

Commentary on this evening's service:

The whole service would be "sung" or chanted, as we will do this evening, and during the Prayers of the People and the blessing of the bread and wine, the people would hold out their hands along with the clergy.

The clergy and people would be in ordinary street dress, although by this time the emperor was encouraging clergy to wear better clothes as suited their "importance". The stole was becoming the symbol of the clerical office, so we will use one for this service. (and NO, the clergy of that period did NOT have microphones)

In the 4th century, the lections would include: a reading from the Jewish law, a reading from one of the prophets, part of one of the epistles, and the gospel, during which all stood.

There were seats available only for the sick or elderly, and most people would stand, sit on the floor, or mill around a bit. Occasionally the deacon would try to focus the crowd's attention by saying "Let us attend".

In the Prayers of the People, the deacon mentions "ascetics". A century or two before this period, asceticism was wide-spread as some Christians would live in wilderness areas as they fasted and prayed. They were battling their worldliness and seeking a kind of spiritual union with Christ by sharing His suffering. In the 4th century there were still such heroic Christian hermits and monks.

At the offertory, a basin of water was brought to the clergy to wash their hands before consecrating the bread and wine.

What attitudes in the prayers seem at variance with our present day beliefs?

What does this liturgy seem to say about the average Christian attending this service in the 4th century?

2ND IN A SERIES OF ANCIENT
LITURGIES

AN EASTERN LITURGY OF THE 4TH CENTURY



ADAPTED FROM THE JERUSALEM
LITURGY OF ST. JAMES

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God. You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the Lord. You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the Lord. You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord."

*After all have received, the **deacon** says:*

Let us give thanks to our God, that he hath vouchsafed to make us partakers of the body and blood of Christ for the remission of sins, and for life everlasting. And let us pray unto him that he would keep us blameless, as he is good and a lover of men. **AMEN.**

Presider: O God, who of thy great and inexpressible love to man, dost condescend to the weakness of thy servants; we give thanks to thee that thou has vouchsafed to make us partakers of this heavenly table: Let not the receiving of thy unspotted mysteries be to the condemnation of us sinners, but keep us, good God, in the sanctification of thy holy Spirit, that being made holy, we may obtain a part and inheritance with all thy saints, who have pleased thee from the beginning of the world; through the mercies of thy only-begotten Son, our Lord, and God, and Savior Jesus Christ, with whom, and thy Holy Spirit, thou art blessed, now and for ever, world without end. **AMEN.**

Deacons: Let us bow down our heads to the Lord.

Presider: O God, great and wonderful, look upon thy servants, who bow down their necks unto thee; stretch forth thy powerful hand, full of blessings, and bless thy people. Preserve thine inheritance, that we may continually glorify thee, for ever, the only living and true God; for to thee, O Father, belongs glory, honor, adoration, and thanksgiving, and to thy Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever. **AMEN.**

Deacon: Depart in Peace!

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise. Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob; but you have been weary of me, O Israel! You have not brought me your sheep for burnt offerings, or honored me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with offerings, or wearied you with frankincense. You have not bought me sweet cane with money, or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins; you have wearied me with your iniquities. I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

Psalm 119 (*read, or sung in unison*)

**Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.**

**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

**Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.**

**Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.**

**Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.**

**Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.**

**Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.
Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.**

A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Church in Corinth

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go

OUR FATHER, WHO 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. FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US, AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL. AMEN.

Presider: Peace be with you all. **And with thy spirit.**

Deacon: Let us bow down our heads unto the Lord.

Presider: We thy servants, O Lord, bow down our necks to thee, before thy holy altar, in expectation of thy rich mercies; Send down upon us, O Lord, thine abundant grace and benediction: and sanctify our souls and bodies, that we may be made worthy to be communicants and partakers of thy holy mysteries, for the remission of our sins, and for life everlasting. For to thee, our God, belongs adoration and glory, and to thy only begotten Son, and Holy Spirit now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Presider: Grace be with you all. **And with thy spirit.**

Deacon: Let us attend in the fear of God.

Presider: Holy things for holy persons.

All: **There is one holy, one Lord Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father, to whom be glory for ever.**

(During communion, the choir would sing Psalm 34)

Words of administration: The Body of Christ. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, the cup of life. **Amen.**

The congregation comes forward to receive. They would stand.

us under the feet of thine elect; through thy only begotten Son, our Lord, and God, and savior Jesus Christ, for he alone appeared without sin upon the earth, with whom thou art blessed and glorified, together with thy Holy Spirit, now and ever, world without end. **AMEN.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Presider: Peace be with you all. **And with thy spirit.**

Deacon: Let us again and again, pray to the Lord. Let us pray for the gifts which are offered to the Lord God; that the Lord our God, receiving them upon his heavenly altar for a sweet smelling savor, would send down upon us the divine grace, and the gift of his Holy Spirit.

Let us pray for the peace and tranquility of the whole world, and of the holy churches of God.

Let us pray for those who have offered these gifts, and for whom everyone has offered, or has in his thoughts; and for all the people that stand about the altar; for the remission of our sins, and the propitiation of our souls.

Let us pray for every soul that is in affliction or calamity, and stands in need of the mercy and help of God; and for the conversion of those that are in error; for health to the sick; for deliverance to the captives; and for rest to our fathers and brethren who have gone before us. Let us all earnestly say, Lord have mercy.

All: LORD, HAVE MERCY.

Presider: Vouchsafe us, O Lord, thou lover of men, with freedom, without condemnation, and with a pure heart, to call upon thee the holy God who art in the heavens, as our Father, and say,

one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Greeting before the homily:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And with thy spirit.

(At this point the Catechumens and the Penitents were dismissed, and the deacon or deacons led the Prayers of the Faithful)

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord in peace. Let us pray to the Lord for that Peace which is from above, and for the salvation of our souls.

Let us pray to the Lord for the Peace of the whole world; and for the union of all the holy churches of God.

Let us pray to the Lord for all the people who love Christ, that he would save them and help them.

Let us pray to the Lord for the remission of our sins and the forgiveness of our transgressions; and that we may be delivered from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, and from the assault of our enemies.

Let us pray to the Lord for those who bring forth fruit and do good works in the holy churches of God, who are mindful of the poor, the widows and orphans, strangers and indigent persons, and those who desire to be remembered in our prayers.

Let us pray to the Lord for the aged and infirm; the sick and diseased, and those who are infested with unclean spirits, that God would send them health and deliverance.

Let us pray to the Lord for those who are in virginity and chastity, for the ascetics, and for those who live in honorable marriage.

Let us pray to the Lord for Christians who travel by sea, or by land, or are in foreign countries, and for our brethren that are in captivity, or banishment, in prisons, or in hard slavery, that they may return in peace.

Let us pray to the Lord for temperate weather, moderate showers, pleasant dews, and plenty of the fruits of the earth, and for the Circle of the Year.

Let us pray to the Lord for our Fathers and brethren who are present, and join in prayer with us in this holy hour, and at all times for their diligence, labor, and alacrity.

Let us pray to the Lord for every Christian soul under affliction or calamity, and who stand in need of the mercy and help of God: For the conversion of those that are in error: For health to the sick: For deliverance to the captives: For rest to our Fathers and brethren who are gone before us.

Let us pray to the Lord that our supplications may be heard, and may be acceptable in the sight of God, and that he would send down upon us his rich mercies and compassions.

The president, or celebrant says:

goodness; for the eyes of all hope in thee, and thou givest them food in due season; thou openest thy hand, and fillest every living creature with thy gracious bounty.

Remember, O Lord, all who bring forth fruit, and do good works in the holy churches, and who are mindful of the poor: the widows, orphans, strangers, and indigent persons, and all who desire to be remembered in our prayers.

Vouchsafe also, O Lord, to remember those who have this day offered these oblations at thy holy altar, and for whom every one has offered, or has in his thoughts, and those whose name we have lately read before thee.

Remember, O Lord, according to the multitude of thy mercies and compassions, me thy unworthy and unprofitable servant, and all the deacons who compass thy holy altar, and grant to them a blameless life, preserve them unspotted in their ministry, and purchase for them good degrees.

That we may all find mercy and favor, with all thy saints, who from the beginning of the world have pleased thee in their several generations, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, martyrs, and every just spirit made perfect in the faith of thy Christ.

Deacon: Remember, O Lord our God.

Presider: Remember, O Lord the God of spirits and of all flesh, those whom we have remembered, and those also whom we have not remembered, from righteous Abel even unto this day: Do thou give them rest in the region of the living, in the delights of paradise, in the bosoms of our holy fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, whence sorrow, grief, and lamentation are banished away, where the light of thy countenance visits and shines continually; and dispose the end of our lives, O Lord, in peace, that they may be Christian, well-pleasing to thee, and free from sin, gathering

set before thee, that by his descent upon them, he may make this bread the holy body of thy Christ, and this cup the precious blood of thy Christ; that they may be to all who partake of them, for remission of sins, and for life everlasting.

We offer to thee, O Lord, for thy holy church throughout the whole world; do thou now also plentifully furnish her with the rich gifts of thy Holy Spirit.

Remember, O Lord, the holy bishops in the same, who rightly divide the word of thy truth.

Remember, O Lord, this our city, and every city and country, with all the faithful that dwell in them; preserve them in peace and safety.

Remember, O Lord, our Christian brethren that travel by sea, or by land, or are in foreign countries, that are in chains or imprisonments, that are in captivity or banishment, in the mines, under torture, or in hard slavery.

Remember, O Lord, those that are sick or diseased, and such as are infested with unclean spirits; and make haste to heal and deliver them.

Remember, O Lord, every Christian soul under affliction or calamity, and who stand in need of divine mercy and help. Remember also the conversion of those that are in error.

Remember, O Lord, those who labor and minister to us for thy holy name's sake.

Remember all, O Lord, for good; have mercy upon all, O Lord, be reconciled to us all; settle the flocks of thy people in peace: remove all scandals: make wars to cease: put a stop to the violence of heresies: and grant us thy peace and love, O God, our savior, and the hope of all the ends of the earth.

Remember, O Lord, to grant us temperate weather, moderate showers, pleasant dews, and plenty of the fruits of the earth, and to bless the whole circle of the year with thy

O Lord Almighty, look down through Christ upon this thy flock, and deliver it from all ignorance and wicked practice, and grant that they may fear thee in earnest, and love thee with affection, and have a due reverence of thy glory. Be gracious and merciful to them, and hearken to them when they pray unto Thee; and keep them, that they may be unmovable, blameless, and unprovable, deliver them from every sickness, and every disease, and every offense, every injury and deceit, and vouchsafe them that everlasting life which is in Christ thy only begotten Son, our God and Savior, through whom glory and worship be to thee, in the Holy Spirit, now and always, and forever and ever. **Amen.**

Deacon: Let us attend.

Presider: The peace of God be with you all.

Deacon: Salute one another with the holy kiss.

(a sub-deacon brings water to the president & presbyters for them to wash their hands)

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The Offertory: (the deacons bring the gifts to the president at the altar, where the presbyters are at his right and left. The clergy then pray silently, and the president, making a sign of the cross on his forehead, begins the Eucharistic Prayer with the Grace)

The love of the Father, the grace of the Son, and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto the Lord. **It is meet and right.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty to praise thee, to bless thee, to worship thee, to glorify thee, to give thanks to thee, the maker of all creatures visible and invisible; to whom the heaven and the heaven of heavens sing praise, with all their hosts: the Sun and Moon, and the whole choir of stars: the earth, and sea, and all things that are in them: the angels, archangels, thrones dominions, principalities, authorities and tremendous powers: The many-eyed cherubim, and the seraphim with six wings, who with twain cover their faces, and with twain their feet, and with twain they fly, crying one to another, with never-ceasing voices, and uninterrupted shouts of praise, and saying,
Holy, holy, holy, Lord of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest: blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

Holy art thou, O eternal King, and the giver of all holiness: Holy is thine only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom thou madest the worlds: Holy also is thy Holy Spirit who searcheth all things, even the depths of thee, O God. Holy art thou who rulest over all, Almighty and good God, terrible, yet full of compassion: But especially indulgent to the workmanship of thy own hands; for thou didst make man, formed out of the earth, after thy own image, and graciously gavest him the enjoyment of Paradise: And when he had lost his happiness by transgressing thy commandment, thou of thy goodness didst not despise nor abandon him; but didst discipline him as a merciful Father, recall him by the Law, and train him up by the pedagogy of the prophets. And last of all thou didst send thine own only begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ into the world, that by his coming he might renew thy image in us; who descended from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, conversed with mankind, and directed his

whole dispensation to our salvation. And when the hour was come, that he who had no sin was to suffer a voluntary and life-giving death upon the cross for us sinners, in the same night that he was betrayed, or rather offered up himself for the life and salvation of the world, taking bread into his holy and immaculate hands, looking up to heaven, and presenting it to thee his God and Father, he gave thanks, sanctified and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, take, eat, this is my body, which is broken and given for you for the remission of sins.

In like manner, after supper, he took the cup, and having mixed it of wine and water he gave thanks, sanctified, and blessed it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, drink ye all of this. This is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed and given for you and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

Wherefore, in commemoration of his death, and resurrection from the dead on the third day, his ascension into heaven, and sitting at the right hand of thee his God and Father, and his second glorious and terrible advent, when he shall come again with glory to judge the quick and the dead, and shall render to every one according to his works, we offer to thee, O Lord, this tremendous and unbloody sacrifice: Beseeching thee, that thou wouldst not deal with us after our sins, nor reward us after our iniquities; but according to thy clemency and ineffable love to mankind, overlooking and blotting out the handwriting that is against us thy servants; wouldst grant us thy heavenly and eternal gifts, because thy people, and thy Church make their supplications unto thee.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord God, Almighty Father, have mercy upon us according to thy great mercy; and send down thy holy Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts which are here

