The period of purification and enlightenment, which the rite of election begins, customarily coincides with Lent. In the liturgy and liturgical catechesis of Lent the reminder of baptism already received or the preparation for its reception, as well as the theme of repentance, renew the entire community along with those being prepared to celebrate the paschal mystery in which each of the elect will share through the sacraments of initiation. For both the elect and the local community, therefore, the Lenten season is a time for spiritual recollection in preparation for the celebration of the paschal mystery” (RCIA 138).

This is a period of more intense spiritual preparation, consisting more in interior reflection than catechetical instruction, and is intended to purify the hearts and minds of the elect” and to enlighten their minds and hearts “with a deeper knowledge of Christ the Savior” (RCIA 139).

Among these rites are the scrutinies, which are solemnly celebrated on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent. “The scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright and good” (RCIA 141). In accord with ancient tradition, the readings of Year A may be used, with the traditional gospels of the Samaritan woman at the well, the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus, respectively (cf. RCIA 146).

The presentations of the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer take place during the week following the First and Third Scrutiny (unless they have been celebrated earlier). “Thus, with the catechumenal formation of the elect completed, the Church lovingly entrusts to them the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer, the ancient texts that have always been regarded as expressing the heart of the Church’s faith and prayer” (RCIA 147). Ideally, the presentations should be celebrated within Mass, with the faithful present (cf. RCIA 157, 178).

The preparation rites on Holy Saturday are most proximate to the celebration of the sacraments of initiation and, as a rule, should not be omitted. Among these rites is the recitation of the Creed. Again, according to ancient custom, the Elect recite (“give back,” reditio) the Creed which they had been given (“handing over,” traditio).

It is very important to remember that these rites are for the catechumens (Elect) only! Those who have been baptized “should not take part in rites intended for unbaptized catechumens” (USCCB, National Statutes for the Catechumenate, no. 31).

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THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading  
Exodus 17:3-7  
*Give us water so that we may drink.*

Responsorial Psalm  
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9  
*If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

Second Reading  
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8  
*The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*

Verse Before the Gospel  
see John 4:42, 15  
*Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.*

Gospel  
John 4:5 – 42 [or John 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]  
*The water that I shall give will become a spring of eternal life.*

Homily

SCRUTINY

The Elect and sponsors are invited to come forward.

Invitation to Silent Prayer

Invitation  
*The Elect kneel, sponsors place a hand on their shoulders*

Prayer

Intercessions for the Elect

Exorcism

Prayer  
to the Father

Laying on of Hands  
to the Holy Spirit

Prayer  
to Jesus Christ

Song

*Suggestion: From Ashes to the Living Font (Hommerding, GIA). Special Verses provided for the Sundays of Lent, A, B, or C*

Dismissal of the Elect
“The presentation of the Creed, which takes place during the week after the first scrutiny, should preferably be celebrated in the presence of the community of the faithful, within Mass after the homily” (RCIA 157). For more details, please see RCIA nos. 157-162 and Lectionary for Mass, no. 748.

**INTRODUCTORY RITE**

**INTRODUCTION**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**FIRST READING**

Deuteronomy 6:1-7

Listen, Israel: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 19: 8, 9, 0, 11

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

**SECOND READING**

Romans 10: 8-13 -- The confession of faith of the Elect OR
1 Corinthians 15: 1-8a or 1-4 -- The Gospel will save you only if you keep believing what I preached to you.

**VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL**

John 3:16

God loved the world so much that he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 16:13-18 -- On this rock I will build my church OR
John 22:44-50 -- I, the light, have come into the world, so that whoever believes in me need not remain in the dark any more.

**HOMILY/REFLECTION**

**PRESENTATION OF THE CREED**

*The Elect come forward to listen to the Creed.*

*The Apostles’ Creed or the Nicene Creed is recited by the priest and assembly.*

**PRAYER OVER THE ELECT**

Invitation to Prayer
Silent Prayer
Prayer
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading
1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
David is anointed as king of Israel

Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading
Ephesians 5:8-14
Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.

Verse before the Gospel
John 8:12
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Gospel
John 9:1-41 [or John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]
The man who was blind went off and washed himself
and came back able to see.

Homily

SCRUTINY
The Elect and sponsors are invited to come forward.

Invitation to Silent Prayer
The Elect kneel, sponsors place a hand on their shoulders

Intercessions for the Elect

Exorcism
Prayer to the Father
Laying on of Hands to the Holy Spirit
Prayer to Jesus Christ

Song

Suggestion: Christ, be our Light!
Text and Tune: Bernadette Farrell © 1993, 2000 Published by OCP.

Dismissal of the Elect
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading
Ezekiel 37:12-14
I will put my spirit within you that you may live.

Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading
Romans 8:8-11
The Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.

Verse before the Gospel
John 11:25a, 26
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will never die.

Gospel
John 11:1-45  [or John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]
I am the resurrection and the life.

Homily

SCRUTINY
The Elect and sponsors are invited to come forward.

Invitation to Silent Prayer
Invitation
The Elect kneel, sponsors place hand on their shoulders

Prayer

Intercessions for the Elect

Exorcism
Prayer
to the Father
Laying on of Hands
to the Holy Spirit
Prayer
to Jesus Christ

Song
Suggestion:  O Christ, Who Shared our Mortal Life
Tune: KINGSFOLD by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

Dismissal of the Elect

FDLC - 40
PRESENTATION OF THE LORD’S PRAYER
An Order of Service

“The presentation of the Lord’s Prayer, which takes place during the week after the third scrutiny, should preferably be celebrated in the presence of the community of the faithful, within Mass” (RCIA 178). For more details, please see RCIA nos. 178-184 and Lectionary for Mass, no. 749.

INTRODUCTORY RITE
[SIGN OF THE CROSS]
INTRODUCTION

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING  Hosea 11:1, 3-4, 8e-9
I drew them with human cords, with bands of love.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 – The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
OR
Psalm 103:1-2, 8, 11-12, 13-14 -- As a father is kind to his children, so kind is the Lord to those who fear him.

SECOND READING  Romans 8:14-17, 26-27 – You have received the Spirit that makes you God’s children and in that Spirit we cry out, “Abba, Father!”
OR
Galatians 4:4-7 – God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, Abba, Father!”

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL  Romans 8:15
For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry “Abba! Father!”

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD’S PRAYER
The Elect come forward to listen to the Gospel.

GOSPEL  Matthew 6:9-13
Lord, teach us to pray.

HOMILY/REFLECTION

PRAYER OVER THE ELECT
Invitation to Prayer
Silent Prayer
Prayer

[DISMISSAL OF THE ELECT]

[SIGN OF PEACE]
Celebrated on Holy Saturday, these rites are an immediate preparation for the sacraments. Please see RCIA 185-205 regarding the selection of rites. “If the presentation of the Creed was not celebrated, the recitation of the Creed is not celebrated” (RCIA 186).

The choosing of a baptismal name is not celebrated in the dioceses of the United States. A diocesan bishop has discretion to authorize its use in particular circumstances. Please see RCIA 33.4, 73, and 200.

**INTRODUCTORY RITE**

**SONG**

**SIGN OF THE CROSS**

**GREETING**

**THE RECITATION OF THE CREED**

**READING**

Matthew 16:13-17 – *You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*

OR

John 6:35, 63-71 *To whom shall we go? You have the words of everlasting life.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 27:7-9, 13-14

**[THE EPHPHATA RITE] [READING]**

**EPHPHETA**

**HOMILY**

**PRAYER BEFORE THE RECITATION**

**RECITATION OF THE CREED**

*The Elect, alone, recite the Nicene Creed or the Apostles’ Creed.*

**CONCLUDING RITE**

**PRAYER OF BLESSING**

**DISMISSAL**
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS


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