

Ante-Nicene



Common Liturgy

Altar Edition

2006

The enclosed material is a Altar Edition of the 2006 Ante-Nicene Common Liturgy. The Altar edition is annotated with visual aids for the Celebrant; be they Bishop, Priest or Diaconate and printed in Large Print for easy visibility while in use in the Gathering of the Saints. This edition is made available as both a functional outline for collective worship and a study aid for those within the clergy development program of the Communion of Ante-Nicene Christian Fellowships.

Most of the “informative notes” provided in the communicant edition of the Common Liturgy have been removed from the Altar Edition and only those notes pertinent to the attending Clergy were left in their proper place. All participants within the Clergy development program are strongly encouraged to fully utilize this outline of our worship structure in both comprehension and practice.

As you go through the subject material you will undoubtedly have questions. That’s not a problem; just write them down and present them to the instructing Priest/Bishop during your weekly classes. It is by design that the A.C.F. has embraced the Apostolic model of clergy development as inscribed within the Holy Scriptures. Such a model allows for the full attention of the instructing Priest/Bishop and the ongoing support of the local body of believers all while provided ample opportunity for hands on application of the garnered knowledge under the supervision of an attending Priest/Bishop.

The success of this model of clergy development is the very testament to the power of the Holy Spirit provided Christ’s Church and upon which it is based.

The Unity:

The Celebrant stands through out the “Unity”.

[The Salutation]

C/D **Blessed is the Kingdom of)†(the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit,
All **Now and forever, AMEN.****

[Collect of Purity]

C/D (\ /) **Almighty God,
*All***

**To you all hearts are opened, all desires known,
And from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
By inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
That we may perfectly love you,
And worthily magnify your Holy Name;
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord.**

/)(**AMEN.**

[The Lord’s Prayer]

Celebrant // **As the Lord has taught us, let us pray.**

All

**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.
And forgive us our sins
As we forgive those that have sinned against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom,
And Power, and Glory, for ever and ever. **AMEN .****

[Pronouncement of Absolution]

Celebrant (\ /) **Holy Father, we thank you for your Mercy and Grace,
Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord,
By whom we have Remission of sins and life Everlasting
Within your Blessed Kingdom.**

All / (\) **We Thank you Lord God Almighty
For your Mercy and Grace.
Blessed be the Name of the Lord,
And Blessed be His Kingdom, now and forever.
AMEN**

[Collect In Unity (*Prayer of the Day*)]

C / D **In Unity with the Universal Body of Christ, Let us pray.**

Faithful **O God hear this, the prayer of your Bride.**

C / D ***Celebrant says the Collect (or prayer for the occasion)***

All **AMEN**

[Pronouncement of Faith – The Apostle’s Creed]

The Creed is read in unison while standing.

Celebrant (\ /) **Let us, with joyful hearts,
Stand and pronounce Our Faith
Before one another and the world.**

/ (\)

The Apostle's Creed

All

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of Heaven and Earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's Only Son, Our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended unto Hades.**

**On the third day He rose again;
He ascended into Heaven,**

**He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And He will come again to Judge the Living and the Dead.**

**I believe in The Holy Spirit,
The Holy Catholic Church,
The Communion of Saints,
The Forgiveness of Sins,
The Resurrection of the Body,
And Life Everlasting.**

AMEN

[The Peace]

Celebrant (\ /) **The Peace of the Lord be with you always.**

Faithful **And also with you.**

Celebrant /)\ **Let us greet One another with the Love of Christ**

Then the Faithful may greet one another in the Name of the Lord.

Here a Hymn may be sung:

(Here ends the “Unity” of the Liturgy)

The Liberty:

(Also called the “Edification”)

[The Edification]

Here the Liturgy is opened to all for the sharing of a reading or revelation from the Scriptures, the Testimony of the Fathers (Ante-Nicene Fathers), Lives of the Saints, or anything that fosters a greater personal or corporate understanding of the faith as well as songs of praise, hymns, a poem or proverb or a personal testimony of Our Lord’s mercy, power, and/or grace in our lives. It is suggested that “The Edification” be initiated with Songs of Praise; after which the Celebrant continues;

[Petitions of the People]

C/D **Let us go to the Lord in Prayer,
Let us bring Him our burdens and our praises,
Together in one accord.**

Whoever has need of the Lord’s Loving Grace in their life bring it before us now that we may petition the Lord together as members of His One Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church , the family of Christ.

C/D **Whoever has a heart filled with praise for the wondrous Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ or the mighty workings of His Holy Spirit in their lives let them share them with us now, that we might praise Our Lord together being One in Spirit.**

(Pause to allow relies)

Celebrant /\ **Let us Pray** *Celebrant conducts Prayer as lead by the Spirit concluding with;*

For the peace which is from God, and for the salvation of our souls.

All **Lord Hear Our Prayer**

For the Church, being the Family, Body and Kingdom of Christ, that her divisions may cease, that all may be one through Jesus Christ our Lord; and that You will forever guide, protect and empower Her unto the fulfillment of Her Charge 'til You Return.

All **Lord Hear Our Prayer**

For this assembly and for those who have entered here with faith, reverence, and love of God.

All **Lord Hear Our Prayer**

Celebrant **For the peace of Jerusalem and for the peace of the world;**

All **Lord Hear Our Prayer**

For those in sickness and distress, the suffering, the lost and displaced, and those afflicted everywhere.

All **Lord Hear Our Prayer**

********* (And let us remember in our prayers) _____ and ask the Lord to comfort and heal them, relieving them of all suffering, afflictions, and adversity.

All **Lord Hear Our Prayer**

For those imprisoned and the accused, and that they be afforded tolerance, mercy, and justice.

All **Lord Hear Our Prayer**

For the Saints and Martyr's of the Church, for all those who have gone before us and have departed this life, (and let us remember in our prayers) _____, asking God to keep them in His loving mercy. For our own deliverance from all affliction, evil, danger, and need, and may we live as Saints before God.

All **Lord Hear Our Prayer**

We ask You for the wisdom, strength, and confidence to confront and conquer our afflictions, faults, and weaknesses, and for Your help in overcoming the challenges and adversities in our lives.

All **Christ Hear Our Prayer**

Celebrant **We ask You, Lord, to hear our prayers.**

In Jesus Christ's Name We Pray,

All **AMEN**

Here a Hymn may be sung:

[Reading (or Liturgy) of the Word]

Celebrant **Let us now Read from the Holy Scriptures
Given to us under direction of the Holy Spirit
That we might know God and His will for us
That we might Love Him More.**

Faithful **Thanks be to God**

Here the Celebrant will call upon a Reader, either pre-appointed or at random, to read the Epistle Lessons of the day as indicated by the lectionary of the local A.C.F. community.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

1st Reader: A reading from the Book of.....

(Chapter & verse(s) should be given so that all may read along silently with the reader)

And after the Lesson, the Reader says

1st Reader: This is the Word of the Prophets.

Faithful: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE LESSON

2nd Reader A reading from the letter (or 2nd or 3rd letter)

Of our Brother (i.e. Paul) to the church at (i.e. Ephesus).

(Chapter & verse(s) should be given so that all may read along silently with the reader)

After The Lesson, the Reader says

2nd Reader The Word of the Lord.

Faithful Thanks be to God.

Then the Celebrant will call upon a second Reader, either pre-appointed or at random, to read the Gospel reading of the day as indicated by the lectionary of the local A.C.F. community. The A.C.F. does not restrict reading from the Gospel to just the episcopate. Any Baptized and Confirmed member of the Body of Christ may do so.

THE GOSPEL LESSONS *All Stand*

3rd Reader The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ

According to the Apostle [&/or] our Brother (i.e. Mark).

(Chapter & verse(s) should be given so that all may read along silently with the reader)

After the Gospel Reading, the Reader says

3rd Reader The Gospel of Our Lord.

Faithful All Praises to You, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

[The Homily]

The Homily is the opportunity for the Celebrant to share some ecclesiastical insight on the Readings, a short "sermon" or relevant illustration or application of the Readings to the Church collectively and/or individually. The Homily is also an excellent opportunity to initiate a "Bible Study Discussion" on the material covered in the Readings.

[Offertory]

Celebrant: As we present our offerings before the Lord
let us etch upon our hearts the truth of His Word.....

The Celebrant then selects from the following Offertory Sentences (See next three pages) ----->>>>>

[Offertory Prayer]

Celebrant, After presenting the collected offerings upon the Altar, Prays this or another Offertory Prayer

O most merciful and gracious Father, from whose open hand we all have received much: We ask you to accept these offerings of your people. Remember in your love those who have brought it. Remember also those persons and purposes for which it is given. So follow this sacrifice with your blessing that it may promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ unto Salvation and advance the Your kingdom.
(†) In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Here a Hymn may be sung:

(Here ends the “Liberty” of the Liturgy)

Offertory Sentences

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. **2 Corinthians 9:11-12**

God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. **2 Corinthians 9:8**

"Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." **2 Corinthians 9:7-8**

"...the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." **2 Corinth. 9:6**

"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits." **Psalms 103:2**

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." **Matthew 5:16**

(Jesus said,) "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." **Matthew 25:40**

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." **John 3:16**

"... remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" **Acts 20:35**

"Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy." **1 Corinthians 4:1-2**

"So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith." **Galatians 6:9-10**

"...all shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you." **Deuteronomy 16:17**

"Yours, O LORD, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all." **1 Chronicles 29:11**

"Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts." **Psalms 96:7-8**

"Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." **Psalms 100:3**

"What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD, I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people." **Psalms 116:12-14**

"In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." **Proverbs 3:6**

"Honor the LORD with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce." **Proverbs 3:9**

(Jesus said,) "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded." **Luke 12:48**

"...for 'the earth and its fullness are the Lord's.'" **1 Corinthians 10:26**

"For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich." **2 Corinthians 8:9**

"They shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed; all shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you." **Deuteronomy 16:16b-17**

"A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water." **Proverbs 11:25**

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." **Matthew 6:21**

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." **Romans 12:1**

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body." **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" **2 Corinthians 9:15**

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness." **1 Timothy 6:10-11**

"As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment." **1 Timothy 6:17**

"Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." **Hebrews 13:15-16**

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen." **1 Peter 4:10-11**

"So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift." **Matthew 5:23-24**

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" **Matthew 6:25**

"For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?" **Mark 8:35-36**

And Jesus said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." **Luke 12:15**

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." **Ephesians 5:1-2**

"For God is not unjust; he will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do." **Hebrews 6:10**

"But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act--they will be blessed in their doing." **James 1:25**

"How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?" **1 John 3:17**

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" **Revelation 5:12**

The Charity:

(Communion/Lord's Supper/Agape/Eucharist)

Celebrant

**Let us Fellowship with the Breaking of Bread
In the Name of Our Lord.**

*At the following words concerning the Bread, the Celebrant will hold or lay hands upon the Bread and then Break it **in view of the congregation**; At the words concerning the Cup, the Celebrant will place a hand upon the Cup and any other vessel containing the wine to be consecrate.*

Celebrant

**On the night He was handed over to suffering and death,
Our Lord Jesus Christ took Bread;
And when He had given thanks,
He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said;
"Take, eat; This IS my body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me." + (II)**

Celebrant

**(\ /) As instructed by the Holy Apostles Let us pray;
We thank You, Our Father,
For the life and knowledge which you have made known to us
Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son.**

All /)(\ To God be the Glory forever.

Celebrant

**(\ /) As this broken Bread was scattered over the hills and then,
When gathered together, became one mass,
/)(\ So let your Church be gathered together
From the ends of the earth unto Your Kingdom.**

**All For Yours is the Glory, and the Power through Jesus Christ forever.
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, AMEN**

Celebrant

**After supper He took the Cup of wine and when He had given
Thanks, He gave it to them and said,
"Drink this, all of you; this IS my Blood
Of the New Covenant, which is shed for you
And for the many for the Forgiveness of Sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me." + (U)**

Celebrant

(\ /)
As instructed by the Holy Apostles Let us pray;
We thank You, Our Father, for the Holy Vine of David
Your servant, which You have made known to us
In Jesus Christ, Your Son.

All /) (\
To You be the Glory for ever.
In the name of the (†) Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
AMEN

Celebrant Whoever is holy, let him come; Whoever is not, let him repent.

All Maranatha! AMEN.

The Bread and Wine are given to the Faithful FIRST, and then the episcopate in order of position from least to highest, with these words;

C / D The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven.

Resp. AMEN (†)

C / D The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation.

Resp. AMEN (†)

After All have been served the Sacrament of Communion

THE SURSUM CORDA

Celebrant / x \
(\ /) Let us lift up our hearts
And give thanks to the Lord.

Faithful We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant (| ^ |) Let us give thanks to the Lord Our God.

Faithful /) (\ It is Right to Give Him All Thanks and Praise.

THE SANCTUS

ALL)*(* **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in
the highest.**

Celebrant *(*)*)*

**We give you Thanks, Holy Father, for Your Holy Name,
Which You have caused to dwell in Our Hearts,
And for the Knowledge and Faith and Immortality
Which You have made known to us
Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Your Son.**

All)*(* **To God be the Glory for ever.**

Celebrant

**)*(* You, Almighty Master, did create all things
For the sake of Your name,
And have given both food and drink for men to enjoy,
That we might give thanks to You;
But to us You have given spiritual food and drink,
And eternal life through Your Son.
Above all, we thank You
Because You are mighty and able to save.**

All **To God be the Glory for ever.**

Celebrant

**)*(* Remember, Lord, Your Church, to deliver it from evil
And to make it perfect in Your Love,
And gather it together from the four winds,
Even that which has been sanctified
For the Kingdom which You have prepared for it.**

All **For Yours is the Power and the Glory for ever.**

Celebrant

(*)*)* **Let Grace come and)*(* let the world pass away.*

All **Hosanna to the Son of God.
In the Name of the)*†*(Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, AMEN.**

[The Doxology]

Celebrant Let us join our Voices in the Singing of the Doxology

All Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Him, Son and Holy Ghost. **AMEN**

[THE BLESSING]

Celebrant:

Beloved of Christ, you have received the body and blood of
Jesus Christ our Savior.
Therefore, be at peace among yourselves,
Encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all.
Do not repay evil for evil;
Always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.
Pray without ceasing; give thanks in all things,
And do not quench the Spirit.

[Dismissal]

I C/D As we walk with Christ Jesus
Let us be Always Mindful of His Greatest Commandment
To all who are Faithful;

“Love the Lord your God
• with All Your Heart
• and with All Your Soul
• and with All Your Mind.

This is the first and Greatest Commandment.

And the second is like it: Love Your Neighbor as Yourself.”

(Matthew 22:37-39)

C/D The Love of God the Father;
The Grace of the Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ;
The Communion and gift of the Holy Spirit,
Be with us All, now and for ever more.

All In the Name of the) † (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, AMEN .

II C/D

- **The Lord Bless thee and Protect thee;**
- **The Lord Make His Face Shine upon thee, And be Gracious to thee;**
- **The Lord look with Favor upon thee, And Give thee Peace.**

All **In the Name of the)+(Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, AMEN .**

(\ /) = Opened & Raised, / \ () = Clapsed, (+) = Crossed Signed on Self,)+(= Crossed Signed on Church
 (^) = Forward & Outward, / x \ = Crossed Over Heart, +(U) = Blessing Chalice, + (||) = Blessing the Bread
 / \ = Praying Position