(Ant.)**

The Lord is God, the mighty God, *
the great king over all the gods.
He holds in his hands the depths of the earth *
and the highest mountains as well.
He made the sea; it belongs to him, *
the dry land, too, for it was formed by his hands. **(Ant.)**

Come, then, let us bow down and worship, *
bending the knee before the Lord, our maker.
For he is our God and we are his people, *
the flock he shepherds. **(Ant.)**

Today, listen to the voice of the Lord: Do not grow stubborn, *
as your fathers did in the wilderness, †
when at Meriba and Massah
they challenged me and provoked me, *
Although they had seen all of my works. **(Ant.)**

Forty years I endured that generation; †
I said: "They are a people whose hearts go astray *
and they do not know my ways."
So I swore in my anger, *
"They shall not enter into my rest." **(Ant.)**

Glory to the Father and to the Son *
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever will be. Amen **(Ant.)**

Alternative Invitatory Psalms: 100, 67, 24

HYMN

At the cross her station keeping,
stood the mournful mother weeping,
close to Jesus to the last.

Through her heart, his sorrow sharing,
all his bitter anguish bearing,
now at length the sword had passed.

Oh, how sad and sore distressed
was that Mother highly blessed
of the sole-begotten One!

Christ above in torment hangs,
she beneath beholds the pangs
of her dying glorious Son.

Is there one who would not weep,
'whelmed in miseries so deep,
Christ's dear Mother to behold?

Can the human heart refrain
from partaking in her pain,
in that Mother's pain untold?

For the sins of his own nation
saw him hang in desolation
till his spirit forth he sent.

O sweet Mother! Font of love,
touch my spirit from above,
make my heart with yours accord.

Christ, when you shall call me hence,
be your Mother my defense,
be your cross my victory. Amen.

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Ant. 1 Mary, you are blessed by the Lord;
the God of salvation has made you holy.

PSALM 24

The earth is the Lord's and all it holds, *
the world and those who live there.

For God founded it on the seas, *
established it over the rivers.

Who may go up the mountain of the Lord? *
Who can stand in his holy place?

“The clean of hand and pure of heart, †
who are not devoted to idols, *
who have not sworn falsely.

They will receive blessings from the Lord,*
and justice from their saving God.
Such are the people that love the Lord, *
that seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O gates; †
rise up, you ancient portals, *
that the king of glory may enter.

Who is this king of glory? †
The Lord, a mighty warrior, *
the Lord, mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O gates; †
rise up, you ancient portals,
that the king of glory may enter.

Who is this king of glory? *
The Lord of hosts is the king of glory.

Ant. 1. Mary, you are blessed by the Lord,
the God of salvation has made you holy.

Ant. 2. The Most High has sanctified his dwelling-place.

PSALM 46

God is our refuge and our strength, *
an ever-present help in distress.

Thus we do not fear, though earth be shaken *
and mountains quake to the depths of the sea,
Though its waters rage and foam *
and mountains totter at its surging.

The Lord of hosts is with us; *
our stronghold is the God of Jacob.
Streams of the river gladden the city of God,*

the holy dwelling of the Most High.

God is in its midst; it shall not be shaken; *
God will help it at break of day.
Though nations rage and kingdoms totter, *
God's voice thunders and the earth trembles.

The Lord of hosts is with us; *
our stronghold is the God of Jacob.

Come and see the works of the Lord, *
who has done fearsome deeds on earth;

Who stops wars to the ends of the earth, †
breaks the bow, splinters the spear, *
and burns the shields with fire;

Who says: "Be still and confess that I am God! *
I am exalted among the nations, exalted on the earth."

The Lord of hosts is with us; *
our stronghold is the God of Jacob.

Ant. 2 The Most High has sanctified his dwelling-place.

Ant. 3 Marvelous things are said of you,
O Virgin Mary!

PSALM 87

The Lord loves the city founded on holy mountains, †
loves the gates of Zion *
more than any dwelling in Jacob.

Glorious things are said of you, *
O city of God!

From Babylon and Egypt I count those who acknowledge the Lord. †
Philistia, Ethiopia, Tyre, *
of them it can be said: "This one was born there."

But of Zion it must be said: "They all were born here. *
The Most High confirms this."

The Lord notes in the register of the peoples: *
"This one was born here."
So all sing in their festive dance: *
"Within you is my true home."

Ant. 3 Marvelous things are said of you,
O Virgin Mary!

V. In the fullness of time, God sent his Son, born of a woman,
R. to redeem us and to make us his children by adoption.

FIRST READING

From the first letter of Saint Paul the apostle to the Corinthians
30

1:17-

Wisdom of the world and Christian wisdom

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with the wisdom of human eloquence, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning.

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the learning of the learned I will set aside."

Where is the wise one? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made the wisdom of the world foolish?

For since in the wisdom of God the world did not come to know God through wisdom, it was the will of God through the foolishness of the proclamation to save those who have faith. For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own calling, brothers. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong; and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God. It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

RESPONSORY

R. Blessed are you among women; you changed the curse of Eve into blessing;
* thanks to you, the blessing of the Father has shone upon all men and women.
V. Through you, your ancestors found salvation;
R. thanks to you, the blessing of the Father has shone upon all men and women.

SECOND READING

From the writings of Saint Maria De Mattias, virgin.

(Letters of Saint Maria De Mattias nn. 498, 471: Vol. II, ed. 1947)

The condescension of God toward us

Dearest daughter in Jesus, remember to be very, very devoted to Mary Most Holy; be persevering in often invoking her with confidence. Tell her to set you totally afire with love for Jesus. Let your thoughts dwell on the most holy Passion of her Son and his bitter sufferings. Often speak of God's infinite charity in having given us his most Holy Son; speak also of the great beauty of Jesus and Mary. Let us love all with tender affection: they cost Jesus his blood and caused bitter sorrows to his Virgin Mother. Our hearts should be filled with zeal for their salvation, and we should offer our prayers for the salvation of souls.

Let us offer the blood of Jesus at the throne of Divine Mercy for the fulfillment of our desires, which are the gift of his goodness and which he wishes us to foster because they are his, not ours. Let us thank him.

Let us not become dismayed at the hardships and the fatigue to be borne. Let us reflect that a God endured the hard death of the cross to save souls. With infinite condescension he calls on us to help him.

Let us humble ourselves to the depths, and even lower, because of our sins. Let us place all our confidence in God and in the blood of Jesus Christ. Over and over let us abandon ourselves into the arms of the divine mercy, protesting that we should be happy to die for the salvation of souls. In this way we shall give joy to Jesus and Mary. My daughter, meditate on the great condescension of a God toward us.

I lose myself; I do not know how to express what I feel. We, work for Jesus? We, suffer for Jesus? ... (I cannot understand). We, die for Jesus?... We? Who are we?

O great condescension of a God! O great condescension of Jesus! Let us consider, dearly loved daughter, that the law given us, to walk the way of sorrow and suffering, is not due to any hardness on the part of our most beloved God, because there cannot be such in that holiest and sweetest Heart. Rather, it is the effect of a most tender and unlimited love toward us, so that we can atone for our sins and make ourselves worthy of him. With profound respect and true attachment, let us adore the admirable mystery of the *Cross*...

They tell me I am always speaking about the Cross. My daughter, believe me, that is not just for form's sake, but for the true love of my heart and the high esteem I have for that adorable *Standard*. And we can say in all truth that anyone who shares the sufferings of Jesus Christ is immensely honored.

As for myself (I admit the truth), I do not suffer anything; I feel ashamed and humiliated to appear before my Crucified Jesus. I shrink from every little inconvenience. Pray for me so that the Lord may make me worthy of his disappointments.

Let us lovingly embrace hardships for Jesus, and carry his most holy Cross in triumph.

RESPONSORY

- R. Let us place all our trust in Mary Most Holy * and live hidden in the Cross.
V. In any need whatsoever, let us turn to Our Lady of Sorrows,
R. and live hidden in the Cross.

Or

From the writings of Saint Gaspar del Bufalo, priest

(“Sorrows of Mary Most Holy”, 3,1: *Spiritual Writings*, I, Rome 1995, 6–12, selections)

The Passion of Jesus in Mary

Turn your eyes to the mountain of myrrh and the hill of incense, to lovers’ mountain, oh faithful people. Look at the tender Mother to whom it was once prophesied that a sword would pierce her soul. Truly, O Mother, your sorrow is as big as the sea. The heart of Mary is afflicted and in anguish by a twofold love: the love of her Son, innocent and crucified, causes her an ineffable martyrdom; the love for the redeemed sinner inflicts upon her unparalleled pain. Just like a ship battered by opposing winds, she is tossed back and forth, and at the end stands still.

After following the trace of Jesus’ blood from a distance, her mind overwhelmed by sorrow at the thought of his pain, Mary makes her way out of the crowd and places herself facing him; she became both a viewer and a performer of the cruel event.

And now she ponders Jesus’ pains, contemplates the gashes, and reflects on the killing. A bundle of thorns pierces Mary’s mind.

Where the world’s ruin began from Eve, there, the reparation began by Christ, who, after tasting the bitterness of the wood of the cross, passed it to his Mother to taste.

She stood there as a Priestess, more than as a Mother, contributing by her pain to the sacrifice for us human beings.

Mary’s sufferings were increased by the fact that she could not be of any solace to Jesus. She suffered most when she saw Jesus’ final agony, after he had suffered for several hours.

Oh Mother! My sin is the sword that Simeon foretold. I pierce through two hearts when I sin: your soul and that of your Son.

You, angels of peace, were weeping while she stood firm at the sight of her Son: her eyes were pitiful, but full of great dignity; they were in pain, but without tears. When, in compassion for Jesus the Redeemer, the tears, as tiny drops heralding suffering, would appear on her pupils, her love for redeemed humanity would stop their flow down the cheeks. While Jesus’ love touched her heart, her love for us human beings held back her tears.

The eternal Father gave us his Son out of his excessive love for us; Mary gave her own Son to us out of tender benevolence.

RESPONSORY

cf. Lk 23:33; Jn 19:25; Lk 2:35

R. When they reached Calvary’s summit, they crucified him. * Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother.

V. The sword of sorrow pierced her soul.

R. Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother.

HYMN Te Deum

We praise you, O God; *

we acclaim you Lord and Master.

Everlasting Father, *

all the world bows down before you.

All the angels sing your praise, *
the hosts of heaven and all the angelic powers;
All the cherubim and seraphim *
call out to you in unending chorus:

Holy, holy, holy *
is the Lord God of angel hosts!
The heavens and the earth are filled, Lord, *
with your majesty and glory.

Your praises are sung *
by the renowned Apostles;
By all the prophets, *
who themselves deserve our praise;

By that mighty white-robed army *
who shed their blood for Christ.
And to the ends of the earth, *
the holy Church proclaims her faith in you:

Father, *
whose majesty is boundless;
Your only Son, *
who is true God and who is to be adored;

The Holy Spirit, *
sent to be our Advocate.
O Christ, the King of glory! *
You alone are the Father's eternal Son.

When you were to become man so as to save humankind, *
you did not shrink back from the chaste Virgin's womb.
When you triumphantly destroyed death's sting, *
you opened up to believers the kingdom of haven.

You are now enthroned at God's right hand, in the Father's glory: *
We believe that you will come for judgment.
We therefore implore you to grant your servants grace and aid, *
for you shed your precious blood for their redemption.

Admit them all to the ranks of your saints *
in everlasting glory.
Be their Shepherd, Lord, *
uphold and exalt them forever and ever.

Day by day we praise you, *
daily we acclaim you.
We will confess and glorify your hold name, *
now and for all eternity.

In your great mercy, Lord, throughout this day *
keep us free from sin by your protection.
Have mercy on us, we humbly pray; *
Lord, have mercy on us.

May your mercy, Lord, your loving-kindness, always remain with us; *
for we have placed our confidence in you.
In you alone, Lord, I have hoped; *
may I not be disappointed.

Prayer

Father most holy, who willed to associate Our Lady of Sorrows, Woman of the New Covenant, to the sacrifice of your Son; through the merits of his precious blood, grant, we pray, that your Church, born of Christ's pierced side, may always celebrate the memorial of his work of redemption with the love of our Mother Mary showed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Morning prayer

HYMN

At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last.

O sweet Mother! Font of love,
Touch my spirit from above,
Make my heart with yours accord.

Make me feel as you have felt;
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ, my Lord.

Holy Mother, pierce me through,
In my heart each wound renew
Of my Savior crucified.

Let me share with you his pain,
Who for all our sins was slain.
Who for me in torments died.

Let me mingle tears with you,
Mourning him who mourned for me,

All the days that I may live.

By the cross with you to stay,
There with you to weep and pray,
Is all I ask of you to give.

While my body here decays,
May my soul your goodness praise,
Safe in heaven eternally. Amen.

Or:

Clap your hands, all you peoples, *
Sing unto God with a voice of jubilation.

For the Lord high and mighty *
Has shown to us his mercy,

For he has not spared his own Son *
But has delivered him up in our behalf,

That we might be redeemed by his blood *
And freed from our sins;

That justified in his blood *
We might be saved from his wrath;

That we who were separated from him *
Might be reconciled through the blood of his Son.

O Lord, my God, what can I render unto you *
For all the good you have bestowed upon me?

I will take the chalice of salvation *
And I will call upon the power of this blood.

Sing to Jesus, all you saints, *
And make known the memory of his holiness.

For he has loved us and has washed us in his blood *
And he has become our helper and our redeemer.

Blessed forever be the blood of Christ *
Which has wrought such wonders in us.

Blessed be Jesus for all eternity, *
And may the heavens and the earth be filled with the glory of his blood.

Come, let us adore Christ the Son of God *
Who has redeemed us with his blood. Amen

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastic authority.

Ant. 1 On Calvary, Our Lady of Sorrows ushers us
into the nuptial feast of the New Covenant.

PSALM 63: 2-9 **A soul thirsting for God**

The Church thirsts for her Savior, yearning to drink at the fount of living water that springs up for eternal life. (Cf Cassiodorus).

O God, you are my God, for you I long; *
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you *
like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary *
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life, *
my lips will speak your praise.

So 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, *
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you. *
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help; *
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.

Ant. 1 On Calvary, Our Lady of Sorrows ushers us
into the nuptial feast of the New Covenant.

Ant. 2 With the Virgin Mary,
may all creatures of heaven and earth,
bless the Lord Jesus for the gift of redemption.

CANTICLE **Daniel 3: 57-88, 56** **Let all creatures praise the Lord**

Praise our God, all you his servants. (Rv 19:5)

Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise and exalt him above all forever.
Angels of the Lord, bless the Lord, *
you heavens, bless the Lord,

All you waters above the heavens, *

all you hosts of the Lord, bless the Lord;
sun and moon, bless the Lord; *
stars of heaven, bless the Lord;

every shower and dew, bless the Lord; *
all you winds, bless the Lord;
fire and heat, bless the Lord; *
cold and chill, bless the Lord;

dew and rain, bless the Lord; *
frost and chill, bless the Lord;
ice and snow, bless the Lord; *
nights and days, bless the Lord;

light and darkness, bless the Lord; *
lightning and clouds, bless the Lord;
let the earth bless the Lord, *
praise and exalt him above all forever.

Mountains and hills, bless the Lord; *
everything growing from the earth, bless the Lord;
you springs, bless the Lord; *
seas and rivers, bless the Lord;

you dolphins and all water creatures, bless the Lord; *
all you birds of the air, bless the Lord;
all you beasts, wild and tame, bless the Lord; *
you sons of men, bless the Lord;

O Israel, bless the Lord; *
praise and exalt him above all forever.
Priests of the Lord, bless the Lord; *
servants of the Lord, bless the Lord;
spirits and souls of the just, bless the Lord; *
holy men of humble heart, bless the Lord;
Hananiah, Azariah, Mishaël, bless the Lord; *
praise and exalt him above all forever.

Let us bless the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *
Let us praise and exalt him above all forever.
Blessed are you in the firmament of heaven, *
praiseworthy and glorious forever.

At the end of the canticle the Glory be to the Father is not said.

Ant. 2 With the Virgin Mary,
may all creatures of heaven and earth,
bless the Lord Jesus for the gift of redemption.

Ant. 3 With Mary, Woman of the New Covenant,
the Church raises hymns of praise to the Lord.

PSALM 149 The joy of God's holy people

Let the sons of the Church, the children of the new people, rejoice in Christ, their King (Hesychius).

Sing a new song to the Lord, *
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its maker, *
let Zion's sons exult in their king.

Let them praise his name with dancing *
and make music with timbrel and harp.
For the Lord takes delight in his people. *
He crowns the poor with salvation.

Let the faithful rejoice in their glory, *
shout for joy and take their rest.
Let the praise of God be on their lips *
and a two-edged sword in their hand,

to deal out vengeance to the nations *
and punishment on all the peoples;
to bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles in fetters of iron;

to carry out the sentence pre-ordained; *
this honor is for all his faithful.

Ant. 3 With Mary, Woman of the New Covenant,
the Church raises hymns of praise to the Lord.

READING

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation; namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

RESPONSORY

R The Cross of Christ * is the sign of reconciliation.
-- The Cross of Christ is the sign of reconciliation.
V. In the blood of the new covenant,
-- is the sign of reconciliation.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
-- The Cross of Christ is the sign of reconciliation.

Benedictus Ant. Blessed are you, Virgin Mary,
because you believed in Christ Jesus who visited and redeemed us.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old †
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

to give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

to shine on those who dwell in darkness and 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 ever shall be *
world without end. Amen

Benedictus Ant. Blessed are you, Virgin Mary,
because you believed in Christ Jesus who visited and redeemed us.

INTERCESSIONS

In union with Our Lady of Sorrows, Woman of the New Covenant, let us raise our prayers to the Lord Jesus, and ask:

Make us companions and witnesses of your life, Lord Jesus.

Lord Jesus, you call blessed those who listen to your word and observe it;

- grant that we, too, may savor it and keep it as a source of blessedness.

Lord Jesus, in your love you have called women and men to your discipleship;

- may the example of the Virgin Mary encourage many young people to follow you and share your saving mission.

Lord Jesus, by the deep sorrow that pierced your beloved Mother,

- with your presence, console all those burdened by suffering.

Lord Jesus, who joined your holy Mother to yourself in life and in glory,

- by her intercession, remember to your heavenly Father all those whom you have redeemed with your blood.

Our Father.

Prayer

Father most holy, who willed to associate Our Lady of Sorrows, Woman of the New Covenant, to the sacrifice of your Son; through the merits of his precious blood, grant, we pray, that your Church, born of Christ's pierced side, may always celebrate the memorial of his work of redemption with the love of our Mother Mary showed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Daytime prayer

Complementary psalmody. However, if the solemnity is celebrated on Sunday, the psalms are taken from Sunday, Week I.

Mid-morning

Ant. In holiness God created me;
He took me by my hand,
and redeemed me.

READING

Genesis 3:14a–15

The Lord said to the serpent: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel.”

V. The Virgin Mary, as a rose from thorns, is born from Eve.

R. So that the power of God might wipe out sin; and his grace, our guilt.

Midday

Ant. When they reached the summit of Calvary,
Jesus was crucified.

READING

Hebrews 5:7-9

In the days when he was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

V. Mother of Christ-God, a sword pierced your most holy soul

R. when you saw your Son and God voluntarily ascend the Cross.

Mid-afternoon

Ant. The Lord says to his mother:
Woman, behold your son!
And to the disciple: Behold your mother!

READING

9:17

Genesis

God said: This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all mortal creatures that are on the earth.

V. At the foot of the Cross, you appointed the Virgin Mary, Woman of the New Covenant,

R. reconciler of sinners.

Prayer

Father most holy, who willed to associate Our Lady of Sorrows, Woman of the New Covenant, to the sacrifice of your Son; through the merits of his precious blood, grant, we pray, that your Church, born of Christ's pierced side, may always celebrate the

memorial of his work of redemption with the love of our Mother Mary showed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Evening prayer II

HYMN

At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last.

Virgin of all virgins blest!
Listen to my fond request:
Let me share your grief divine.

Let me to my latest breath,
In my body bear the death
Of that dying Son of yours.

Wounded with his every wound,
Steep my soul till it has swooned
In his very blood away.

Be to me, O Virgin nigh,
Lest in flames I burn and die
In his awful judgment day.

Christ when you shall call me hence,
Be your mother my defense,
Be your cross my victory.

While my body here decays,
May my soul your goodness praise,
Safe in heaven eternally. Amen

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Ant. 1 In the blood of the Cross,
God has made you spouse and mother,
ever a virgin.

PSALM 122 Greeting to the Holy City of Jerusalem

You have approached Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22).

I rejoiced when they said to me, *
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”
And now our feet are standing *
within your gates, Jerusalem.

Jerusalem, built as a city, *
walled round about.

Here the tribes have come, the tribes of the Lord, †
as it was decreed for Israel, *
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

Here are the thrones of justice, *
the thrones of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: *
“May those who love you prosper!
May peace be within your ramparts, *
prosperity within your towers.”

For family and friends *
I say, “May peace be yours.”
For the house of the Lord, our God, *
I pray, “May blessings be yours.”

Ant. 1 In the blood of the Cross,
God has made you spouse and mother,
ever a virgin.

Ant. 2 You were the chosen one of God,
O Virgin Mary;
all peoples will praise you forever.

PSALM 127 All toil is useless without the Lord

Therefore, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth. You are God's field, God's building. (1 Corinthians 3:7,9)

Unless the Lord build the house, *
they labor in vain who build.
Unless the Lord guard the city, *
in vain does the guard keep watch.

It is vain for you to rise early *
and put off your rest at night,
To eat bread earned by hard toil-- *
all this God gives to his beloved in sleep.

Children too are a gift from the Lord, *

the fruit of the womb, a reward.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior *
are the children born in one's youth.

Blessed are they *
whose quivers are full.
They will never be shamed *
contending with foes at the gate.

Ant. 2 You were the chosen one of God,
O Virgin Mary;
all peoples will praise you forever.

Ant. 3 The beauty of your Son Jesus
has made you resplendent.

CANTICLE cf Ephesians 1:3-10

God our Savior

In the Virgin Mother, Christ has revealed to us the mystery of the Father.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, †
who has blessed us in Christ *
with every spiritual blessing in the heavens.

God chose us in him, †
before the foundation of the world, *
to be holy and without blemish before him.

In love he destined us †
for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, *
in accord with the favor of his will,
for the praise of the glory of his grace *
that he granted us in the beloved.

In Christ we have redemption by his blood, *
the forgiveness of transgressions,
in accord with the riches of his grace *
that he lavished upon us.

In all wisdom and insight †
God has made known to us the mystery of his will *
in accord with his favor that he set forth in him,
as a plan for the fullness of times, *
to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth.

Ant. 3 The beauty of your Son Jesus
has made you resplendent.

I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him.

RESPONSORY

- R. Mary was standing * near the cross of her Son.
-- Mary was standing near the cross of her Son.
V. She faced the martyrdom of her heart with strength,
-- near the cross of her Son.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
-- Mary was standing near the cross of her Son.

Magnificat Ant. We rejoice with you, Woman of the New Covenant;
through the Cross of your Son, death has been defeated.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; *
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; *
behold, from now on all ages will call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, *
and holy is his name.

His mercy is from age to age *
to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm, *
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones*
but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things; *
the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped Israel his servant, *
remembering his mercy,

according to his promise to our fathers, *
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Magnificat Ant. We rejoice with you, Woman of the New Covenant;
through the Cross of your Son, death has been defeated.

INTERCESSIONS

With Our Lady of Sorrows, let us look lovingly at the crucified Christ and pray to our heavenly Father saying:

Reveal to us, Father, the mysterious glory of the Cross.

God of love, in the blood of your Son, poured out on the Cross, you ratified the eternal covenant with your people,

- grant that we may live it as Mary did, faithful to your loving plan and in solidarity with all our sisters and brothers.

God of compassion, in view of Christ's Paschal Mystery, you preserved the Virgin Mary undefiled,

- keep us free from sin.

God of life, you strengthened Mary at the foot of the Cross and filled her with joy at the resurrection of her Son,

- support us amid the trials of life and strengthen us in hope.

God of peace, in the blood of your Son you reconciled humanity to yourself and restored harmony in creation,

- make us builders of peace, generous in service and solicitous in love.

God of kindness, through your Son, the sole Mediator, who died and rose for us,

- grant to our deceased brothers and sisters a share in the wedding feast of the Lamb.

Our Father.

Prayer

Father most holy, who willed to associate Our Lady of Sorrows, Woman of the New Covenant, to the sacrifice of your Son; through the merits of his precious blood, grant, we pray, that your Church, born of Christ's pierced side, may always celebrate the memorial of his work of redemption with the love of our Mother Mary showed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

October 21

**SAINT GASPAR DEL BUFALO, PRIEST
Founder of the Congregation of the
Missionaries of the Precious Blood**

**Solemnity for CPPS
Feast for ASC**

Gaspar del Bufalo was born in Rome on January 6, 1786. From his youth, motivated by apostolic zeal, he dedicated himself to the evangelization of the children of the needy, the people in the fields, the poor, the sick; with special attention to those languishing in hospices and hospitals. He became a priest of the clergy of Rome on July 31, 1808. During the Napoleonic upheavals, because of his loyalty to the Holy Father, he was exiled and then held in jail in the northern part of Italy. Returning to Rome after Napoleon's demise, at the request of Pius VII, he, along with a group of priests, dedicated himself to the renewal of the clergy and the Christian faithful through popular missions and spiritual exercises. Imbued with a deep devotion to the blood of Christ and intending to apply more efficaciously the fruits of redemption to souls, in 1815 he founded the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood. His preaching bore fruit even in the lower part of the Lazio region plagued by banditry. With his advice, he inspired and encouraged Maria de Mattias to found the Congregation of the Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ.

Evening prayer I

HYMN

In grateful jubilation, O Father, we praise you:
You are our light and guide to heaven;
Every follower, O blessed Gaspar,
In you confides.

You made the ardent soul spotless
In the divine blood of the Lamb.
From the meek, crucified Nazarene,
You drew strength.

The wicked and treacherous, Gaspar,
you brought to gentle tears.
You happily pointed the way to Christ,
the joy of our life.

Driven by infinite charity,
by the mystical bloodless sacrifice
you yearn to be fed, to imitate God
who became our food.

At your voice, how many vile, unworthy,
wicked and corrupt ones repented,
and from the Cross received
hidden bursts of love!

O glorious one, from your celestial honors,
fill your children from your bounty.
May they bring to an oppressed world
Living gifts of salvation.

O kind Father, Redeemer Son,
Holy Spirit, fount of all life,
to you be eternal praise, adoration,
and infinite glory. Amen

Ant.1 At all times and everywhere
may the Lord be blessed and loved.

PSALM 113 Give praise to the name of the Lord

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly (Luke1:52).

Praise, you servants of the Lord, *
praise the name of the Lord.
Blessed be the name of the Lord *
both now and forever.

From the rising of the sun to its setting *
let the name of the Lord be praised.
High above all nations is the Lord; *
above the heavens God's glory.

Who is like the Lord, our God enthroned on high, *
looking down on heaven and earth?

The Lord raises the needy from the dust, *
lifts the poor from the ash heap,
Seats them with princes, *
the princes of the people,

Gives the childless wife a home, *
the joyful mother of children.

Ant.1 At all times and everywhere
may the Lord be blessed and loved.

Ant. 2 May our hearts be fixed on God,
our all.

PSALM 146 Blessed are they who hope in the Lord

Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them (Matthew 11:5).

Praise the Lord, my soul; *
I shall praise the Lord all my life, †
sing praise to my God while I live.

I put no trust in princes, *
in mere mortals powerless to save.
When they breathe their last, they return to the earth; *
that day all their planning comes to nothing.

Happy those whose help is Jacob's God, *
whose hope is in the Lord, their God,
The maker of heaven and earth, *
the seas and all that is in them,

Who keeps faith forever, *
secures justice for the oppressed, †
gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets prisoners free; *
the Lord gives sight to the blind.
The Lord raises up those who are bowed down; *
the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord protects the stranger, †
sustains the orphan and the widow, *
but thwarts the way of the wicked.

The Lord shall reign forever, *
your God, Zion, through all generations!

Ant. 2 May our hearts be fixed on God,
our all.

Ant. 3 Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb,
we sing the praise of the Church to the Father.

CANTICLE cf. Ephesians 1, 3-10 **God our Savior**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, †
who has blessed us in Christ *
with every spiritual blessing in the heavens.

God chose us in him, †
before the foundation of the world, *

to be holy and without blemish before him.

In love he destined us †
for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, *
in accord with the favor of his will,
for the praise of the glory of his grace *
that he granted us in the beloved.

In Christ we have redemption by his blood, *
the forgiveness of transgressions,
in accord with the riches of his grace *
that he lavished upon us.

In all wisdom and insight †
God has made known to us the mystery of his will *
in accord with his favor that he set forth in him,
as a plan for the fullness of times, *
to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth.

Ant. 3 Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb,
we sing the praise of the Church to the Father.

READING
5

2 Timothy 4:1-2,

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching. But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry.

RESPONSORY

1 Corinthians 4:1

R. Thus should one regard us: as servants of Christ * and stewards of the mysteries of God.
-- Thus should one regard us: as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
V. We have become ministers of the gospel
-- and stewards of the mysteries of God.
Glory be to the Father....
-- Thus should one regard us: as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

Magnificat Ant. Let us exalt the Lamb of God with the saints:
He has prepared for us a kingdom from the foundation of the world.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; *
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; *
behold, from now on all ages will call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, *
and holy is his name.

His mercy is from age to age *
to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm, *
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones*
but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things; *
the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped Israel his servant, *
remembering his mercy,

according to his promise to our fathers, *
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Magnificat Ant. Let us exalt the Lamb of God with the saints:
He has prepared for us a kingdom from the foundation of the world

INTERCESSIONS

God has reconciled us to himself through the blood of Christ. In the power of this blood and through the intercession of Saint Gaspar, let us present our prayers as we say:

Save your people, O Lord.

Lord Jesus, at the foot of the cross we raise the cry of the victims of injustice:

- by the power of your blood, give them courage.

Lord Jesus, at the foot of the cross we raise the cry of those in search of a country, a home and work:

- by the power of your blood, sustain them.

Lord Jesus, at the foot of the cross we raise the cry of prisoners, of refugees, of immigrants and of slaves everywhere:

- by the love of your blood, give them hope.

Lord Jesus, at the foot of the cross we raise the cry of the suffering, the sick, the lonely and misunderstood:

- by your restoring blood, heal their sufferings.

Lord Jesus, at the foot of the cross we raise the cry of all those who live in areas plagued by war, instability and poverty:

- by your peace-bearing blood, reconcile us to God and nation to nation.

Lord Jesus, at the foot of the cross we raise our prayer for all the departed:

- may they celebrate with you the banquet of life without end.

Our Father.

Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, who gave us an ardent witness of love for your divinity and for our neighbour in Saint Gaspar del Bufalo, priest and dedicated missionary of the Precious Blood of Christ; through his intercession, listen to the voice of the blood of your Son which daily rises to you from the earth in the painful cry of suffering humanity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Office of readings

Invitatory

Ant. On the feast of Saint Gaspar, come everyone:
let us praise the Lord, our eternal salvation.

PSALM 95 **Invitation to praise God**
Encourage yourself daily while it is still "today" (Heb 3:13).

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
and shout with joy to the Rock who saves us.
Let us approach him with praise and thanksgiving, *
and sing joyful songs to the Lord. **(Ant.)**

The Lord is God, the mighty God, *
the great king over all the gods.
He holds in his hands the depths of the earth *
and the highest mountains as well.
He made the sea; it belongs to him, *
the dry land, too, for it was formed by his hands. **(Ant.)**

Come, then, let us bow down and worship, *
bending the knee before the Lord, our maker.
For he is our God and we are his people, *
the flock he shepherds. **(Ant.)**

Today, listen to the voice of the Lord: Do not grow stubborn, *
as your fathers did in the wilderness, †

when at Meriba and Massah
they challenged me and provoked me, *
Although they had seen all of my works. (Ant.)

Forty years I endured that generation; †
I said: "They are a people whose hearts go astray *
and they do not know my ways."
So I swore in my anger, *
"They shall not enter into my rest." (Ant.)

Glory to the Father and to the Son *
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever will be. Amen (Ant.)

Alternative Invitatory Psalms: 100, 67, 24

HYMN

Your sons rejoice
on this holy day:
may they imitate you in works,
and exalt you in song.

Tenacious, brave apostle,
you were guide to Heaven:
may your followers radiate in the world
the light of the Gospel.

Faithful admirer
of the noble Xavier,
you became a missionary,
a herald of Love.

Wherever your blazing
words resounded,
the depraved and impenitent
to Christ returned.

May the Blood most precious,
That saved us from evil,
refresh our spirit
with immortal bliss.

We praise the Father on high,
The Redeemer Son,
And the Spirit Paraclete:
The one only God of Love. Amen.

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastic authority.

Ant.1 We place our life at the service of the Lord,
certain of his fidelity.

PSALM 21, 2-8. 14 In thanksgiving for the victory of the Messiah-King

Lord, the king finds joy in your power; *
in your victory how greatly he rejoices!
You have granted him his heart's desire; *
you did not refuse the prayer of his lips.

For you welcomed him with goodly blessings; *
you placed on his head a crown of pure gold.
He asked life of you; you gave it to him, *
length of days forever.

Great is his glory in your victory; *
majesty and splendor you confer upon him.
You make him the pattern of blessings forever, *
you gladden him with the joy of your presence.

For the king trusts in the Lord, *
stands firm through the love of the Most High.
Arise, Lord, in your power! *
We will sing and chant the praise of your might.

Ant. 1 We place our life at the service of the Lord,
certain of his fidelity.

Ant. 2 Blessed are those who seek God with a sincere heart
and who love him for ever.

PSALM 92 Praise the creator Lord
I (1-9)

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, *
to sing praise to your name, Most High,

To proclaim your love in the morning, *
your faithfulness in the night,
With the ten-stringed harp, *
with melody upon the lyre.

For you make me jubilant, Lord, by your deeds; *
at the works of your hands I shout for joy.

How great are your works, Lord! *
How profound your purpose!

A senseless person cannot know this; *
a fool cannot comprehend.

Though the wicked flourish like grass *
and all sinners thrive,
They are destined for eternal destruction; *
for you, Lord, are forever on high.

Ant. 2 Blessed are those who seek God with a sincere heart
and who love him for ever.

Ant. 3 In the blood of Christ we will bring abundant fruits
for our God and Father.

II (10-16)

Indeed your enemies, Lord, †
indeed your enemies shall perish;
all sinners shall be scattered.

You have given me the strength of a wild bull; *
you have poured rich oil upon me.

My eyes look with glee on my wicked enemies; *
my ears delight in the fall of my foes.

The just shall flourish like the palm tree, *
shall grow like a cedar of Lebanon.
Planted in the house of the Lord, *
they shall flourish in the courts of our God.

They shall bear fruit even in old age, *
always vigorous and sturdy,
As they proclaim: “The Lord is just; *
our rock, in whom there is no wrong.”

Ant. 3 In the blood of Christ we will bring abundant fruits
for our God and Father.

V. The Lamb upon the throne will take care of them
R. And will lead them to the source of living waters.

FIRST READING

From the Book of Revelation of Saint John, the apostle.
14

Revelation 5:1-

The vision of the Lamb

I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who sat on the throne. It had writing on both sides and was sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a mighty angel who proclaimed in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to examine it.

I shed many tears because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to examine it. One of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. The lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has triumphed, enabling him to open the scroll with its seven seals.

Then I saw standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and the elders, a Lamb that seemed to have been slain. He had seven horns and seven eyes; these are the (seven) spirits of God sent out into the whole world. He came and received the scroll from the right hand of the one who sat on the throne. When he took it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each of the elders held a harp and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones. They sang a new hymn: "Worthy are you to receive the scroll and to break open its seals, for you were slain and with your blood you purchased for God those from every tribe and tongue, people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests for our God, and they will reign on earth."

I looked again and heard the voices of many angels who surrounded the throne and the living creatures and the elders. They were countless in number, and they cried out in a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing."

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, everything in the universe, cry out:

"To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor, glory and might, forever and ever."

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, everything in the universe, cry out: "To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor, glory and might, forever and ever."

The four living creatures answered, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

RESPONSORY

Revelation 4:8, 7:10

R. They cried out in a loud voice: * "Salvation comes from our God and from the Lamb."

V. "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty."

R. "Salvation comes from our God and from the Lamb."

SECOND READING

From the writings of Saint Gaspar del Bufalo, priest

(Circular letter, Spiritual exercises of 1835)

Who is the Missionary of the Most Precious Blood?

What is a missionary? He is a man who, spiritually dead to everything which could hinder the purpose of the ministry and his holy vocation, lives in union with God and for his glory alone: *For to me life is Christ*. He is a man who nourishes himself with no other food than with the heavenly food to which the sacred text refers: *My food is to do the will of the one who sent me*. He thirsts after justice and sanctity: *Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness*. His heart, animated by the heavenly fire of the love of God, is pierced and moved when he sees that men do not love God: *Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is led to sin, and I am not indignant?*

So, now, let us consider how we ought to examine ourselves in these days on the things that we have mentioned up to this point, so that we might renew within ourselves the fervor of that type of life which confirms what Jesus once said to his apostles: *And you also testify. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus*. By this self-examination, we will come to realize better how our Society provides us with these means through which we are to advance toward a more and more vigorous life of virtue - withdrawal from the world, recollection, silence, examination of conscience, and all the other means enumerated in our "*Practices*". These means, indeed, do develop a strengthening of the Spirit and the progress to be made in reaching perfection! *They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles' wings; They will run and not grow weary*.

This interior cultivation of the Spirit lays the foundation for the exterior life of the ministry. We are ordained to perform duties towards God, towards our Society, and towards our neighbor. In each one of us, the words of the Lord should be verified when he speaks of the just man who seeks always to advance and mature in holiness: *Happy are those... whose hearts are set on pilgrim roads. As they pass through the Baca valley, they find spring water to drink*.

May we diligently keep these few sentiments in our hearts and let them be deeply imprinted there. Let us imitate the Blessed Virgin Mary, who cherished the words of our blessed Savior, for she was *the very mirror of sanctity who kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart*. After Jesus, may our good Mother be our guide and teacher, our prototype and model. In a spirit of deep humility, let us listen to and cherish those teachings of God which are given in the sacred passages quoted above. May our hearts be filled with those holy desires which bring about a most intimate union with the highest Good. May he always direct our tongue in announcing the eternal truths to the people: *My heart is stirred by a noble theme ... Lord, open my lips*. May our lips, then, be closed for this reason: *I will listen for the word of God; surely the Lord will proclaim peace to his people*. Notice! First, I myself must listen, so that I, then, may be listened to by the people. With the grace of God and in accordance with each one's capacity, there will be realized both in me and in the others that very system of peace which establishes the kingdom of God firmly in our hearts: *I will listen for the word of God*.

RESPONSORY

R. The missionary lives only * for God and for his glory;

V. he gives himself totally to others,
R for God and for his glory.

HYMN Te Deum

We praise you, O God; *
we acclaim you Lord and Master.
Everlasting Father, *
all the world bows down before you.

All the angels sing your praise, *
the hosts of heaven and all the angelic powers;
All the cherubim and seraphim *
call out to you in unending chorus:

Holy, holy, holy *
is the Lord God of angel hosts!
The heavens and the earth are filled, Lord, *
with your majesty and glory.

Your praises are sung *
by the renowned Apostles;
By all the prophets, *
who themselves deserve our praise;

By that mighty white-robed army *
who shed their blood for Christ.
And to the ends of the earth, *
the holy Church proclaims her faith in you:

Father, *
whose majesty is boundless;
Your only Son, *
who is true God and who is to be adored;

The Holy Spirit, *
sent to be our Advocate.
O Christ, the King of glory! *
You alone are the Father's eternal Son.

When you were to become man so as to save humankind, *
you did not shrink back from the chaste Virgin's womb.
When you triumphantly destroyed death's sting, *
you opened up to believers the kingdom of haven.

You are now enthroned at God's right hand, in the Father's glory: *
We believe that you will come for judgment.
We therefore implore you to grant your servants grace and aid, *
for you shed your precious blood for their redemption.

Admit them all to the ranks of your saints *
in everlasting glory.
Be their Shepherd, Lord, *
uphold and exalt them forever and ever.

Day by day we praise you, *
daily we acclaim you.
We will confess and glorify your hold name, *
now and for all eternity.

In your great mercy, Lord, throughout this day *
keep us free from sin by your protection.
Have mercy on us, we humbly pray; *
Lord, have mercy on us.

May your mercy, Lord, your loving-kindness, always remain with us; *
for we have placed our confidence in you.
In you alone, Lord, I have hoped; *
may I not be disappointed.

Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, who gave us an ardent witness of love for your divinity and for our neighbour in Saint Gaspar del Bufalo, priest and dedicated missionary of the Precious Blood of Christ; through his intercession, listen to the voice of the blood of your Son which daily rises to you from the earth in the painful cry of suffering humanity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Morning prayer

HYMN

I saw a man, sent by God,
shouting in the land of death:
“Come back to life! Open wide the doors
to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

“Come back to life, you are worth a treasure!
The Blood of Christ is your price!
In his name”, he says, “I break
the chains that enslave you.”

“Away with the weapons, away with hate.
May Love win in every dispute!
One sole Covenant, one Church
Jesus founded in his blood!”

“A thousand tongues I would like to possess,
a thousand lives to live and to sacrifice!
May I my blood, my suffering
Give back to the loving Lord!”

Let us joyfully acclaim your name:
Father, Son, Holy Spirit:
To you be glory forever, O Lord,
In your kingdom that has no end. Amen

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastic authority.

Ant. 1 Let us rekindle our intimacy with the Lord,
the only delight of our hearts.

PSALM 63: 2-9 A soul thirsting for God

The Church thirsts for her Savior, yearning to drink at the fount of living water that springs up for eternal life. (Cf Cassiodorus).

O God, you are my God, for you I long; *
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you *
like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary *
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life, *
my lips will speak your praise.

So 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, *
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you. *
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help; *
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.

Ant. 1 Let us rekindle our intimacy with the Lord,
the only delight of our hearts

Ant. 2 Let us give thanks to God
and let us bless him along with all the creatures.

CANTICLE Daniel 3: 57-88, 56 Let all creatures praise the Lord

Praise our God, all you his servants. (Rv 19:5)

Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise and exalt him above all forever.
Angels of the Lord, bless the Lord, *
you heavens, bless the Lord,

All you waters above the heavens, *
all you hosts of the Lord, bless the Lord;
sun and moon, bless the Lord; *
stars of heaven, bless the Lord;

every shower and dew, bless the Lord; *
all you winds, bless the Lord;
fire and heat, bless the Lord; *
cold and chill, bless the Lord;

dew and rain, bless the Lord; *
frost and chill, bless the Lord;
ice and snow, bless the Lord; *
nights and days, bless the Lord;

light and darkness, bless the Lord; *
lightning and clouds, bless the Lord;
let the earth bless the Lord, *
praise and exalt him above all forever.

Mountains and hills, bless the Lord; *
everything growing from the earth, bless the Lord;
you springs, bless the Lord; *
seas and rivers, bless the Lord;

you dolphins and all water creatures, bless the Lord; *
all you birds of the air, bless the Lord;
all you beasts, wild and tame, bless the Lord; *
you sons of men, bless the Lord;

O Israel, bless the Lord; *
praise and exalt him above all forever.
Priests of the Lord, bless the Lord; *
servants of the Lord, bless the Lord;
spirits and souls of the just, bless the Lord; *
holy men of humble heart, bless the Lord;
Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael, bless the Lord; *
praise and exalt him above all forever.

Let us bless the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *
Let us praise and exalt him above all forever.
Blessed are you in the firmament of heaven, *

praiseworthy and glorious forever.

At the end of the canticle the Glory be to the Father is not said.

Ant. 2 Let us give thanks to God
and let us bless him along with all the creatures

Ant. 3 Praise and thanksgiving be evermore to Jesus
who with his blood has saved us.

PSALM 149 The joy of God's holy people

Let the sons of the Church, the children of the new people, rejoice in Christ, their King (Hesychius).

Sing a new song to the Lord, *
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its maker, *
let Zion's sons exult in their king.

Let them praise his name with dancing *
and make music with timbrel and harp.
For the Lord takes delight in his people. *
He crowns the poor with salvation.

Let the faithful rejoice in their glory, *
shout for joy and take their rest.
Let the praise of God be on their lips *
and a two-edged sword in their hand,

to deal out vengeance to the nations *
and punishment on all the peoples;
to bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles in fetters of iron;

to carry out the sentence pre-ordained; *
this honor is for all his faithful.

Ant. 3 Praise and thanksgiving be evermore to Jesus
who with his blood has saved us.

READING
2

Hebrews 12, 1-

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God.

RESPONSORY

- R.** Let us remain firm in the work undertaken, * keeping our gaze on Jesus.
-- Let us remain firm in the work undertaken, keeping our gaze on Jesus.
V. Being careful that no one disregards the grace of God,
-- and keeping our gaze on Jesus.
R. Glory be to the Father and to the Holy Spirit.
-- Let us remain firm in the work undertaken, keeping our gaze on Jesus.

Benedictus Ant. Let us serve the Lord with joy:
who in his kindness has visited and redeemed us.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old †
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

to give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

to shine on those who dwell in darkness and 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 ever shall be *
world without end. Amen

Benedictus Ant. Let us serve the Lord with joy:
who in his kindness has visited and redeemed us.

INTERCESSIONS

To Jesus, who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, in true faith let us ask:
Grant us, O Lord, the power of your Blood.

Lord Jesus, you chose to live a family life:

- by the intercession of Saint Gaspar, educated by saintly parents, may every family, as a small domestic church, foster your peace and live in your grace.

Lord Jesus, you want to be acknowledged in the poor and in the marginalized:

- by the intercession of Saint Gaspar, raise authentic missionaries who will serve you in the needy, everywhere in the world.

Lord Jesus, your word offers hope to prisoners:

- by the intercession of Saint Gaspar, jailed and exiled, grant us the opportunity to lift up those who are denied a country and freedom, to be made worthy to share in the victory of the Lamb.

Lord Jesus, sent as missionary by the Father to announce the Word:

- by the intercession of Saint Gaspar, make all missionaries, catechists, collaborators, inflamed by your Spirit, witnesses of your future kingdom.

Lord Jesus, you endured our sins in your body:

- by the intercession of Saint Gaspar, give us strength in trials, patience in suffering, perseverance in witnessing to your mercy.

Our Father.

Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, who gave us an ardent witness of love for your divinity and for our neighbour in Saint Gaspar del Bufalo, priest and dedicated missionary of the Precious Blood of Christ; through his intercession, listen to the voice of the blood of your Son which daily rises to you from the earth in the painful cry of suffering humanity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Daytime prayer

Complementary psalmody. However, if the solemnity is celebrated on Sunday, the psalms are taken from Sunday, Week I.

Mid-morning

Ant. May the blood of Christ be our consolation in life,
our hope in heaven.

READING

Revelation 4:11

Worthy are you, Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things; because of your will they came to be and were created.

V. Amen! Honor, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving,
R. honor, power and might to our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Midday

Ant. The Lord Jesus is total goodness and love.
To give us his life he allowed himself to be crucified.

READING

5:9-10

Revelation

Worthy are you to receive the scroll and to break open its seals, for you were slain and with your blood you purchased for God those from every tribe and tongue, people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests for our God, and they will reign on earth.

V. Worthy is the Lamb to receive glory,
R. honor and blessings.

Mid-afternoon

Ant. The blood of the Son of God
heals, sanctifies and gives life.

READING

Revelation 21:5-7

The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Then he said, "Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true." He said to me, "They are accomplished. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son."

V. The Lamb who sits on the throne will be their shepherd,
R. who will lead them to the springs of the living water.

Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, who gave us an ardent witness of love for your divinity and for our neighbour in Saint Gaspar del Bufalo, priest and dedicated missionary of the Precious Blood of Christ; through his intercession, listen to the voice of the blood of your Son which daily rises to you from the earth in the painful cry of suffering humanity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Evening prayer II

HYMN

In grateful jubilation, O Father, we praise you:
You are our light and guide to heaven;
Every follower, O blessed Gaspar,
In you confides.

You made the ardent soul spotless
In the divine blood of the Lamb.
From the meek, crucified Nazarene,
You drew strength.

The wicked and treacherous, Gaspar,
you brought to gentle tears.
You happily pointed the way to Christ,
the joy of our life.

Driven by infinite charity,
by the mystical bloodless sacrifice
you yearn to be fed, to imitate God
who became our food.

At your voice, how many vile, unworthy,
wicked and corrupt ones repented,
and from the Cross received
hidden bursts of love!

O glorious one, from your celestial honors,
fill your children from your bounty.
May they bring to an oppressed world
Living gifts of salvation.

O kind Father, Redeemer Son,
Holy Spirit, fount of all life,
to you be eternal praise, adoration,
and infinite glory. Amen

Or another hymn or song approved by the ecclesiastic authority.

Ant. 1 God's love for us
allows us to abide in him.

PSALM 15 Who is worthy to stand before the Lord?

You have approached Mount Zion and the city of the living God (Hebrews 12: 22).

Lord, who may abide in your tent? *
Who may dwell on your holy mountain?
Whoever walks without blame, *
doing what is right, speaking truth from the heart;

Who does not slander a neighbor, *
does no harm to another, never defames a friend;

Who disdains the wicked, *
but honors those who fear the Lord;
Who keeps an oath despite the cost, †
lends no money at interest, *
accepts no bribe against the innocent.

Whoever acts like this *
shall never be shaken.

Ant. 1 God's love for us
allows us to abide in him.

Ant. 2 Blessed are we when we conduct ourselves
with a merciful heart.

PSALM 112 Beatitudes of the just

Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth (Ephesians 5:8-9).

Happy are those who fear the Lord, *
who greatly delight in God's commands.
Their descendants shall be mighty in the land, *
generation upright and blessed.

Wealth and riches shall be in their homes; *
their prosperity shall endure forever.
They shine through the darkness, a light for the upright; *
they are gracious, merciful, and just.

All goes well for those gracious in lending, *
who conduct their affairs with justice.
They shall never be shaken; *
the just shall be remembered forever.

They shall not fear an ill report; *
their hearts are steadfast, trusting the Lord.
Their hearts are tranquil, without fear, *
till at last they look down on their foes.

Lavishly they give to the poor; †
their prosperity shall endure forever; *
their horn shall be exalted in honor.

The wicked shall be angry to see this; †
they will gnash their teeth and waste away; *
the desires of the wicked come to nothing.

Ant. 2 Blessed are we when we conduct ourselves
with a merciful heart.

Ant. 3 Adoration, praise and charity:
this is our thanksgiving hymn to the Father.

CANTICLE **Revelation 15:3-4** **Hymn of adoration and praise**

Great and wonderful are your works, †
Lord God almighty. *
Just and true are your ways, O king of the nations.

Who will not fear you, Lord, †
or glorify your name? *
For you alone are holy.

All the nations will come †
and worship before you, *
for your righteous acts have been revealed.

Ant. 3 Adoration, praise and charity:
this is our thanksgiving hymn to the Father.

READING
5:17-20

2 Corinthians

So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

RESPONSORY

R. Let us present ourselves as ministers of God, * in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love.

-- Let us present ourselves as ministers of God, in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love.

V. In all truth, and in the power of God.

-- in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

-- Let us present ourselves as ministers of God, in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love.

Magnificat Ant Rejoice, O Saint Gaspar, in the Lamb of God: he has prepared for you a kingdom from the foundation of the world.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; *
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; *
behold, from now on all ages will call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, *
and holy is his name.

His mercy is from age to age *
to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm, *
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones*
but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things; *
the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped Israel his servant, *
remembering his mercy,

according to his promise to our fathers, *
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Magnificat Ant Rejoice, O Saint Gaspar, in the Lamb of God: he has prepared for you a kingdom from the foundation of the world.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us bless the Lord Jesus, who shed his blood for our salvation at the closing of the day. In union with Saint Gaspar, let us present our petitions to the Father, thanking him for redeeming us in the blood of Christ:

Praise and thanksgiving be evermore to Jesus, who with his blood has saved us.

For the glory of your holy name, for the coming of your kingdom and for the salvation of the whole world:

- we offer you, Father, the blood of Jesus.

For the spread of the Church, for our Pope N., bishops, priests, deacons, religious men and women, and for the sanctification of all your people.

- we offer you, Father, the blood of Jesus.

For the conversion of sinners, for the loving acceptance of your word and for unity among Christians

- we offer you, Father, the blood of Jesus.

For the civil authorities, for the strengthening of public morals and for peace and justice among nations:

- we offer you, Father, the blood of Jesus.

For the sanctification of our work, for the poor, the sick and the afflicted, and for all who rely on our prayers:

- we offer you, Father, the blood of Jesus.

For our special needs both spiritual and temporal, for those of our relatives, friends and benefactors, and also for those of our enemies:

- we offer you, Father, the blood of Jesus.

For those who are to die today, for the faithful departed, and for our final union in the glory of the Lamb:

- we offer you, Father, the blood of Jesus.

Our Father.

Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, who gave us an ardent witness of love for your divinity and for our neighbour in Saint Gaspar del Bufalo, priest and dedicated missionary of the Precious Blood of Christ; through his intercession, listen to the voice of the blood of your Son which daily rises to you from the earth in the painful cry of suffering humanity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

December 3

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST

**Feast for CPPS
Memorial for ASC**

Born in 1506 in Navarre (Spain), he came to know Saint Ignatius of Loyola while at the Sorbonne University of Paris. Ordained a priest in 1537 in Venice, he began his ministry in Rome. At the request of the King of Portugal, in 1541 he was sent a missionary to India; he began the journey with a crucifix, a breviary and a few personal belongings. At Goa he began his ministry for the sick, the poor and young people who called him the “big Father.” He managed to face all difficulties believing that “trust in God is a good antidote.” He went to Japan as well, where, with no knowledge of the language and customs, converted a small group of people to whom he referred as the “delight of my soul.” His dream to evangelize China vanished due to his death, in 1552 on the island of Sancian, while he was waiting to embark. In 1622, Pope Gregory XV declared him a saint. Saint Gaspar del Bufalo, preserved from blindness in his infancy through the intercession of Saint Francis, nourished such a devotion toward the great missionary as to make him his life’s model and patron of his missionary congregation. Saint Maria De Mattias also wanted “the glorious Saint Francis Xavier Protector of her Institute”, as she wrote in the Rules of 1838 and 1857. The Adorers of the Blood of Christ continue to nourish a filial devotion and to invoke him as their Patron.

Office of readings

Invitatory

Ant. On the feast of Saint Francis Xavier,
Come, let us adore the Lord Jesus, light of the people.

PSALM 95 **Invitation to praise God**

Encourage yourself daily while it is still “today” (Heb 3:13).

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
and shout with joy to the Rock who saves us.
Let us approach him with praise and thanksgiving, *
and sing joyful songs to the Lord. **(Ant.)**

The Lord is God, the mighty God, *
the great king over all the gods.
He holds in his hands the depths of the earth *
and the highest mountains as well.
He made the sea; it belongs to him, *

the dry land, too, for it was formed by his hands. (Ant.)

Come, then, let us bow down and worship, *
bending the knee before the Lord, our maker.
For he is our God and we are his people, *
the flock he shepherds. (Ant.)

Today, listen to the voice of the Lord: Do not grow stubborn, *
as your fathers did in the wilderness, †
when at Meriba and Massah
they challenged me and provoked me, *
Although they had seen all of my works. (Ant.)

Forty years I endured that generation; †
I said: “They are a people whose hearts go astray *
and they do not know my ways.”
So I swore in my anger, *
“They shall not enter into my rest.” (Ant.)

Glory to the Father and to the Son *
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever will be. Amen (Ant.)

Alternative Invitatory Psalms: 100, 67, 24

HYMN

Wheat of Christ are we
grown under the sun of God,
kneaded in the water of the fount,
marked by the divine chrism.

Transform us into bread, O Father,
for the sacrament of peace;
one Bread, one Spirit, one Body,
the One and Holy Church, O Lord.

O Christ, glorious shepherd,
to you be power and honor
with the Father and the Holy Spirit
for ever and ever. Amen.

Or another appropriate hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Ant. 1 Tell all people: the Lord reigns!

PSALM 21:2-8. 14 Thanksgiving for the victory of the King-Messiah

Lord, the king finds joy in your power; *

in your victory how greatly he rejoices!
You have granted him his heart's desire; *
you did not refuse the prayer of his lips.

For you welcomed him with goodly blessings; *
you placed on his head a crown of pure gold.
He asked life of you; you gave it to him, *
length of days forever.

Great is his glory in your victory; *
majesty and splendor you confer upon him.
You make him the pattern of blessings forever, *
you gladden him with the joy of your presence.

For the king trusts in the Lord, *
stands firm through the love of the Most High.
Arise, Lord, in your power! *
We will sing and chant the praise of your might.

Ant. 1 Tell all people: the Lord reigns!

Ant. 2 To live for God is my delight;
my joy is to tell his wonders.

PSALM 92 Praise to the creator
I (1-9)

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, *
to sing praise to your name, Most High,

To proclaim your love in the morning, *
your faithfulness in the night,
With the ten-stringed harp, *
with melody upon the lyre.

For you make me jubilant, Lord, by your deeds; *
at the works of your hands I shout for joy.

How great are your works, Lord! *
How profound your purpose!
A senseless person cannot know this; *
a fool cannot comprehend.

Though the wicked flourish like grass *
and all sinners thrive,
They are destined for eternal destruction; *
For you, Lord, are forever on high.

Ant. 2 To live for God is my delight;

my joy is to recount his wonders.

Ant. 3 Our strength is in the blood of Jesus;
our life is in his mercy.

II (10-16)

Indeed your enemies, Lord, †
indeed your enemies shall perish; *
all sinners shall be scattered.

You have given me the strength of a wild bull; *
you have poured rich oil upon me.

My eyes look with glee on my wicked enemies; *
my ears delight in the fall of my foes.

The just shall flourish like the palm tree, *
they shall flourish in the courts of our God.
shall grow like a cedar of Lebanon.
Planted in the house of the Lord, *

They shall bear fruit even in old age, *
always vigorous and sturdy,
As they proclaim: “The Lord is just; *
our rock, in whom there is no wrong.”

Ant. 3 Our strength is in the blood of Jesus;
our life is in his mercy.

R. You will receive the word from my mouth,
V. and you will relate it to your people.

FIRST READING

From the Acts of the Apostles

10:34-48a

Even the pagans have received the gift of the Holy Spirit

Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and

testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

While Peter was still speaking these things, the holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word. The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God. Then Peter responded, “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit even as we have?” He ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

RESPONSORY

Acts 12:24; 13:48,52

- R. The word of God continued to spread and grow. * All who were destined for eternal life came to believe.
- V. The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.
- R. All who were destined for eternal life came to believe.

SECOND READING

From the letters of Saint Francis Xavier, priest, to Saint Ignatius

(20 October and 15 January 1544: Letters of St. Francis Xavier and other writings, vol. I, ed G. Schurhammer - I. Wicki, Mon. Hist. Soc. Iesu, vol. 67, Romae 1944, pp 147-148; 166-167)

Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel

We have covered the villages of the neophytes, who a few years ago had received the Christian sacraments. This zone is not inhabited by the Portuguese, because extremely sterile and poor, and the aboriginal Christians, deprived of clergymen, do not know anything other than that they are Christian. No one is here to celebrate the sacred functions, no one to teach them the Creed, the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Commandments of the divine law.

Therefore since I arrived here I have not stopped a moment; I cover with assiduousness the villages, I administer baptism to the children who have not yet received it. Therefore I have saved a very great number of children, who, as is said, did not know how to distinguish the right hand from the left. Children then do not leave me to say the Divine Office, nor to take food, nor to rest until I have taught them some prayer; then I began to understand that to them the reign of heaven belongs.

Therefore, not being able without impiety reject a just need, beginning from the confession of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, I taught them the apostolic Symbol, the Our Father and the Hail Mary. I became aware that they are intelligent, and if someone was here to instruct them in the Christian faith, I do not doubt that they would become very good Christians.

Very many, in these places, do not become Christians only because no one is here to make them Christians. Very often it comes to my mind to cover the Universities of Europe, especially the one of Paris, and to scream here and there as a crazy one and to

shake those who have more science than charity with these words: Alas, what a great number of people, for your fault, become excluded from heaven and forced to hell!

Oh! if these, as they take care of learning, would give thought also of this, to be able to render account to God of science and the talents received!

In truth very many of them, upset by this thought, giving themselves to the meditation of the divine matters, would listen to how much the Lord speaks to their heart, and, having put aside their desires and human expectations, would place themselves totally at the disposition of the will of God. They would cry from the depth of their heart: "Here I am, Lord; what do you want me to do". Send me where you want, even to India.

RESPONSORY

Luke 10:2; Acts 1:8

- R.** The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; * ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.
- V.** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.
- R.** ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.

Hymn Te Deum

We praise you, O God; *
we acclaim you Lord and Master.
Everlasting Father, *
all the world bows down before you.

All the angels sing your praise, *
the hosts of heaven and all the angelic powers;
All the cherubim and seraphim *
call out to you in unending chorus:

Holy, holy, holy *
is the Lord God of angel hosts!
The heavens and the earth are filled, Lord, *
with your majesty and glory.

Your praises are sung *
by the renowned Apostles;
By all the prophets, *
who themselves deserve our praise;

By that mighty white-robed army *
who shed their blood for Christ.
And to the ends of the earth, *
the holy Church proclaims her faith in you:

Father, *
whose majesty is boundless;
Your only Son, *

who is true God and who is to be adored;

The Holy Spirit, *

sent to be our Advocate.

O Christ, the King of glory! *

You alone are the Father's eternal Son.

When you were to become man so as to save humankind, *

you did not shrink back from the chaste Virgin's womb.

When you triumphantly destroyed death's sting, *

you opened up to believers the kingdom of haven.

You are now enthroned at God's right hand, in the Father's glory: *

We believe that you will come for judgment.

We therefore implore you to grant your servants grace and aid, *

for you shed your precious blood for their redemption.

Admit them all to the ranks of your saints *

in everlasting glory.

Be their Shepherd, Lord, *

uphold and exalt them forever and ever.

Day by day we praise you, *

daily we acclaim you.

We will confess and glorify your hold name, *

now and for all eternity.

In your great mercy, Lord, throughout this day *

keep us free from sin by your protection.

Have mercy on us, we humbly pray; *

Lord, have mercy on us.

May your mercy, Lord, your loving-kindness, always remain with us; *

for we have placed our confidence in you.

In you alone, Lord, I have hoped; *

may I not be disappointed.

Prayer

O God, who through the preaching of Saint Francis Xavier won many peoples for yourself, grant that the hearts of the faithful may burn with the same zeal for the faith, and that Holy Church may everywhere rejoice in abundant offspring. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Morning prayer

HYMN

O Christ, Word of the Father,
glorious king among the saints,
light and salvation of the world,
we believe in you.

Food and drink of life,
balm, garment, dwelling,
strength, refuge, and comfort,
we hope in you.

Enlighten with your Spirit
the dark night of evil,
direct our journey
toward the Father. Amen

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastic authority.

Ant.1 God called us to the gospel
through our faith in what is true,
to be worthy to possess the glory
of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PSALM 63: 2-9 A soul thirsting for God

The Church thirsts for her Savior, yearning to drink at the fount of living water that springs up for eternal life. (Cf Cassiodorus).

O God, you are my God, for you I long; *
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you *
like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary *
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life, *
my lips will speak your praise.

So 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, *
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you. *
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help; *
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.

Ant. 1 God called us to the gospel
through our faith in what is true,
to be worthy to possess the glory
of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ant. 2 Go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CANTICLE Daniel 3: 57-88, 56 Let all creatures praise the Lord
Praise our God, all you his servants. (Rv 19:5)

Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise and exalt him above all forever.
Angels of the Lord, bless the Lord, *
you heavens, bless the Lord,

All you waters above the heavens, *
all you hosts of the Lord, bless the Lord;
sun and moon, bless the Lord; *
stars of heaven, bless the Lord;

every shower and dew, bless the Lord; *
all you winds, bless the Lord;
fire and heat, bless the Lord; *
cold and chill, bless the Lord;

dew and rain, bless the Lord; *
frost and chill, bless the Lord;
ice and snow, bless the Lord; *
nights and days, bless the Lord;

light and darkness, bless the Lord; *
lightning and clouds, bless the Lord;
let the earth bless the Lord, *
praise and exalt him above all forever.

Mountains and hills, bless the Lord; *
everything growing from the earth, bless the Lord;
you springs, bless the Lord; *
seas and rivers, bless the Lord;

you dolphins and all water creatures, bless the Lord; *
all you birds of the air, bless the Lord;
all you beasts, wild and tame, bless the Lord; *
you sons of men, bless the Lord;

O Israel, bless the Lord; *
praise and exalt him above all forever.
Priests of the Lord, bless the Lord; *
servants of the Lord, bless the Lord;
spirits and souls of the just, bless the Lord; *
holy men of humble heart, bless the Lord;
Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael, bless the Lord; *
praise and exalt him above all forever.

Let us bless the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *
Let us praise and exalt him above all forever.
Blessed are you in the firmament of heaven, *
praiseworthy and glorious forever.

At the end of the canticle the Glory be to the Father is not said.

Ant. 2 Go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Ant. 3 The word of God is alive and effective,
sharper than a two-edged sword.

PSALM 149 The joy of God's holy people

Let the sons of the Church, the children of the new people, rejoice in Christ, their King (Hesychius).

Sing a new song to the Lord, *
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its maker, *
let Zion's sons exult in their king.

Let them praise his name with dancing *
and make music with timbrel and harp.
For the Lord takes delight in his people. *
He crowns the poor with salvation.

Let the faithful rejoice in their glory, *
shout for joy and take their rest.
Let the praise of God be on their lips *
and a two-edged sword in their hand,

to deal out vengeance to the nations *
and punishment on all the peoples;
to bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles in fetters of iron;

to carry out the sentence pre-ordained; *
this honor is for all his faithful.

Ant. 3 The word of God is alive and effective,
sharper than a two-edged sword.

READING

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Now I am reminding you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you indeed received and in which you also stand. Through it you are also being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures.

RESPONSORY

1 Corinthians 2:2, 3, 5

- R.** I came to you in weakness and fear, * so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.
-- I came to you in weakness and fear, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.
V. For I resolved to know nothing except Jesus Christ, and him crucified,
-- so that your faith might rest on the power of God.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
-- I came to you in weakness and fear, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom
but on the power of God.

Benedictus Ant. Blessed be the Lord; he has redeemed all people and has called everyone from darkness to his splendid light.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old †
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

to give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

to shine on those who dwell in darkness and 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 ever shall be *
world without end. Amen

Benedictus Ant. Blessed be the Lord; he has redeemed all people and has called everyone from darkness to his splendid light.

INTERCESSIONS

On the feast of Saint Francis Xavier we turn to God, our Father, in the Spirit of his Risen

Son, as we say in faith:
Your kingdom come, Lord.

O Father, you set Saint Francis Xavier on fire with zeal:
- may your Church be an effective witness of your love toward every creature.

O Father, you endowed Saint Francis Xavier with a great missionary spirit:
- may the saving word of the gospel reach every nation.

O Father, you placed in the heart of Saint Francis Xavier a great love for the neglected:
- may the heralds of the gospel always prefer the poor and the marginalized.

O Father, you filled the apostle of the Indies, Saint Francis Xavier, with your Spirit:
- may all baptized people, announcing and professing your word, always be motivated by the same love of Christ.

Our Father.

Prayer

O God, who through the preaching of Saint Francis Xavier won many peoples for yourself, grant that the hearts of the faithful may burn with the same zeal for the faith, and that Holy Church may everywhere rejoice in abundant offspring. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Daytime prayer

Midmorning

Ant. I know him in whom I have believed
and I am confident he, just judge that he is,
is able to guard what has been entrusted
to me until that day.

READING

Rom. 1: 16-17

I am not ashamed of the gospel. It is the power of God leading everyone who believes in it to salvation, the Jews first, then the Greek. For in the gospel is revealed the justice of God which begins and ends with faith; as Scripture says, "The just man will live by faith."

V. To those spreading the good news the Lord gives the word

R. With great power

Midday

Ant. The Lord's mercy
reproves, admonishes, teaches,
as a shepherd guides his flock.

READING

1 Th 2: 2-4

We drew courage from our God to preach his good tidings to you in the face of great opposition. The exhortation we deliver does not spring from deceit or impure motives or any sort of trickery; rather, having met the test imposed on us by God, as men entrusted with good tidings, we speak like those who strive to please God, "the tester of our hearts," rather than men.

V. They heard the decrees of God

R. And the law he gave them

Mid-afternoon

Ant. I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.

READING

2 Tim 1: 8-9

With the strength which comes from God bear your share of the hardship which the gospel entails. God has saved us and has called us to a holy life, not because of any merit of ours but according to his own design – the grace held on us in Christ Jesus.

V. The favor of God to me has not proved fruitless

R. His grace is with me always.

Prayer

O God, who through the preaching of Saint Francis Xavier won many peoples for yourself, grant that the hearts of the faithful may burn with the same zeal for the faith, and that Holy Church may everywhere rejoice in abundant offspring. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Evening prayer

HYMN

Jesus, prize and crown
of your faithful servants,
glorify your name.

Grant to your Church,
who venerates Francis Xavier,
victory over evil.

Following your steps
on the way of the cross,
he pleased God the Father.

Wise and vigilant,
he proclaimed the gospel
in words and in works.

From the city of saints,
where he reigns, glorious,
may he guide and protect us.

To you, O Christ, be glory,
to the Father and to the Spirit
for ever and ever. Amen.

Ant.1 Through the gift of God
I became a minister of the gospel.

PSALM 113 Give praise to the name of the Lord

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly (Luke 1:52).

Praise, you servants of the Lord, *
praise the name of the Lord.
Blessed be the name of the Lord *
both now and forever.

From the rising of the sun to its setting *
let the name of the Lord be praised.
High above all nations is the Lord; *
above the heavens God's glory.

Who is like the Lord, our God enthroned on high, *
looking down on heaven and earth?

The Lord raises the needy from the dust, *
lifts the poor from the ash heap,
Seats them with princes, *
the princes of the people,

Gives the childless wife a home, *
the joyful mother of children.

Ant. 1 Through the gift of God
I became a minister of the gospel.

Ant. 2 I do all that I do for the sake of the gospel,
to inherit the promise.

PSALM 146 Blessed are they who hope in the Lord

Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them (Matthew 11:5).

Praise the Lord, my soul; *
I shall praise the Lord all my life, †
sing praise to my God while I live.

I put no trust in princes, *
in mere mortals powerless to save.
When they breathe their last, they return to the earth; *
that day all their planning comes to nothing.

Happy those whose help is Jacob's God, *
whose hope is in the Lord, their God,
The maker of heaven and earth, *
the seas and all that is in them,

Who keeps faith forever, *
secures justice for the oppressed, †

gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets prisoners free; *
the Lord gives sight to the blind.
The Lord raises up those who are bowed down; *
the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord protects the stranger, †
sustains the orphan and the widow, *
but thwarts the way of the wicked.

The Lord shall reign forever, *
your God, Zion, through all generations!

Ant. 2 I do all that I do for the sake of the gospel,
to inherit the promise.

Ant. 3 To me was given the grace to preach to the Gentiles
the unfathomable riches of Christ.

CANTICLE **cf. Ephesians 1, 3-10** **God our Savior**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, †
who has blessed us in Christ *
with every spiritual blessing in the heavens.

God chose us in him, †
before the foundation of the world, *
to be holy and without blemish before him.

In love he destined us †
for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, *
in accord with the favor of his will,
for the praise of the glory of his grace *
that he granted us in the beloved.

In Christ we have redemption by his blood, *
the forgiveness of transgressions,
in accord with the riches of his grace *
that he lavished upon us.

In all wisdom and insight †
God has made known to us the mystery of his will *
in accord with his favor that he set forth in him,
as a plan for the fullness of times, *
to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth.

Ant. 3 To me was given the grace to preach to the Gentiles
the unfathomable riches of Christ.

Timothy 4:6-8

For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

RESPONSORY

Philippians 1:21;

Galatians 6:14

- R. For to me life is Christ * and death is gain.
 -- For to me life is Christ, and death is gain.
 V. May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ
 -- and death is gain.
 Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
 -- For to me life is Christ, and death is gain.

Magnificat Ant. Many will come from the east and the west and will find a place at the banquet in the kingdom of God with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; *
 my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; *
 behold, from now on all ages will call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, *
 and holy is his name.

His mercy is from age to age *
 to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm, *
 dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones*
 but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things; *
 the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped Israel his servant, *
 remembering his mercy,

according to his promise to our fathers, *
 to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Magnificat Ant. Many will come from the east and the west and will find a place at the banquet in the kingdom of God with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

INTERCESSIONS

As we joyfully honor Saint Francis Xavier, let us with confidence call upon God who is honored in his saints:

Lord, hear our prayer.

O God, through the mission of Saint Francis Xavier you revealed your love of a merciful father:

- help us communicate the same love in our lives.

O God, you wonderfully inflamed the soul of Saint Francis Xavier to spread the Gospel of your Son:

- grant that we may burn with the same apostolic zeal.

O God, you entrusted to Saint Francis Xavier the mission for the people in the Orient.

- grant that they may always be witnesses of your word and proclaim it faithfully.

O God, through your apostles you opened the way of truth to all peoples:

- grant that all may know you, the one true God, and him whom you have sent, Jesus Christ.

O God, you willed that your Son shed his Blood for the entire human race:

- mercifully admit our departed into the heavenly home.

Our Father.

Prayer

O God, who through the preaching of Saint Francis Xavier won many peoples for yourself, grant that the hearts of the faithful may burn with the same zeal for the faith, and that Holy Church may everywhere rejoice in abundant offspring. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.