

4TH IN A SERIES OF
ANCIENT LITURGIES
AN 8TH CENTURY
GALLICAN
LITURGY



SOURCES: MISSALE GOTHICUM, STOWE MISSAL,
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COMMENTARY: *(necessarily brief and compressed)*

The term “Gallican” applies to liturgies of northern and western Europe in the centuries before the Roman church began to require liturgical uniformity. These liturgies were common to: France, Northern Italy, Spain, and Britain (Celtic), and had come from an eastern source – probably Antioch – by way of the city of Milan.

While the Roman liturgy was austere, direct, and compact; the Gallican was more poetic, colorful, and full of imagery. Local customs and traditions were easily integrated into the structure of the Gallican liturgy.

Remember, most people of that time did not read, so there are no long parts for the people, just songs or responses that might have been memorized by ear.

Unlike modern Americans, the people of this era expected to be obedient to authority so they weren’t necessarily converted to Christianity by choice. They did what they were told. Still, the Good News must have sounded very good to them.

Focusing on Britain, our particular heritage, the 8th century was a time when both the church and the nation were in transition. The church was becoming the main religion of Britain after hundreds of years of spotty, checkerboard establishment. It was a monastic church with the monasteries providing education, parish clergy, and even missionaries to pagan parts of western Europe.

Only a century or so earlier than this time (597 C.E.), Pope Gregory the First had sent a band of missionaries to Christianize England, unaware that there had been a strong and active Celtic Christianity already in existence there. The Roman missionaries set up at Canterbury in Kent and

When you come again to judge may none of us appear as a prisoner before your tribunal, and grant that the dark cloud of our sins may be dispersed that we may be pleasing in your sight and that we may come to that land of eternal refreshment which your saints possess. **AMEN.**

Hymn 328, “Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the Lord” is sung while the clergy and people are receiving their communion

Priest: Having fed upon the celestial food, and having been refreshed by the draught from the eternal chalice, dearly beloved, we render praise and thanks to our Lord God, praying that having fed spiritually upon the most holy body of our Lord Jesus Christ we may be freed from carnal sins and perform spiritual works; through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. **AMEN.**

Grant to us, O Lord, we beseech you, healing of mind and body because from your altar we have received your blessing, that we, fortified by so great a means of healing, may be oppressed by no adversaries; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

All Depart

which we bless, alleluia, the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, alleluia, unto the remission of our sins, alleluia.

Not presuming on our merits, Holy Father, but obeying the command of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, we dare to say

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Set us free, Almighty God, from all evil, from all peril, and preserve us in all good works, in perfect truth, and in true freedom, O God, who reigns forever and ever. **AMEN.**

O blessed Lord, whose triumph over death was discovered by your holy apostles, make bright the world, and bless, O Lord, this family which today rejoices in the celebration of your rising. **AMEN.**

Give peace to your people to whom you have given new life by your glorious resurrection and redeemed from eternal death by your patient passion. **AMEN.**

Give to them from your inexhaustible treasury the riches of goodness. Fill them with understanding in order that with clean actions and pure hearts they may follow your sweet ways of justice. **AMEN.**

In the time of your resurrection the apostles and the world were mystified and confused, so now in this present time of solemn celebration deliver us from the bonds of our sins. **AMEN.**

proceeded to develop ties with the various local British kings. The Celtic Church was not impressed and continued with their local customs where they were already established. In time, through growing political strength, the Roman influence won out and Celtic Christianity, with its peculiar customs, disappeared.

Politically, the various tribal factions of the country were becoming amalgamated, and it was becoming possible to think of England as a nation. This was in large part because of a saintly, scholarly, British monk (pictured on the cover of this leaflet) named Bede. Bede had a long and devout life in a monastery near York, where he wrote and corresponded widely with other Christian scholars all over the Western world. In time known as The Venerable Bede, he created a remarkable work called "*An Ecclesiastical History of the English People*", the tone of which made it possible for people to imagine – really for the first time – a unified English nation as it had a unified Church. Bede's written work had drawn diverse and conflicted people into a circle that they hadn't realized was there. Bede, along with other major church dignitaries, pushed the cause of the Roman church in Britain. There were many reasons for this, not least of which was a widespread romantic nostalgia for Roman civilization and power. Eventually, England among all European countries would be the most loyal to the papacy - a situation that lasted until Henry VIII.

Selections from Psalm 118

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; * his mercy endures for ever.
2 Let Israel now proclaim, * "His mercy endures for ever."
14 The Lord is my strength and my song, * and he has become my salvation.
15 There is a sound of exultation and victory * in the tents of the righteous:
16 "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! * the right hand of the Lord is exalted! the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"
17 I shall not die, but live, * and declare the works of the Lord.
19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; * I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.
20 "This is the gate of the Lord; * he who is righteous may enter."
21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me * and have become my salvation.
22 The same stone which the builders rejected * has become the chief cornerstone.
23 This is the Lord's doing, * and it is marvelous in our eyes.
24 On this day the Lord has acted; * we will rejoice and be glad in it.
25 Hosannah, Lord, hosannah! * Lord, send us now success.
26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; * we bless you from the house of the Lord.
27 God is the Lord; he has shined upon us; * form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of your glory. Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Priest: Glory to God in the highest, for our redemption has drawn nigh, the expectation of the nations is accomplished, the resurrection of the dead is here, and the expectation of the blessed has show forth through Christ our Lord.

Who the day before he suffered for the salvation of us all, standing in the midst of his disciples and apostles, took bread into his holy hands, looked to heaven to you, God the Father Almighty, giving thanks, blessed and broke and gave to his apostles, saying, Take, eat from this, all of you. This is my body which is broken for the life of the world. In the same way, after supper, taking the cup into his hands, he looked to heaven to you God the Father Almighty, giving thanks he blessed and gave to his apostles, saying, Take, drink from this, all of you, for this is the cup of my holy blood of the new and eternal testament, which for you and for many is poured out for the remission of sins. In addition to this saying, you have also said, As often as you eat of this bread and drink of this cup you make memorial of me, you proclaim my passion, you hope for my advent until I come again.

We believe, Lord, in your coming again. We recall your passion. Your body was broken for the remission of sins. Your holy blood was poured out as the price of redemption, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns unto eternity. **AMEN.**

THE FRACTION: Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you. They knew the Lord, alleluia, in the breaking of the bread, alleluia. The bread which we break is the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, alleluia. The cup

Priest: Receive, we beseech you, Lord Jesus, this sacrifice of praise which is offered by us for your mighty resurrection, and grant that they whose names were recited, for whom you broke the bonds of death, may be inscribed in the book of eternal life, O Savior of the world, who forever lives and reigns with the Father. **AMEN.**

The peace and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
be always with you.

And with your spirit.

Almighty God, give your family joy in this celebration of your Son's rising to new life, that we mortal men may be brought to the highest civic unity to which men can be raised, and grant that being joined together through eternal bonds, for which we offer thanks to you, we may not disturb this unity by sin, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, God, forever and ever. **AMEN.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

Priest: It is meet and right, it is our duty and healthful for us to give thanks to you, Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, who stooped to visit the world in our Lord Jesus Christ, who has achieved for us the victory over death. The sins which man is not able to cleanse, God came to carry away. Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, was born on earth and now reigns in heaven. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious Name; evermore praising you and singing, (*Hymnal S-122*) **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts.**

**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever.
Amen. Alleluia!**

(This service has been adapted for our modern use with lections, psalms, and canticles for the first Sunday following Easter.

Deacon: SILENCE!

Priest: The Lord be always with you.

All: **And with your spirit. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

All: **Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

(Christ our Passover, Hymnal S-47, sung in unison)

Priest: You are risen unto us, O true Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ. You have come from heaven the savior of the human race. You have burst the bonds of death and the tomb, desiring to deliver your own people and to destroy the writing of old sins, that you might extend the triumph of eternal life. And therefore we beseech you, that in the bowels of your tender mercy you would appear to our souls, O eternal Savior, and in delivering us from the evil enemy you would make us worshipers of righteousness, and that we, having put away every mortal error and walking directly in the way of peace may be able to serve you rightly, O Savior of the world, who with the Father, and the Holy Spirit lives and rules and reigns, God, world without end. **AMEN.**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know

—this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 16 (sung responsively)

1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; * I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, * upon those who are noble among the people.

3 But those who run after other gods * shall have their troubles multiplied.

4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, * nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.

most glorious Dayspring, the most healing Light. In this blessed season Omnipotent God raised his Son for our redemption.

Let us therefore, dearly beloved, offer our prayers that we, visited by the Divine Light, might be led into more loving conduct, taught in the divine precepts, redeemed by his tasting of death, enriched by the infusion of the Holy Spirit, kept in perpetual devotion, and remain forever in his blessed family, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, God, forever and ever. **AMEN.**

Priest: O God, rich in mercy, who brought us who were dead to sin to life with your Son Christ, who, having formed all took the form of a servant, who, being God was made flesh, who being worshiped among the stars tasted death on the cross and rose from the grave to lift mankind beyond the fear of destruction. Grant that we who give thanks for the resurrection of your Son and are regenerated by the Holy Spirit, may through your grace yield ourselves to his teachings which lead to salvation. Grant this through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, God, forever and ever. **AMEN.**

The Reading of the Names:

Deacon: Our clergy, (N.N. _____), offer the oblation to the Lord God, making memorial for themselves and the whole brotherhood of clergy. The servants of God, (N.N. _____) offer bread and wine, beseeching the Lord to hear their prayers and supplications, and praying also for your servants (*names of the dead, N.N.*) whom you have called from this place to you, that they may be enrolled among the ranks of the blessed.

For seasonable weather, and for the fruits and increase of the earth, we pray to you **Lord have mercy**

For virgins, widows, orphans, captives, and penitents, we pray to you **Lord have mercy**

For navigators and other travelers, and those condemned to prison, bonds, the mines, or exile, we pray to you **Lord have mercy**

For those suffering with divers infirmities, and those vexed with unclean spirits, we pray to you **Lord have mercy**

For those who in your holy church bestow the fruits of mercy, we pray to you **Lord have mercy**

Hear us, O God, in all our prayers and petitions we pray you. Let us all say, Lord, have mercy.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy

Priest: Hear, O Lord, a family devoted to you and gathered together in the bosom of your church on this joyous day of your resurrection in order that it may proclaim your praise. Grant redemption to the captives, sight to the blind, forgiveness to sinners, for you came to save us. Behold from your holy heaven, and illumine your people whose soul with a full devotion trusts in you. O Savior of the world, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and rules and reigns, God, world without end. **AMEN.**

Deacon: All who are catechumens, depart!

Hymnal 324, Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (a cappella)

Priest: In this most holy season of the resurrection in which our Lord Jesus Christ burst the bonds of death and the tomb, poured out immortality upon mankind, lifted forever the heavy burdens of men, we most strongly desire to come together and give thanks. He is the rising of the Sun, the

5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; * it is you who uphold my lot.

6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; * indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; * my heart teaches me, night after night.

8 I have set the Lord always before me; * because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; * my body also shall rest in hope.

10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, * nor let your holy one see the Pit.

11 You will show me the path of life; * in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.

Amen. Alleluia!

A reading from the first letter of Peter

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you

believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

(Hymn 428)

*(Here, the Gospel book is processed into the midst of the people as we chant **Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One have mercy upon us, Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One have mercy upon us.** Hymnal S-102)*

Deacon: The Holy Gospel according to John
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood

among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord **Glory to God Almighty Holy, holy, holy is God the sovereign Lord of all, who was, and is, and is to come!**

The Homily

The Litany *(or Prayers of the People led by the deacon)*

Petitioning for divine peace and the gift of pardon, with all the heart and with all the mind, we pray to you
Lord have mercy
For your holy catholic church here and scattered throughout the whole world, we pray to you **Lord have mercy**
For our bishop, and all his clergy, and all priests and ministers, we pray to you **Lord have mercy**
For your servant our president, and all his soldiers, we pray to you **Lord have mercy**
For the peace of the church, the calling of the gentiles, and the tranquility of the people, we pray to you **Lord have mercy**
For this city, and its preservation, and all the inhabitants of it, we pray to you **Lord have mercy**

