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CONTENTS

Decree of the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship, 1st Edition	7
Decree of the Sacred Congregation for the Sacraments and Divine Worship, 2nd Edition	8
Decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments	10
Decree of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.....	11

INTRODUCTION: PREAMBLE

Chapter I: General Principles for the Liturgical Celebration of the Word of God	13
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FIRST PART:

THE WORD OF GOD IN THE CELEBRATION OF MASS

Chapter II: The Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word at Mass	16
Chapter III: Offices and Ministries in the Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word within Mass	20

SECOND PART:

THE STRUCTURE OF THE ORDER OF READINGS FOR MASS

Chapter IV: The General Arrangement of Readings for Mass.....	23
Chapter V: Description of the Order of Readings	29
Chapter VI: Adaptations, Translations and Format of the Order of Readings.....	33

TABLES

Table I: Principal Celebrations of the Liturgical Year	36
Table II: Order of the Second Reading for Sundays in Ordinary Time	38
Abbreviations of the Books of the Bible	39

PROPER OF SEASONS

SUNDAY READINGS

Season of Advent.....	43
Season of Christmas	95
Season of Lent	167
Easter Triduum and Season of Easter	301
Ordinary Time	499

Alleluia Verses for Sundays in Ordinary Time955
Solemnities of the Lord during Ordinary Time961
Common Texts for Sung Responsorial Psalms.....1011
Chrism Mass1027
Octave of Easter.....1031

SOLEMNITIES AND FEASTS OF THE LORD AND THE SAINTS

February 2: The Presentation of the Lord1061
March 19: St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary1067
March 25: The Annunciation of the Lord1072
June 24: The Nativity of St. John the Baptist.....1076
June 29: SS. Peter and Paul, Apostles1084
August 6: The Transfiguration of the Lord1093
August 15: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary1099
September 14: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross1108
November 1: All Saints1112
November 2: The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed1117
November 9: The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica.....1149
December 8: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary1153

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Sequences1157
Appendix II: Table of Readings1161
Appendix III: Table of Responsorial Psalms and Canticles1175

FIRST READING

God himself will come to save us.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

35:1–6a, 10

The desert and the parched land will exult;
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.

They will bloom with abundant flowers,
and rejoice with joyful song.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to them,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the hands that are feeble,
make firm the knees that are weak,
say to those whose hearts are frightened:

Be strong, fear not!

Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
with divine recompense
he comes to save you.

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,
the ears of the deaf be cleared;
then will the lame leap like a stag,
then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return
and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy;
they will meet with joy and gladness,
sorrow and mourning will flee.

The word of the Lord.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

When a Sunday does not occur between December 25 and January 1, this feast is celebrated on December 30 with only one reading before the Gospel.

FIRST READING

Those who fear the Lord honor their parents.

A reading from the Book of Sirach

3:2–7, 12–14

God sets a father in honor over his children;
 a mother's authority he confirms over her sons.
 Whoever honors his father atones for sins,
 and preserves himself from them.
 When he prays, he is heard;
 he stores up riches who reveres his mother.
 Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children,
 and, when he prays, is heard.
 Whoever reveres his father will live a long life;
 he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.

My son, take care of your father when he is old;
 grieve him not as long as he lives.
 Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him;
 revile him not all the days of his life;
 kindness to a father will not be forgotten,
 firmly planted against the debt of your sins
 —a house raised in justice to you.

The word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to many,
but to those who are called, the wisdom of God.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

1:22–25

Brothers and sisters:
 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom,
 but we proclaim Christ crucified,
 a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
 but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike,
 Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom,
 and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.
 The word of the Lord.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Jn 3:16

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
 so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal
 life.

GOSPEL

Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

2:13–25

Since the Passover of the Jews was near,
 Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
 He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep,
 and doves,
 as well as the money changers seated there.



Am

FIRST READING

They read from the book of the Law and they understood what was read.

A reading from the Book of Nehemiah

8:2–4a, 5–6, 8–10

Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly,
 which consisted of men, women,
 and those children old enough to understand.
 Standing at one end of the open place that was before the
 Water Gate,
 he read out of the book from daybreak till midday,
 in the presence of the men, the women,
 and those children old enough to understand;
 and all the people listened attentively to the book of the law.
 Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform
 that had been made for the occasion.
 He opened the scroll
 so that all the people might see it
 —for he was standing higher up than any of the people—;
 and, as he opened it, all the people rose.
 Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God,
 and all the people, their hands raised high, answered,
 “Amen, amen!”
 Then they bowed down and prostrated themselves before the
 LORD,
 their faces to the ground.
 Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God,
 interpreting it so that all could understand what was read.
 Then Nehemiah, that is, His Excellency, and Ezra the priest-
 scribe
 and the Levites who were instructing the people
 said to all the people:
 “Today is holy to the LORD your God.

FIRST READING

The word is very near to you: you have only to carry it out.

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

30:10–14

Moses said to the people:
“If only you would heed the voice of the LORD, your God,
and keep his commandments and statutes
that are written in this book of the law,
when you return to the LORD, your God,
with all your heart and all your soul.

“For this command that I enjoin on you today
is not too mysterious and remote for you.

It is not up in the sky, that you should say,

‘Who will go up in the sky to get it for us
and tell us of it, that we may carry it out?’

Nor is it across the sea, that you should say,

‘Who will cross the sea to get it for us
and tell us of it, that we may carry it out?’

No, it is something very near to you,

already in your mouths and in your hearts;
you have only to carry it out.”

The word of the Lord.

FIRST READING

Humble yourself and you will find favor with God.

A reading from the Book of Sirach

3:17–18, 20, 28–29

My child, conduct your affairs with humility,
and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts.

Humble yourself the more, the greater you are,
and you will find favor with God.

What is too sublime for you, seek not,
into things beyond your strength search not.

The mind of a sage appreciates proverbs,
and an attentive ear is the joy of the wise.

Water quenches a flaming fire,
and alms atone for sins.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 68:4–5, 6–7, 10–11

R. (cf. 11b) God, in your goodness, you have made a home
for the poor.

The just rejoice and exult before God;
they are glad and rejoice.

Sing to God, chant praise to his name,
whose name is the LORD.

R. God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the
poor.

The father of orphans and the defender of widows
is God in his holy dwelling.

God gives a home to the forsaken;
he leads forth prisoners to prosperity.

**THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
THE KING**

FIRST READING

As for you, my flock, I will judge between one sheep and another.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel 34:11–12, 15–17

Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will look after and tend my sheep.

As a shepherd tends his flock

**when he finds himself among his scattered sheep,
so will I tend my sheep.**

**I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered
when it was cloudy and dark.**

I myself will pasture my sheep;

I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD.

The lost I will seek out,

the strayed I will bring back,

the injured I will bind up,

the sick I will heal,

**but the sleek and the strong I will destroy,
shepherding them rightly.**

As for you, my sheep, says the Lord GOD,

**I will judge between one sheep and another,
between rams and goats.**

The word of the Lord.

These sequences are for optional use, with the exception of Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday, when the text proper to those days is obligatory (Cf. General Instruction of the Roman Missal, n. 40). The Latin text is given here for use in those particular circumstances where it may be pastorally suitable, and especially when they are sung according to the plain chant melodies found in the *Graduale Romanum*.

Throughout the Easter Octave

**Victimæ paschali laudes
immolent Christiani.**

**Agnus redemit oves:
Christus innocens Patri
reconciliavit peccatores.**

**Mors et vita duello
confluxere mirando:
duæ vitæ mortuus regnat vivus.**

**Dic nobis, Maria,
quid vidisti in via?**

**Sepulcrum Christi viventis,
et gloriam vidi resurgentis**

**Angelicos testes,
sudarium et vestes.**

**Surrexit Christus spes mea:
præcedet suos in Galilæam.**

**Scimus Christum surrexisse
a mortuis vere:
tu nobis, victor Rex, miserere.**

(Graduale Romanum 1974, pp. 198–199)

On Pentecost Sunday

**Veni, Sancte Spiritus,
et emitte cælitus
lucis tuæ radium.**

**Veni, pater pauperum,
veni, dator munerum,
veni, lumen cordium.**

**Consolator optime,
dulcis hospes animæ,
dulce refrigerium.**

**In labore requies,
in æstu temperies,
in fletu solacium.**

**O lux beatissima,
reple cordis intima
tuorum fidelium.**

**Sine tuo numine,
nihil est in homine,
nihil est innoxium.**

**Lava quod est sordidum,
riga quod est aridum,
sana quod est saucium.**

**Flecte quod est rigidum,
fove quod est frigidum,
rege quod est devium.**

APPENDIX III

TABLE OF RESPONSORIAL PSALMS AND CANTICLES

I. RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

<p>Ps 1.....78, 185, 220, 233, 344, 464, 469, 476, 479, 497, 549, 595, 598, 652, 674, 739, 808</p> <p>Ps 2.....212, 267, 283, 879</p> <p>Ps 3.....323, 498</p> <p>Ps 4.....47, 360</p> <p>Ps 5.....365, 378, 437</p> <p>Ps 6.....793</p> <p>Ps 7.....249</p> <p>Ps 8.....166, 264, 306, 330, 472, 753, 884, 904</p> <p>Ps 9.....394, 412, 465, 502</p> <p>Ps 10.....302, 394</p> <p>Ps 12.....340</p> <p>Ps 13.....481, 636</p> <p>Ps 15.....108, 125, 337, 372, 449, 498, 537, 739</p> <p>Ps 16.....41, 46, 99, 158, 261, 300, 361, 364, 418, 441, 513, 534, 546, 583, 619, 651, 664, 721, 739, 777, 824, 845, 859</p> <p>Ps 17.....156, 250, 384, 447, 455, 499</p> <p>Ps 18.....148, 152, 255, 327, 412</p> <p>Ps 19.....29, 41, 69, 105, 137, 174, 224, 310, 341, 352, 380, 399, 458, 468, 495, 542, 561, 590, 641, 643, 657, 666, 684, 686, 727, 748, 782, 816, 829, 840, 845, 849, 854, 874</p> <p>Ps 21.....310, 421</p> <p>Ps 22.....38, 53, 174, 324, 486, 766, 924, 971</p> <p>Ps 23.....31, 49, 107, 142, 160, 172, 177, 251, 328, 421, 493, 510, 516, 535, 565, 578, 659, 677, 700, 721, 739, 749, 753, 758, 766, 772, 787, 798, 824, 869, 978, 997, 1013, 1019</p> <p>Ps 24.....10, 196, 318, 320, 434, 477, 478, 491, 503, 524, 667, 777, 813</p> <p>Ps 25.....3, 23, 68, 136, 174, 187, 199, 238, 355, 356, 793, 829, 997, 1013, 1019, 1024</p> <p>Ps 26.....378</p> <p>Ps 27.....27, 59, 67, 174, 179, 243, 257, 271, 327, 363, 432, 458, 487, 488, 753, 758, 762, 793, 813, 829, 845, 854, 859, 879, 1013</p> <p>Ps 28.....443</p> <p>Ps 29.....21, 336</p> <p>Ps 30.....41, 48, 90, 98, 190, 244</p> <p>Ps 31.....40, 85, 232, 274, 323, 367, 527, 536, 596, 639, 692, 696, 715, 965, 971</p> <p>Ps 32.....77, 93, 325, 333, 347, 471, 753</p> <p>Ps 33.....25, 41, 52, 117, 146, 165, 197, 262, 272, 339, 350, 371, 385, 429, 430, 433, 445, 471, 476, 743, 803, 813, 997</p> <p>Ps 34.....33, 116, 119, 122, 150, 174, 188, 225, 248, 269, 270, 338, 359, 369, 370, 379, 492, 515, 517, 529, 533, 540, 550, 552, 554, 570, 574, 591, 597, 604, 607, 609, 631, 660, 678, 699, 715, 739, 753, 758, 787, 793, 798, 803, 808, 813, 849, 978, 997</p> <p>Ps 36.....398</p> <p>Ps 37.....321, 331, 342, 387, 435, 492, 518, 547, 560, 579, 589, 672, 693, 727</p> <p>Ps 40.....64, 65, 120, 307, 314, 318, 422, 443, 474, 514, 545, 548, 566, 584, 602, 637, 656, 687, 694, 721, 813, 859, 978, 982, 991</p>	<p>Ps 41.....80</p> <p>Ps 42.....41, 237, 279, 484, 753, 762, 793, 798, 1013, 1019</p> <p>Ps 43.....41, 237, 279, 453, 753, 762, 793, 798, 1013, 1019</p> <p>Ps 44.....308</p> <p>Ps 45.....439, 622, 681, 709, 733, 813, 854</p> <p>Ps 46.....245, 671, 703</p> <p>Ps 47.....58, 174, 295, 296, 316</p> <p>Ps 48.....326, 372, 390</p> <p>Ps 49.....343, 344, 447, 904</p> <p>Ps 50.....88, 231, 311, 335, 348, 377, 379, 389, 395, 400, 500</p> <p>Ps 51.....22, 35, 41, 132, 174, 219, 221, 226, 242, 321, 322, 366, 387, 408, 410, 418, 422, 753, 894, 950</p> <p>Ps 52.....433</p> <p>Ps 54.....134, 436</p> <p>Ps 55.....342, 971</p> <p>Ps 56.....314, 448</p> <p>Ps 57.....289, 315</p> <p>Ps 59.....403</p> <p>Ps 60.....371</p> <p>Ps 61.....762</p> <p>Ps 62.....82, 437, 469</p> <p>Ps 63.....96, 124, 154, 174, 352, 603, 753, 762, 793, 813, 1013</p> <p>Ps 65.....103, 362, 762, 914</p> <p>Ps 66.....55, 102, 174, 275, 276, 415, 753</p> <p>Ps 67.....18, 57, 118, 191, 281, 406, 829, 874, 919</p> <p>Ps 68.....126, 297, 298, 299, 479</p> <p>Ps 69.....94, 105, 259, 390, 405, 406, 460, 485, 971</p> <p>Ps 71.....72, 195, 258, 358, 397, 586, 634, 793</p> <p>Ps 72.....4, 20, 174, 176, 193, 194, 213, 214, 215, 889, 899</p> <p>Ps 74.....376</p> <p>Ps 77.....411</p> <p>Ps 78.....113, 309, 397, 416, 638, 787, 978</p> <p>Ps 79.....230, 349, 374, 402, 459</p> <p>Ps 80.....2, 12, 139, 186, 316, 386, 884, 940</p> <p>Ps 81.....86, 241, 333, 405, 407</p> <p>Ps 82.....493</p> <p>Ps 84.....17, 330, 400, 404, 441, 507, 703, 772, 813, 819, 845, 859</p> <p>Ps 85.....5, 104, 115, 174, 181, 189, 315, 362, 382, 396, 420, 424, 474, 864, 884, 889, 899, 940, 954</p> <p>Ps 86.....106, 222, 324, 463, 793, 960</p> <p>Ps 87.....280, 456</p> <p>Ps 88.....456, 457</p> <p>Ps 89.....11, 13, 97, 200, 260, 282, 309, 312, 317, 319, 370, 543, 555, 581, 588, 611, 626, 670, 673, 682, 688, 721, 753, 772, 835</p> <p>Ps 90.....114, 129, 143, 334, 354, 428, 452, 454, 559, 793, 904, 909</p> <p>Ps 91.....24, 174, 353, 383, 650</p> <p>Ps 92.....84, 92, 808</p> <p>Ps 93.....161, 268, 341, 388</p> <p>Ps 94.....336, 391, 484</p> <p>Ps 95.....28, 71, 127, 141, 174, 236, 240, 308, 410, 508, 703, 819</p>
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