

Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Concerning the Service

This extra-liturgical devotion commonly is used in connection with Evening Prayer on Sundays and greater Holy Days. Occasionally it is used as a separate service. If this devotion is to be used with Solemn Evensong, the Priest wears stole and cope of the color of the day over his surplice; at other times the stole and cope should be white. The humeral veil should always be white.

On the Altar, extra candles should be lighted as for a festival. The monstrance, covered with a veil, should be on the Altar before the service begins, together with a white burse containing a corporal. This corporal should only be used at Benediction.

The Blessed Sacrament may be exposed at the beginning of the service, the Office then being sung in the presence of the exposed Blessed Sacrament, and Benediction is given at the end. Alternatively, Exposition and Benediction may follow the Office.

If the Sacrament is to be exposed for a period of time, such as for a special day of adoration, it is important that the Sacrament should not be left unattended. There should always be one or two members of the faithful keeping watch, kneeling in prayer before the Blessed *Sacrament*.

Exposition

The Priest and his assistants approach the Altar, genuflect, and kneel on the lowest step. After a brief prayer, the Priest stands, goes up to the Altar and there spreads the corporal. He uncovers the monstrance, unlocks and opens the tabernacle, and genuflects. Then taking the case which contains the sacred Host from its receptacle, he places it securely in the monstrance. The hymn O Salutaris hostia is begun at once. Taking care that the monstrance faces the congregation, the Priest genuflects, goes to the lowest step, and kneels. Then the Priest, standing at the foot of the Altar, puts incense in the censer; (without blessing it, since only the Blessed Sacrament is to be censed); and, kneeling on the lowest step, he censes the Blessed Sacrament with three double swings, bowing his head profoundly before and afterwards.

O salutaris hostia

O Saving Victim, opening wide
The gate of heaven to man below
Our foes press on from every side,
Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.

All praise and thanks to thee ascend
For evermore, blest One in Three;
O grant us life that shall not end,
In our true native land with thee. Amen.

If Evensong is to be sung in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, the Priest and his attendants then move to the sedilla for the Office. The censuring at the Magnificat is of the Sacrament only, the priest kneeling as above. Otherwise, a litany or hymn of praise may here be sung, or some devotion appropriate to the time; e.g., the Te Deum (all standing) on great festivals or occasions of public rejoicing, or the Penitential Office on Ash Wednesday.

Adoration and Benediction

During the second line of the following hymn, all should humbly bow: at the beginning of the second stanza incense is offered as before.

Tantum ergo Sacramentum

Therefore, we before him bending,
This great Sacrament revere;
Types and shadows have their ending,
For the newer rite is here;
Faith, our outward sense befriending,
Makes our inward vision clear.

Glory let us give and blessing
To the Father and the Son;
honor, thanks, and praise addressing,
While eternal ages run;
Ever too his love confessing
Who, from both, with both is one. Amen.

Still kneeling, the Priest sings:

℣. Thou gavest them bread from heaven. (Alleluia.)

℟. Containing in itself all sweetness. (Alleluia)

Let us pray.

O God, who in a wonderful Sacrament hast left unto us a memorial of thy Passion: grant us, we beseech thee, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of thy Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruits of thy redemption. Who livest and reignest world without end. *Amen.*

Kneeling, the Priest receives the humeral veil on his shoulders. Then he goes up to the Altar, genuflects, takes the monstrance into his hands, holding it with the ends of the veil. Turning by his right to the people, the Priest gives the Blessing (or Benediction) in silence, making the sign of the Cross with the monstrance over the kneeling congregation. Meanwhile an acolyte rings the sanctus bell thrice; and the thurifer censes the Blessed Sacrament with three double swings. The people may make the sign of the Cross and bow in fervent adoration, saying silently,

Blessed, praised and adored be Jesus
in the most Holy Sacrament.

Turning back to the Altar by his right, the Priest places the monstrance on the Altar, genuflects, and goes to kneel at the foot of the Altar. He gives the humeral veil back to the Server. The Divine Praises are said by the Priest, the people repeating them after him, all kneeling. At the Celebrant's discretion, additional Praises may be added.

The Divine Praises

Blessed be God.

Blessed be his holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.

Blessed be the Name of Jesus.

Blessed be his Most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be his Most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the

Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

Blessed be the Great Mother of God,

Mary most Holy.

Blessed her holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary,

Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be Saint Joseph,

her most chaste spouse.

Blessed be God in His Angeles

and in His Saints.

The Priest rises, goes to the Altar, genuflects, and removing the case containing the sacred Host from the monstrance, puts it back into its receptacle. This is replaced in the tabernacle. The Priest genuflects, closes and locks the tabernacle, puts the corporal back into its burse, veils the monstrance, and goes to stand at the foot of the Altar.

As soon as the Priest has replaced the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle, all rise and sing a hymn or the following psalm.

Ant. Let us for ever adore: the most holy Sacrament.
(Alleluia.)

Psalm 117 *Laudate Dominum*

O praise the Lord, all ye nations: *

Praise him, all ye peoples.

For his merciful kindness is ever
more and more toward us: *

and the truth of the Lord
endureth for ever. Praise the Lord.

GLORY.

Ant. Let us for ever adore: the most holy Sacrament.
(Alleluia.)

The Priest and his assistants may leave the sanctuary after the first half of the Gloria Patri has been sung.