



## The Little Prothesis

*The Blessing of Offerings before the Holy Sacrifice*

*The Celebrants enter to the Altar of Prothesis, all standing.  
The priest wears a cope.*

**Priest.** In the name of the Most Holy and Blessed Mother Trinity, and of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace; and his kingdom shall have no end.

**P.** May God be with you.

**Response.** And with Thy spirit.

**P.** Let us pray.

**P.** Extend Thy Light O Lady Most Holy so that the World may be filled with Thy Peace and restored to the Fullness which is the source and sustenance of all things.

*The Priest and members of the congregation light each candle in turn on the Altar of Prothesis, saying:*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>P.</b> For Strength                          | <b>C.</b> “We shall persevere in Her service.”   |
| <b>P.</b> For Wisdom                            | <b>C.</b> “We shall attain wisdom which can be developed only through perfect love.”   |
| <b>P.</b> For Intuition                         | <b>C.</b> “We will attain the power of saying and doing that which is right at the right moment”   |
| <b>P.</b> For Beauty and Harmony                | <b>C.</b> “We will bring beauty and harmony into our lives and surroundings and will learn to see beauty in all Nature, so that we may serve our God.”   |
| <b>P.</b> For Knowledge                         | <b>C.</b> “We will gain disciplined knowledge and devote ourselves to the work of righteousness.”  |
| <b>P.</b> For Devotion                          | <b>C.</b> “We will unfold within ourselves the mighty power of devotion, that through it we may bring others to the fullness of redemption.”   |
| <b>P.</b> For Purpose and the Spirit of Service | <b>C.</b> “We will so order and arrange our service of God, along the lines which He has prescribed, that we may be able to fully take advantage of the loving help which his holy angels are always waiting to render.” |

### **A few notes about the Altar of Prothesis or Preparation.**

The altar as used in this service is essentially the same as a Jerusalem altar, or what is otherwise thought of as an offertory table. However, the offertory table in regard to this service is promoted to the dignity of an altar of preparation as in the Eastern rites.

The fixtures of the altar should at least include 7 to 9 candles, the chalice, paten and any ciboria.

It may also include space for the placement of a basket with *pain benit* and for other breads or cakes, and any other gifts or items to be blessed.

The candles are placed at the head of the altar with the chalice and paten and ciboria before them, as on a high altar during following at the offertory; or in the manner of an Eastern rite altar of prothesis.

Additional veils may be employed for the bread and pain benit. In addition, a “star cover” should be used as described.

*The Priest removes the cope and extends hands over the altar bread, the pain benit (singing bread) and any cakes, and prays, making the sign of the cross over the altar bread at the (✠):*

**P.** Accept O Holy Mother, these gifts which we offer unto Thee, our living and true God, for all those here present and for all Thy children, both living and dead (here may be named or stated the particular person(s) or intentions, if any, of this Mass), that the great work of Thy Mercy through the offering of this Holy Mass may avail (✠) us unto life everlasting.

**R.** Amen.

*The Priest then takes the chalice and making the cross at the (✠):*

We offer unto Thee, O God, the chalice of salvation, beseeching Thy mercy, that it may ascend before Thy Divine Majesty as a sweet fragrance for our salvation and that of the whole world (✠). May the Grace of She Who is before all worlds flow into all who shall drink of it. **R.** Amen.

*Each person present who so wishes, in turn offers a drop of wine in the chalice saying:*

I offer unto Thee, O God, myself as a living and loving sacrifice of redemption for myself and that of.....and for the restoration of the world unto the Fullness.

*The censor is then brought to the altar of prothesis. The Priest, soft voice, places three spoonfuls of incense into the thurible, praying:*

**P.** May thou be blessed, O creature of incense, by the One in whose honor thou shalt be burned. Amen.

*and the High Altar is incensed in three separate groups of three, while the Priest prays:*

**P.** Incense do we offer unto Thee, O Christ our God, for an odor of spiritual fragrance. Receive it upon Thy heavenly altar, and through Our Lady, Thy most holy Mother, send down upon us the Grace of Thine all Holy Spirit.

**D.** Let us pray to Almighty God.

*While the Subdeacon/Deacon holds the censor the Priest returns to the Altar of Prothesis and censes the star and places it over the Holy Bread, praying:*

**P.** And the star came and stood over the place where the child was.

**D.** Let us pray.

*The Priest censes the veil and places it places it over both the paten and the chalice, praying:*

**P.** The Queen of Heaven reigns; She is robed in majesty; with beauty hath She clothed Herself. Our Lady hath adorned Herself with power and hath girded Herself as the Heart is girded by the Serpent.

Behold! The world is established; it shall never be moved. Thy throne is established from of old; Thou art from everlasting. The floods have lifted up, O Queen and Maiden, the floods have lifted up their voice, the waters have lifted up their roaring. Mightier than the thunder of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, Our Lady on high is mighty. Thy decrees are most sure; holiness befits Thy house, O Divine One, for ever more.

*The Priest then takes the censor and censes the Offerings in three separate groups of three, then censes in a cross three times over the Offerings.*

**P.** Accept us, O Lady, in the spirit of humility and contrition of heart; and grant that the Sacrifice we offer this day in Thy sight may be pleasing to Thee.

*Then with his left hand first on the base of the paten, then on the chalice, he blesses each at the ✠ ✠ while praying:*

**P.** Come, O Almighty and Eternal One, the Sanctifier, bless ✠ ✠ this Sacrifice prepared for the glory of Thy Holy Name.

*The Priest dons the cope.*

**P.** Cover us with the shelter of Thy wings, O Holy Sophia, and drive away from us every foe and adversary. Give peace to our

lives, O Eternal One. Have mercy on us and on Thy world, and save our souls, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

*And after this, the priest begins the dismissal, saying:*

**P.** Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee. *If it is Sunday:* May He who rose from the dead, *otherwise, begin:* Christ our true God, through the work of his all-immaculate Mother, and the intercessions of....., and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for God is good and the Lover of mankind. **R.** Amen.

*After the dismissal, the deacon takes a taper of flame, from the central candle (or takes the candle itself) and lights the candles on the High Altar. The deacon then returns to the Altar of Prothesis and censes the holy offerings. Then he goes and censes the High Altar all around, in cross form. And having censed the sanctuary and the whole temple, he again enters into the sanctuary, and having again censed the High Altar and the priest, he puts the censor in its place and approaches the priest. And standing together before the High Altar, they make three reverences, the final being a genuflection, each praying and silently or softly:*

O Heavenly Sovereign, Comforter, Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things, and Giver of life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and restore our souls unto life, O Good One. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men.

*The Preparation of the Gifts completed, the priest shall return to the sacristy and prepare for the processional.*

