

## RITES BELONGING TO THE PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

“The period of purification and enlightenment, which the rite of election begins, customarily coincides with Lent. In the liturgy and liturgical catechesis of Lent the reminder of baptism already received or the preparation for its reception, as well as the theme of repentance, renew the entire community along with those being prepared to celebrate the paschal mystery in which each of the elect will share through the sacraments of initiation. For both the elect and the local community, therefore, the Lenten season is a time for spiritual recollection in preparation for the celebration of the paschal mystery” (RCIA 138).

“This is a period of more intense spiritual preparation, consisting more in interior reflection than catechetical instruction, and is intended to purify the hearts and minds of the elect” and to enlighten their minds and hearts “with a deeper knowledge of Christ the Savior” (RCIA 139).

Among these rites are the scrutinies, which are solemnly celebrated on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent. “The scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright and good” (RCIA 141). In accord with ancient tradition, the readings of Year A may be used, with the traditional gospels of the Samaritan woman at the well, the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus, respectively (cf. RCIA 146).

The presentations of the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer take place during the week following the First and Third Scrutiny (unless they have been celebrated earlier). “Thus, with the catechumenal formation of the elect completed, the Church lovingly entrusts to them the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer, the ancient texts that have always been regarded as expressing the heart of the Church’s faith and prayer” (RCIA 147). Ideally, the presentations should be celebrated within Mass, with the faithful present (cf. RCIA 157, 178).

The preparation rites on Holy Saturday are most proximate to the celebration of the sacraments of initiation and, as a rule, should not be omitted. Among these rites is the recitation of the Creed. Again, according to ancient custom, the Elect recite (“give back,” *reditio*) the Creed which they had been given (“handing over,” *traditio*).

It is very important to remember that these rites are for the catechumens (Elect) only! Those who have been baptized “should not take part in rites intended for unbaptized catechumens”(USCCB, National Statutes for the Catechumenate, no. 31).

Second Sunday of Lent	Penitential Rite (candidates; optional)	RCIA 459-472
Third Sunday of Lent	First Scrutiny	RCIA 141-145, 151-56
Third Week of Lent	Presentation of the Creed	RCIA 143, 157-163
Fourth Sunday of Lent	Second Scrutiny	RCIA 164-170
Fifth Sunday of Lent	Third Scrutiny	RCIA 171-177
Fifth Week of Lent	Presentation of the Lord’s Prayer	RCIA 149, 178-184
Holy Saturday	Preparation Rites	RCIA 183-199, 203-205

**FIRST SCRUTINY  
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)  
THE SAMARITAN WOMAN AT THE WELL**



**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading**

**Exodus 17:3-7**

*Give us water so that we may drink.*

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9**

*If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

**Second Reading**

**Romans 5:1-2, 5-8**

*The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*

**Verse Before the Gospel**

**see John 4:42, 15**

*Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world;  
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.*

**Gospel**

**John 4:5 – 42 [or John 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]**

*The water that I shall give will become a spring of eternal life.*

**Homily**

**SCRUTINY**

*The Elect and sponsors are invited to come forward.*

**Invitation to Silent Prayer**

**Invitation  
Prayer**

*The Elect kneel, sponsors place a hand on their shoulders*

**Intercessions for the Elect**

**Exorcism**

**Prayer  
Laying on of Hands  
Prayer**

*to the Father  
to the Holy Spirit  
to Jesus Christ*

**Song**

*Suggestion: From Ashes to the Living Font (Hommerding, GIA).  
Special Verses provided for the Sundays of Lent, A, B, or C*

**Dismissal of the Elect**

## PRESENTATION OF THE CREED

An Order of Service

“The presentation of the Creed, which takes place during the week after the first scrutiny, should preferably be celebrated in the presence of the community of the faithful, within Mass after the homily” (RCIA 157). For more details, please see RCIA nos. 157-162 and *Lectionary for Mass*, no. 748.

### **INTRODUCTORY RITE**

#### INTRODUCTION

### **THE WORD OF GOD**

#### FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 6:1-7

Listen, Israel: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 19: 8, 9, 10, 11

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

#### SECOND READING

Romans 10: 8-13 -- The confession of faith of the Elect      OR

1 Corinthians 15: 1-8a or 1-4 -- The Gospel will save you only if you keep believing what I preached to you.

#### VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

John 3:16

God loved the world so much that he gave us his only Son,  
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

#### GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-18 -- On this rock I will build my church      OR

John 22:44-50 -- I, the light, have come into the world, so that whoever believes in me need not remain in the dark any more.

#### HOMILY/REFLECTION

#### PRESENTATION OF THE CREED

*The Elect come forward to listen to the Creed.*

*The Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed is recited by the priest and assembly.*

#### PRAYER OVER THE ELECT

Invitation to Prayer

Silent Prayer

Prayer

**SECOND SCRUTINY  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
THE MAN BORN BLIND**



**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading**

**1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a**

*David is anointed as king of Israel*

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6**

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

**Second Reading**

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

*Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.*

**Verse before the Gospel**

**John 8:12**

*I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.*

**Gospel**

**John 9: 1-41 [or John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]**

*The man who was blind went off and washed himself  
and came back able to see.*

**Homily**

**SCRUTINY**

*The Elect and sponsors are invited to come forward.*

**Invitation to Silent Prayer**

**Invitation  
Prayer**

*The Elect kneel, sponsors place a hand on their shoulders*

**Intercessions for the Elect**

**Exorcism**

**Prayer  
Laying on of Hands  
Prayer**

*to the Father  
to the Holy Spirit  
to Jesus Christ*

**Song**

*Suggestion: Christ, be our Light!*

*Text and Tune: Bernadette Farrell © 1993, 2000 Published by OCP.*

**Dismissal of the Elect**

**THIRD SCRUTINY  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
THE RAISING OF LAZARUS**



**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading**

**Ezekiel 37:12-14**

*I will put my spirit within you that you may live.*

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8**

*With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.*

**Second Reading**

**Romans 8:8-11**

*The Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.*

**Verse before the Gospel**

**John 11:25a, 26**

*I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will never die.*

**Gospel**

**John 11:1-45 [or John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]**

*I am the resurrection and the life.*

**Homily**

**SCRUTINY**

*The Elect and sponsors are invited to come forward.*

**Invitation to Silent Prayer**

**Invitation  
Prayer**

*The Elect kneel, sponsors place hand on their shoulders*

**Intercessions for the Elect**

**Exorcism**

**Prayer  
Laying on of Hands  
Prayer**

*to the Father  
to the Holy Spirit  
to Jesus Christ*

**Song**

*Suggestion: O Christ, Who Shared our Mortal Life*

*Text: Herman G. Steumpfle, Jr. © 1993, GIA Publications, Inc.*

*Tune: KINGSFOLD by Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1872-1958*

**Dismissal of the Elect**

**PRESENTATION OF THE LORD’S PRAYER**  
**An Order of Service**

“The presentation of the Lord’s Prayer, which takes place during the week after the third scrutiny, should preferably be celebrated in the presence of the community of the faithful, within Mass” (RCIA 178). For more details, please see RCIA nos. 178-184 and *Lectionary for Mass*, no. 749.

**INTRODUCTORY RITE**

[SIGN OF THE CROSS]

INTRODUCTION

**THE WORD OF GOD**

FIRST READING

Hosea 11:1, 3-4, 8e-9

*I drew them with human cords, with bands of love.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 – *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

OR

Psalm 103:1-2, 8, 10, 11-12, 13-14 -- *As a father is kind to his children, so kind is the Lord to those who fear him.*

SECOND READING

Romans 8:14-17, 26-27 – *You have received the Spirit that makes you God’s children and in that Spirit we cry out, “Abba, Father!”*

OR

*Galatians 4:4-7 – God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, Abba, Father!”*

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Romans 8:15

*For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry “Abba! Father!”*

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD’S PRAYER

*The Elect come forward to listen to the Gospel.*

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:9-13

*Lord, teach us to pray.*

HOMILY/REFLECTION

PRAYER OVER THE ELECT

Invitation to Prayer

Silent Prayer

Prayer

[DISMISSAL OF THE ELECT]

[SIGN OF PEACE]

**PREPARATION RITES**  
**Holy Saturday**  
**A Suggested Order of Service**

Celebrated on Holy Saturday, these rites are an immediate preparation for the sacraments. Please see RCIA 185-205 regarding the selection of rites. "If the presentation of the Creed was not celebrated, the recitation of the Creed is not celebrated" (RCIA 186).

The choosing of a baptismal name is not celebrated in the dioceses of the United States. A diocesan bishop has discretion to authorize its use in particular circumstances. Please see RCIA 33.4, 73, and 200.

**INTRODUCTORY RITE**

SONG

SIGN OF THE CROSS

GREETING

**THE RECITATION OF THE CREED**

READING

Matthew 16:13-17 – *You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*

OR

John 6:35, 63-71 *To whom shall we go? You have the words of everlasting life.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 27:7-9, 13-14

[THE EPHPHATA RITE]

*see RCIA 186.2,*

[READING]

*Mark 7:31-37*

EPHPHATA

HOMILY

PRAYER BEFORE THE RECITATION

RECITATION OF THE CREED

*The Elect, alone, recite the Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed.*

**CONCLUDING RITE**

PRAYER OF BLESSING

DISMISSAL

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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