

W a k e ù p

Live the faith with courage, not fear.

HOLY HOUR FOR THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

This outline should be followed within the context of the usual Liturgical norms for a Holy Hour. The following can be recited after the Eucharist is brought to the altar. The Holy Hour should conclude with Benediction and the Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Opening Prayer

Presiding Minister: God our Father,
in this great sacrament
we come into the presence of Jesus Christ, your Son.
We bring before You all our persecuted brothers and
sisters, those that are known to us and the unknown.
We ask that You continue to strengthen them in their
sufferings with your Spirit, remembering that in our
weakness your power reaches perfection.
Permit that we too are constant witnesses to
our Faith, so that all our works may radiate with your
grace.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

Reading 1

WISDOM 3:1-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace.
For if before men, indeed, they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy of himself.

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As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.
In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;
They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
and the LORD shall be their King forever.
Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.

OR

Reading 1

1 PETER 4: 12-19

A reading from the First Letter of Peter

Beloved, do not be surprised that a trial by fire is occurring among you,
as if something strange were happening to you.
But 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.
But let no one among you be made to suffer
as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as an intriguer.
But whoever is made to suffer as a Christian should not be ashamed
but glorify God because of the name.
For it is time for the judgment to begin with the household of God;
if it begins with us, how will it end
for those who fail to obey the Gospel of God?

And if the righteous one is barely saved,
where will the godless and the sinner appear?

As a result, those who suffer in accord with God's will
hand their souls over to a faithful creator as they do good.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
17

PS 31:3CD-4, 6 AND 8AB, 16BC AND

R. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Be my rock of refuge,
a stronghold to give me safety.

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You are my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake you will lead and guide me.

R. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Into your hands I commend my spirit;
you will redeem me, O LORD, O faithful God.
I will rejoice and be glad because of your mercy.

R. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Rescue me from the clutches of my enemies and my persecutors,
Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your kindness.

R. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

MT 10:28-33

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his Apostles:

"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body
but cannot kill the soul;
rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy
both soul and body in Gehenna.

Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin?

Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge.

Even all the hairs of your head are counted.

So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Everyone who acknowledges me before others

I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father.

But whoever denies me before others,

I will deny before my heavenly Father."

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the readings the presiding minister may give a homily, a brief meditation, or leave a time for silent reflection.

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Homily / Brief Meditation

The presiding minister may offer insights and points of reflection on the following: (1) the suffering Christians and our solidarity with them; (2) the importance of giving testimony to our Faith with perseverance and the hope we have in the Lord; (3) the power of prayer to help our persecuted brothers and sisters.

Period of Silent Reflection and Adoration

Intercessions

Presiding Minister: God is the Father of us all, and is constantly keeping watch and guard over the lives of his faithful. In him we place our trust and hope as we pray:

We pray for the Holy Catholic Church:
that it always remains faithful to Christ and His teachings even in the midst of suffering and persecution.

We pray to the Lord:

We pray for all Bishops, Priests and Religious who are dedicated to taking care of the Persecuted Church:

that they will always bear witness to Hope for those who are suffering.

We pray to the Lord:

For all those who suffer the loss of their loved ones in the persecution:
may they find their peace and comfort in the Word of God, that promises eternal life to those who are faithful witnesses to Christ's name.

We pray to the Lord:

For the persecuted, rejected, discriminated, or tortured for the faith:
may the Lord grant them courage and perseverance, and may they open their hearts to love and forgiveness.

We pray to the Lord:

For those who are persecuting and causing violence to others:
may they come to know Christ, and have their hearts open to conversion and repentance.

We pray to the Lord:

For those who have lost their lives giving witness to their faith, and for those who have lost their lives while in exile:
may they rejoice in eternal life.

We pray to the Lord:

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Presiding Minister: Through the intercession of Mary Queen of Peace, we ask that our voices be heard, as we pray together:

**All: God,
the sufferings of your faithful in Syria and Iraq
are heavy and frightening.
We ask you to give your servants courage and perseverance,
so they may always be faithful imitators of Christ.
Help us live in peace, placing all of our confidence in You.
Let our hearts be filled with forgiveness and
love for all, as your Son has taught us,
so we do not guard any anger within us.
Give us the strength to truly pray for the
conversion of all those who are persecuting
our brothers and sisters so the greatest glory
will be given to your Name. Amen.**