

**FEDERATION OF DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSIONS [FDLC]**  
**MYSTAGOGICAL REFLECTIONS ON THE COLLECTS**  
**OF THE *ROMAN MISSAL***



**“Collect”ing Our Thoughts – Easter**

Artwork: Tintoretto, *The Resurrection of Christ* (1579-1581)

Link to Mystagogy Project on FDLC home page: <http://www.fdlc.org>.

EASTER SUNDAY

March 31, 2013

COLLECT

**O God, who on this day,  
through your Only Begotten Son,  
have conquered death  
and unlocked for us the path to eternity,  
grant, we pray, that we who keep  
the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection  
may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit,  
rise up in the light of life.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.**



REFLECTION

We gather today after having celebrated with great joy the preceding days of the Paschal Triduum. The rituals of those days and especially the time spent at the Easter Vigil are still ringing in our ears and filling our hearts. The brightness of a new day dawning give us another image of Christ conquering death and rising to new life.

We have become witnesses to the conquering in our lives of the items that bring death to our souls. The light of this first day of the week enables us to renew with great exhortation our own Baptism and the rising of our lives into the glory of the Lord's Resurrection. Our path to eternity has been opened and we step upon it with feet prepared to walk stronger and braver into living out the way of life modeled for us by Christ and fortified by the Spirit. Our days of Lenten and Paschal Triduum experiences have been well spent. We rest in the risen Lord ready to be raised up into the light of life.

PRAYER

Risen Lord, pour into our hearts the joy of the vision of being with you for ever in eternity as we go walking strongly on the path leading us into the light of life.

Submitted by:

Sister Sharon Marie Stola, OSB  
Director of the Office of Divine Worship and Catechumenate  
Diocese of Joliet-in-Illinois

Artwork: Fra Angelico, *Resurrection of Christ and Women at the Tomb* (1440-1442)



## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (OR OF DIVINE MERCY)

April 7, 2013

### COLLECT

**God of everlasting mercy,  
who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast  
kindle the faith of the people you have made your own,  
increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed,  
that all may grasp and rightly understand  
in what font they have been washed,  
by whose Spirit they have been reborn,  
by whose Blood they have been redeemed.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.**



### REFLECTION

No other Sunday has so many different names associated with it. This Sunday is called “Low Sunday” in contrast with Easter Sunday’s exuberance. It is called “Quasimodo Sunday” recalling Victor Hugo’s hunchback named for the first two words of today’s introit. It is called “Dominica in albis depositis” for it is the last day the newly baptized traditionally wore their white garment. Finally, it has been designated as “Sunday of Divine Mercy.”

Two of the appellations for this Sunday connect us to today’s Collect which has its origins in the Gothic Missal. The opening words of the Entrance Antiphon (introit), *quasi modo geniti infantes*, “like newborn infants”, relates directly to the Collect’s focus on the newly baptized. *Dominica in albis depositis* is also a reference to the neophytes wearing their baptismal garments for the last time.

While the Collect text emphasizes the powerful presence of the neophytes as living icons in our midst, it also recalls for us our own participation in the sacred mysteries of Baptism and encourages God to “fire us up” so that all who have been washed and reborn in the Spirit may continue to grow in faith and in grace. We are reminded that we must return again and again to share this feast in order to grasp this profound mystery.

### PRAYER

Merciful God, each year we celebrate the Baptism of new faithful. May the gift of their presence help us to continue growing in faith. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Submitted by:

Daniel McAfee  
Director, Office for Christian Worship  
Archdiocese of Detroit

Artwork: Eugene Kazimierowski, *The Image of the Divine Mercy* (1934)

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 14, 2013

COLLECT

**May your people exult for ever, O God,  
in renewed youthfulness of spirit,  
so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption,  
we may look forward in confident hope  
to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.**



REFLECTION

This Collect is full of exuberance and confidence. It calls to mind the exuberance and confidence of the disciples as they focus on following God rather than the desires of the officials around them who are afraid.

We are renewed in our spirit to look forward to all that will come. Our youth and young adults bring a great deal of idealism to the Church and the world. They are adventurous and committed deeply to the ties of friendship that bind them together. They have no way of knowing what the future may hold, and yet they face it with hope each and every day.

We are reminded that we are the adopted sons and daughters of the Lord, an adoption that is glorified through the Resurrection of Christ. As adopted children, we are accepted by the Lord with all of our personal joys and challenges. Adoption brings us in this life the new hope and new life that the resurrection will bring us in the next life.

In this reality, we are called to be hopeful and idealistic in following the Lord each day. We should not worry about the future, but must trust in the ultimate joy of the resurrection. There are many fears that can hold us back from serving as God has called us to serve. Like the youth around us, we must believe in the presence of our risen Lord. We must face the future with idealism. We must exult in the Lord!

PRAYER

Loving Father, renew me each day for the joys and challenges that are ahead. Grant me eternal hope in your Resurrection that I may follow where you lead.

Submitted by:

Virginia Meagher  
Director, Office for Worship  
Diocese of Stockton

Artwork: Duccio di Buinsegna, *Appearance on Lake Tiberias* (1308-11)

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 21, 2013

### COLLECT

**Almighty ever-living God,  
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,  
so that the humble flock may reach  
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.**

### REFLECTION

This prayer echoes the themes of the readings associated with the Fourth Sunday of Easter, those describing Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Found in the 8th century Gelasian Sacramentary and recovered for our current Missal, this Collect draws those who gather for Eastertide worship more deeply into the paschal themes of the season.

Jesus Christ – the Lamb of the new Passover, sacrificed for our salvation – is (paradoxically) also the Shepherd. It is Jesus who bravely leads us into eternal life by his own Death and Resurrection. Christ has opened the gates of paradise and leads his “humble flock” to the “joys of heaven.”

But sharing in the joys of heaven as one of Jesus’ flock requires humility. Do we have the humility to truly follow Christ, even unto death? Are we willing to set aside our own will so that we may hear our Shepherd’s voice and walk in his ways? This prayer invites us to share in Christ’s Resurrection by our humble submission to the Good Shepherd, as one of the humble flock reborn in Baptism.

### PRAYER

O Lord who are both Lamb and Shepherd, grant me a humble heart so as to know your will, and the strength to bravely follow you from death into life.

Submitted by:

Jeremy Helmes  
Pastoral Associate for Liturgy & Music  
St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish  
Archdiocese of Cincinnati



Artwork: Unknown from Catacomb of Priscilla, *The Good Shepherd* (3rd century)

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2013

### COLLECT

**Almighty ever-living God,  
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,  
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism  
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit  
and come to the joys of life eternal.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.**



### REFLECTION

This Collect sustains the focus of this Easter Time. At the Renewal of Baptismal Promises during the Easter Vigil we prayed, "... through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life." We are united with Christ in the spiritual birth of Baptism and we are united with him every time we celebrate the Paschal Mystery of his Death and Resurrection.

Our unity with Christ motivates us to bear fruit. The Communion Antiphon for this day recalls it: "I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia" (cf. Jn. 15:1, 5).

In Lent we marked our repentance and prayed for those to be baptized. During this Easter Time, may we develop our ability to bear good fruit as signs of that repentance (Mt. 3:8). This is a season of transformation as we die and rise with Christ.

### PRAYER

Lord, help me to live a fruitful life so that I may be transformed into new life in unity with you.

Submitted by:

Karen L. Podd  
Chair, Buffalo Diocesan Liturgical Commission  
Diocese of Buffalo

Artwork: Italian Miniaturist, *Christ in Glory with Symbols of the Evangelists* (12th century)



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 5, 2013

COLLECT

**Grant, almighty God,  
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy,  
which we keep in honor of the risen Lord,  
and that what we relive in remembrance  
we may always hold to in what we do.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.**



REFLECTION

Each and every day of our lives we give example to the world of the power of God's transforming love. It is because of God's love that we face adversity with great hope and joy.

It is in these days of joy that we celebrate with fervent hearts Christ's victory over sin and death. As we live in this broken world amidst suffering, hardship, trials, violence, and even death, we never lose sight of what God has already done, what God is doing, and what God has promised for all of eternity – salvation.

This is why we celebrate!

Our celebrations lead us to renew our baptismal commitment to develop a deeper and more spiritual relationship with the Lord. The Lord whose Body and Blood satisfies our hunger and thirst has saved us from our sins. May our response be sung with great joy, Alleluia, Alleluia!

PRAYER

O, Most Holy and ever-living God, you alone are worthy of our praise. Pour forth your Spirit upon us so that we may never cease to praise and give you glory.

Submitted by:

Rev. Mr. Royce Winters  
Director of African American Ministries  
Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Artwork: Duccio di Buoninsegna, *Christ Taking Leave of the Apostles* (1308-1311)

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, SOLEMNITY

MAY 12, 2013

COLLECT

**Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God,  
and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving,  
for the Ascension of Christ your Son  
is our exaltation,  
and, where the Head has gone before in glory,  
the Body is called to follow in hope.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever .**

REFLECTION

Based on a sermon for the Ascension by Pope Leo the Great from the year 444, this Collect was added to the Missal as an option for the Ascension after the Second Vatican Council.

In these words we are reminded of a God who keeps his promises and asks nothing of his people that he has not already asked of his own Son. The same Christ who “humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:8) now sits at the right of God, victorious over sin and death. Christ has shown us the path we must take – passion and death, self-surrender and sacrifice – and also shows us where that path leads – resurrection, ascension, and a place in the presence of the Father.

If we as the mystical Body believe in God’s promises and truly follow in faith where our Head has gone before, then we should be filled with hope and thanksgiving at the thought of our destination even in the midst of our own crosses.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you always remain faithful to your promise. In our own joys and sorrows, happiness and pain, grant us the faith to remain fixed on your Son, who shows us the way and has prepared us a place with you.

Submitted by:

Matt Miller  
Director, Office of Worship  
Diocese of Evansville



Artwork: Theophanes the Cretan, *The Ascension* (1546)

Excerpt from *The Roman Missal, Third Edition* © 2010, ICEL.

Reprinted with approval of the Committee on Divine Worship, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Link to Mystagogy Project on FDLC home page: <http://www.fdlc.org>.