

TRANSITUS OF SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI

Opening Hymn (melody "Old Hundredth")

Today we come to celebrate
the day on which our mother died,
the Lady Clare who gave her life
in witness to her Spouse the Christ.

The holy soul most worthy of
the laurelled crown of heav'n's reward
had left this life of earthly strife
and joyfully went home to Christ.

Set free from hardships of the flesh,
she left her tent of misery,
and entered into heav'nly bliss
to share the nuptial feast with Christ.

Dressed in the robe of brilliant light,
bejeweled with gems of radiant hue,
the holy Clare was welcomed to
the kingdom of her Jesus Christ.

Leader: In the name. . .

ALL: Amen.

Leader: Happy, indeed, is the one permitted to share
in the sacred banquet so as to be joined with all
the feelings of her heart to him

**ALL: whose beauty and all the blessed
hosts of the heavens unceasingly
admire,**

Leader: whose affection moves,
whose contemplation invigorates,
whose generosity fills,

**ALL: whose sweetness replenishes,
whose remembrance pleasantly
brings light,**

Leader: whose fragrance will revive the dead,
and whose glorious vision will bless all
the citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem.

**ALL: because the vision of him is the
splendor of everlasting glory,
the radiance of everlasting
light, and a mirror without tarnish.
Amen.**

Leader: Let us pray:
[Prayer]

ALL: Amen.

Lector: A reading from the Song of Songs:
[reading]
The Word of our God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

[Dialog with four voices]

**ALL: O blessed poverty
that provides eternal riches to those
who love and embrace it!**

O holy poverty,
to those who possess and desire it,
God promises the kingdom of heaven
and, of course, gives eternal glory and
a happy life!

O pious poverty
that the Lord Jesus Christ,
who ruled and is ruling heaven and
earth, and who spoke and all things
were made, deigned to embrace before
anything else!

[Dialog continues]

Psalm 119 - in antiphonal style:

1. Happy are they whose way is blameless,
who walk according to your law.
Happy are those who observe your decrees,
who seek you will all their hearts.
2. *Blessed are you, Yahweh.
Teach me your statutes.
I rejoice in the way of your decrees
with joy above all wealth.*
1. **Your hands have made me and fashioned me.
Give me discernment that I may learn your
commands.
Let your compassion come to me
that I may live,
for your law is my delight.**
2. *Your word is a lamp for my steps,
a light to my path.
I resolve and have taken an oath
to follow your just decrees.*
1. **Your decrees are always just.
Give me discernment that I may live.
See how I love your law, O God;
in your steadfast love give me life.**
2. *My heart is set on keeping your statutes
to the end.
Give me life according to your word;
Accept the willing praise of my mouth, O
God.*

ALL: 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.

[Dialog continues]

ALL SING (melody "O Salutaris"):
**Go forth in joy with peace to him
who made you and who sanctifies
who loves you and who cares for you;
go forth to him who guides you still.**

**All praise be yours, O Lord my God,
who made me from the dust of earth,
who saved me with your Precious Blood
and brought me to eternal life!**

[Dialog concludes]

ALL STAND AND SING (Melody "Hymn to Joy"):
**Clare shines brightly in the heavens,
brilliant by her shining deeds,
brilliant in her lasting glory,
brilliant through her miracles.
Clare's vowed life, so strict and lofty,
spread a glowing ray on earth;
all her virtues dawn upon us,
showing us eternal light.**

**Clare, endowed with priceless treasures
through the poverty she chose,
now enjoys the love and honor
of the people moved by her.
Clare, resplendent in her striving,
Clare, now full of light divine,
Clare, revealed to Christian people
by her thoughts and words and deeds.**

**Clare, who gives us light in living,
Clare a mirror to this world,
Clare, as bright as sun and lightning,
now is radiant after death.
Clare, the light, reveals the Godhead;
Clare enlightens all the Church.
Clare illumines how we journey
on the homeward path to God.**

Intercessions (From the letters of St. Clare)

Leader: Let us give thanks . . .

May we cling with all our hearts to Christ;

**ALL: may his love inflame our love, his
graciousness be our joy, his gentleness
fill us to overflowing, and the remem-
brance of him bring us a gentle light.**

Leader: May we be strengthened in Christ's holy service and progress from good to better, from virtue to virtue,

**ALL: so that He Whom we serve with the
total desire of our souls may bestow
on us the reward for which we long.**

Leader: May we always remember our resolution and be conscious of how we began;

**ALL: what we hold, may we always hold;
what we do, may we always do and
never abandon.**

Leader: If we suffer with Christ, we *shall reign with Him*; if we weep with Him, we shall rejoice with Him; if we die with Him on the cross of tribulation, we shall possess heavenly mansions *in the splendor of the saints* and, *in the Book of Life*, our name shall be called glorious among all;

**ALL: so let us gaze upon Christ, consider
Him, contemplate Him, as we desire
to imitate Him.**

Leader: Let us love Him totally Who gave Himself totally for our love and transform our whole being *into the image* of the Godhead Itself

**ALL: so that we too may feel what His
friends feel as they taste the hidden
sweetness which God Himself has
reserved from the beginning for
those who love Him.**

Leader: When we have loved Christ, we shall be chaste; when we have touched Him, we shall become pure; when we have accepted Him, we shall be a virgin;

**ALL: let us be strengthened in the holy
service which we have undertaken
out of an ardent desire for the Poor
Crucified.**

Leader: May we go forward securely, joyfully, and swiftly, on the path of prudent happiness, believing nothing, agreeing with nothing which would dissuade us from this resolution and which *would place a stumbling block for us on the way.*

**ALL: so that we may offer our professions
to the Most High in the pursuit of that
perfection to which the Spirit of the
Lord has called us.**

Leader: May we carry our steadfastly the work we have begun and fulfill the ministry we have undertaken in true humility and holy poverty;

ALL: so that we may be considered a co-worker of God Himself and a supporter of the weak members of His ineffable Body.

Leader: Let us commend our brothers and sisters to the Lord, for we rejoice in the good things of the Lord that He works in them through His grace;

ALL: so that we may make up what is lacking in them in following the footprints of the poor and humble Jesus Christ and that by their help we may merit the mercy of Jesus Christ and together with them may merit to enjoy the everlasting vision.

ALL CHANT THE "OUR FATHER"

Leader: Let us pray:
[Prayer]

ALL: Amen.

Leader: Let's bow our heads and receive God's blessing from holy mother Clare.

What you hold, may you always hold;
What you do, may you always do, and never abandon.

ALL: Amen!

Leader: May you always be lovers of your souls and those of your sisters and brothers; may you always be eager to observe what you have promised to the Lord; May the Lord always be with you and may you always be with the Lord.

ALL: Amen!

Leader: Through the supporting merits of the holy and glorious virgin Mary, his Mother, and of our most blessed father Francis and all the saints, may the Lord himself, who had given [us] a good beginning, give [us] also the increase and the final perseverance.

ALL: Amen!

Leader: Go in peace with the light of Christ.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn (melody "The Church's One Foundation")

Look down upon us kindly,
Assisi's holy Clare,
the light of gospel living,
a brightness we all share.
The fire of loving Jesus
burned deep within your heart;
you left your family's treasures
and set yourself apart.

You journeyed down the valley
to join the brothers' way;
you traveled up the mountain
to find a place to pray.
The chapel of St. Damian
became your loving home
where with your sister pilgrims
you gazed on God alone.

You healed the sick with blessings,
you wrote a rule of life,
your mirrored gospel living,
you fought off earthly strife.
You showed the way to Jesus
through pray'r and poverty;
in union with your sisters
you loved God faithfully.

Your faithfulness we honor.
your life we imitate,
your legacy we cherish;
to you we dedicate
our work of prayer and service,
as Christ would have us do,
to wash the feet of others
and make the world anew.