

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



**“Collect”ing Our Thoughts – Pentecost into Ordinary Time**

Artwork: Tiziano Vecellio, *The Descent of the Holy Ghost* (c. 1545)

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PENTECOST SUNDAY, SOLEMNITY

May 19, 2013

COLLECT

**O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation, pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth and, with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers. 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 prayer from the Gelasian Sacramentary and recovered by the reforms of Vatican II intends to unite us across time and space through the one and same Spirit. In the first half of the Collect, we catch glimpses of the first reading and the psalm. Yet, what is most striking is the recollection of that moment when the “Gospel was first proclaimed.” Exactly when was that moment? At Jesus’ proclamation in the synagogue of the word fulfilled in our hearing? At his Incarnation in Bethlehem? In the beginning when the Word became flesh? When God spoke light into the void? When I first listened and believed?

The simple answer is yes. The Spirit that makes all the nations one is the same Spirit at work in every age from the first moment of creation to the fulfillment of its recreation on the last day. Here, the divine grace of Christmas and Easter, of all time and history marked by the work of the Spirit, is poured into our hearts that we too may proclaim the Gospel, ancient and ever-new, to all the nations in this time and in this place.

PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful that by your divine grace we may embody the Gospel and proclaim it in every moment of our lives.

Submitted by:

Diana Macalintal  
Director of Worship  
Diocese of San Jose

Artwork: Unknown French Goldsmith, *The Pentecost* (1150-1160)

Excerpt from *The Roman Missal, Third Edition* © 2010, ICEL.  
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First Sunday after Pentecost  
THE MOST HOLY TRINITY, SOLEMNITY  
May 26, 2013

COLLECT

**God our Father, who by sending into the world  
the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification  
made known to the human race your wondrous mystery,  
grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith,  
we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory  
and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty.  
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

Although the Gelasian Sacramentary had a preface in honor of the Trinity, this feast was not added to the universal calendar until 1334 by Pope John XXII while in Avignon. The present prayer is an amplification of the prayer found in the 1962 Missal.

It begins by addressing God as Father, the only Sunday Collect which addresses God as Father, a unique understanding of the Trinity as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Son is addressed as the Word of truth and the Spirit as the Spirit of sanctification, both sent into the world by the Father to make known to the human race the wondrous mystery of the essence of God as Trinity.

There is no mention of the Son being involved in the sending of the Spirit, no *filioque* controversy, which up until our time was a source of irritation to the Orthodox. The prayer continues by declaring that in professing the true faith, that of God as a marvelous trinity of persons, we might acknowledge both the eternal glory of the Trinity and adore its powerful unity.

PRAYER

May our prayer echo the Communion Antiphon: that we may be children of God who have in our hearts the Spirit of the Son who cries out Abba, Father. May we be a community of persons, united in the grace of the loving Trinity, a community of love and unity, who know that God is our Father and the Father of all.

Submitted by:

Rev. Leon Strieder, SLD  
Diocese of Austin

Artwork: Albrecht Durer, *The Adoration of the Trinity* (1511)

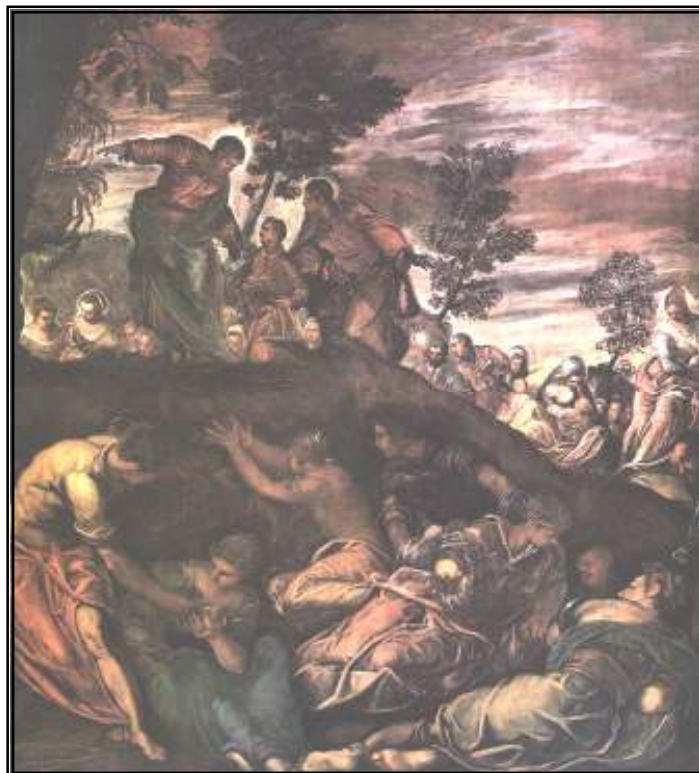


[In the Dioceses of the United States]  
Sunday after the Most Holy Trinity  
THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST  
(CORPUS CHRISTI), SOLEMNITY

June 2, 2013

COLLECT

**O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament  
have left us a memorial of your Passion,  
grant us, we pray,  
so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood  
that we may always experience in ourselves  
the fruits of your redemption.  
Who live and reign with God the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.**



REFLECTION

Everything we are and believe as Christ's followers is defined by the Eucharist. It is the dynamic action of God's grace and our gratitude that transforms us into the one Body that is Christ. This lovely prayer reminds us that we have gathered to remember and to revere, to experience the joy of Communion – each of us consuming Christ and becoming one with him.

And how are we to prepare ourselves for this great feast of becoming? Saint Augustine declared that “Christ is the bread, awaiting hunger.” He is telling us Christ is always there for us in the bread, a constant source of nourishment and healing. Our part is to show up hungry. We bring to the table all that is keeping us separate and divided – our pride, anger, fear, impatience. We bring whatever is broken in us, whatever pulls us away or down. We bring it eagerly and reverently, a gift for the table, hungry for what awaits us there. And we leave the table as “satisfied” as the crowds who gathered to hear Jesus speak, carrying Christ to the waiting world where God's abundant love will bear fruit.

PRAYER

Loving God, as we approach the table of your love for us, let us remember to bring the burdens of our lives, there to be transformed by the mysteries of your Body and Blood into the grace that redeems both us and the world.

Submitted by:

Sylvia Deck  
Holy Cross Church, Santa Cruz, California  
Diocese of Monterey

Artwork: Tintoretto, *The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes* (1579-1581)

TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

June 9, 2013

COLLECT

**O God, from whom all good things come,  
grant that we, who call on you in our need,  
may at your prompting discern what is right,  
and by your guidance do it.  
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 prayer reminds us that all good things come from God. And we pray that we are able to determine how to use the great things God gives us in life through discernment.

The first time this Collect appears is in the Gelasian Sacramentary and its source could be based upon James 1:17 that says God is the source of every perfect gift.

Some say that this Scripture from James as well as this Collect are the foundations of the text for the song, “All Good Gifts.”

PRAYER

Almighty God, source of every gift, from you comes all that I am. Help me to distinguish how I am to use the many gifts you have showered upon me so that they will be of benefit to others, especially the poor, oppressed, and those in need. Allow me to bring light and life into the lives of others through this sharing of gifts.

Submitted by:

Rev. Duane Wachowiak  
Director, Office of Worship  
Diocese of Gaylord

Artwork: James Tissot, *The Resurrection of the Widow's Son at Nain* (1886-1894)

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

June 16, 2013

COLLECT

**O God, strength of those who hope in you,  
graciously hear our pleas,  
and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing,  
grant us always the help of your grace,  
that in following your commands  
we may please you by our resolve and our deeds.  
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

“Grant us always the help of your grace.” Sometimes it is difficult for us to understand what it means to be granted the gift of grace. It is by God’s grace as Paul says, “That I am who I am....” Without God’s grace and mercy we have no life. God created us. God loves us. God sent his only Son to redeem us. Grace is God’s unmerited favor. Grace is God doing good for us that we do not deserve. Everything about our relationship with God depends upon us trusting him in faith, by resting in his grace. We are to come to him as a little child saying, “Daddy, pick me up”. And he does. Then he carries us.

PRAYER

Gracious and Almighty God, we thank you for your undeserving grace. We thank you for your light of love to share with one another; all created in your likeness. Give us the strength that we lack in our lives and help us to lighten the way and carry the load for the ever-changing problems of the world.

Submitted by:

Dr. Jessie Thomas  
Pastoral Administrator, Holy Name Catholic Church  
Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Artwork: James Tissot, *The Meal in the House of the Pharisee* (1886-1894)