

SECOND SCRUTINY (FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT)

Liturgy of the Word

Readings

164. *The texts and the readings for Mass are always those given for the second scrutiny in the Missal and the Lectionary for Mass among the ritual Masses, “Christian Initiation: The Scrutinies.”*

Homily

165. *After the readings and guided by them, the celebrant explains in the homily the meaning of the second scrutiny in the light of the Lenten liturgy and of the spiritual journey of the elect.*

Invitation to Silent Prayer

166. *After the homily, the elect with their godparents come forward and stand before the celebrant.*

The celebrant first addresses the assembly of the faithful, inviting them to pray in silence and to ask that the elect will be given a spirit of repentance, a sense of sin, and the true freedom of the children of God.

The celebrant then addresses the elect, inviting them also to pray in silence and suggesting that as a sign of their inner spirit of repentance they bow their heads or kneel; he concludes his remarks with the following or similar words.

Presider: Elect of God, bow your heads [kneel down] and pray.

The elect bow their heads or kneel, and all pray for some time in silence. After the period of silent prayer, the community and the elect stand for the intercessions.

Intercessions for the Elect

167. *Either of the following formularies, options A or B, may be used for the intercessions for the elect and both the introduction and the intentions may be adapted to fit various circumstances. During the intercessions the godparents stand with their right hand on the shoulder of the elect.*

[If it is decided, in accordance with no. 156, that after the dismissal of the elect the usual general intercessions of the Mass are to be omitted and the liturgy of the eucharist is to begin immediately, intentions for the Church and the whole world are to be added to the following intentions for the elect.]

Presider: Let us pray for these elect whom God has called, that they may remain faithful to him and boldly give witness to the words of eternal life.

A.

Assisting Minister: *That, trusting in the truth of Christ, they may find freedom of mind and heart and preserve it always, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That, preferring the folly of the cross to the wisdom of the world, they may glory in God alone, let us pray to the Lord*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That, freed by the power of the Spirit, they may put all fear behind them and press forward with confidence, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That, transformed in the Spirit, they may seek those things that are holy and just, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That all who suffer persecution for Christ's name may find their strength in him, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That those families and nations prevented from embracing the faith may be granted freedom to believe the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That we who are faced with the values of the world may remain faithful to the spirit of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That the whole world, which the Father so loves, may attain in the Church complete spiritual freedom, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Or:

Presider: Let us pray for these elect whom God has called, that they may remain faithful to him and boldly give witness to the words of eternal life.

B.

Assisting Minister: *That God may dispel darkness and be the light that shines in the hearts of our elect, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That he may gently lead them to Christ, the light of the world, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That our elect may open their hearts to God and acknowledge him as the source of light and the witness of truth, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That he may heal them and preserve them from the unbelief of this world, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That, saved by him who takes away the sin of the world, they may be freed from the contagion and forces of sin, let us pray to the Lord.*

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Assisting Minister: *That, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they may never fail to profess the Good News of salvation and share it with others, let us pray to the Lord.*

- All:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- Assisting Minister:** *That all of us, by the example of our lives may become in Christ the light of the world, let us pray to the Lord.*
- All:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- Assisting Minister:** *That every inhabitant of the earth may acknowledge the true God, the Creator of all things, who bestows upon us the gift of Spirit and life, let us pray to the Lord.*
- All:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Exorcism

168. *After the intercessions, the rite continues with one of the following exorcisms.*

A. *The celebrant faces the elect and, with hands joined, says:*

Presider: Father of mercy,
you led the man born blind
to the kingdom of light
through the gift of faith in your Son.

Free these elect
from the false values that surround and blind them.
Set them firmly in your truth,
children of the light for ever.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

If it is convenient, the celebrant lays his hands on each of the elect.

Then, with hands outstretched over all the elect, he continues:

Presider: Lord Jesus,
you are the true light that enlightens the world.
Through your Spirit of truth
free those who are enslaved by the father of lies.

Stir up the desire for good in these elect,
whom you have chosen for your sacraments.

Let them rejoice in your light, that they may see,
and, like the man born blind whose sight you restored,
let them prove to be staunch and fearless witnesses to
the faith,
for you are Lord for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Or:

B. *The celebrant faces the elect and, with hands joined says:*

Presider: Lord God,
source of unfailing light,
by the death and resurrection of Christ
you have cast out the darkness of hatred and lies
and poured forth the light of truth and love
upon the human family.

Hear our prayers for these elect,
whom you have called to be your adopted children.

Enable them to pass from darkness to light
and, delivered from the prince of darkness,
to live always as children of the light.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Here, if this can be done conveniently, the celebrant lays his hands on each one of the elect.

Then, with hands outstretched over all the elect, he continues:

Presider: Lord Jesus,
at your own baptism
the heavens were opened
and you received the Holy Spirit
to empower you to proclaim the Good News to the poor
and restore sight to the blind.

Pour out the same Holy Spirit on these elect,
who long for your sacraments.
Guide them along the paths of right faith,
safe from error, doubt, and unbelief,
so that with eyes unsealed
they may come to see you face to face,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

An appropriate song may be sung, for example, Psalm 6, 26, 32, 38, 39, 40, 51, 116:1-9, 130, 139, or 142.

Dismissal of the Elect

169. *If the eucharist is to be celebrated, the elect are normally dismissed at this point by use of option A or B; if the elect are to stay for the celebration of the eucharist, option C is used; if the eucharist is not to be celebrated, the entire assembly is dismissed by use of option D.*

- A. *The celebrant dismisses the elect in these or similar words:*

Presider: Dear elect, go in peace, and join us again at the next scrutiny. May the Lord remain with you always.

Elect: Amen.

- B. *As an optional formulary for dismissing the catechumens, the celebrant may use these or similar words.*

Presider: My dear friends, this community now sends you forth to reflect more deeply upon the word of God which you have shared with us today. Be assured of our loving support and prayers for you. We look forward to the day when you will share fully in the Lord's Table.

- C. *If for serious reasons the elect cannot leave and must remain with the baptized, they are to be instructed that though they are present at the eucharist, they cannot take part in it as the baptized do. They may be reminded of this by the celebrant in these or similar words.*

Presider: Although you cannot yet participate fully in the Lord's eucharist, stay with us as a sign of our hope that all God's children will eat and drink with the Lord and work with his Spirit to re-create the face of the earth.

- D. *The celebrant dismisses those present, using these or similar words.*

Presider: Go in peace, and may the Lord remain with you always.

All: Thanks be to God.

An appropriate song may conclude the celebration.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

170. *When the eucharist is to follow, intercessory prayer is resumed with the usual general intercessions for the needs of the Church and the whole world; then, if required, the profession of faith is said. But for pastoral reasons these general intercessions and the profession of faith may be omitted. The liturgy of the Eucharist then begins as usual with the preparation of the gifts. In the eucharistic prayer there is to be a remembrance of the elect and their godparents (see ritual Mass "Christian Initiation: The Scrutinies").*