

Opening prayer – ECIC in Rome

10th June 2026

Leader: May the grace, mercy and peace from our Source of Life, our Creator and Sustainer Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: This is the very day God acted.

All: Let's celebrate...a free and full life!

Leader: We gather together at ECIC and we are thankful that God brought us here from different European countries and contexts.

Let's take a silent moment. Reflect on three things you are grateful, you have experienced during the last few days – carry your gratitude to God in silent prayer.

Leader: Let us pray

We thank you for gathering us here from different countries, traditions, and experiences and for the gift of learning from one another.

We come before you grateful for you have not left us alone.

You have been present in our questions, faithful in our doubts, and patient in our searching.

Before we understood what you were doing, you were already at work in our lives, in our Churches, in the conversations that brought us to this place.

Thank you for all your blessings and the gifts and encounters you have placed in our path.

We open this time of worship to you.

Speak, Lord your servants are listening.

Amen.

Hymn: In the Lord I'll be ever thankful

In the Lord

S. D. G.

J. Berthier

♩ = 80

Clarinet

Piano

F B \flat C F

In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord I will re-

5

Cl.

Pno.

C B \flat A 3 Dm C F Gm

joyce! Look to God, do not be a-fraid, lift up your voi-ces, the Lord is

9

Cl.

Pno.

C Am Dm B \flat C F

near, lift up your voi-ces, the Lord is near.

Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24 (read responsively)

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

²You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

³You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵You hem me in, behind and before,

and lay your hand upon me.
⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
¹¹ If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night',
¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.
¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.
¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the
earth.
¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the
days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.
¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end^[a]—I am still with you.
²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
²⁴ See if there is any wicked^[c] way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.^[d]

Gospel of John 4:7-26 (read loud only in Italian)

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)^[b] ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living

water.’ ¹¹ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?’ ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?’ ¹³ Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.’ ¹⁵ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.’

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, ‘Go, call your husband, and come back.’ ¹⁷ The woman answered him, ‘I have no husband.’ Jesus said to her, ‘You are right in saying, “I have no husband”; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!’ ¹⁹ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you^[c] say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.’ ²¹ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’ ²⁵ The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.’ ²⁶ Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking to you.’

1 Corinthians 13, 9-13

9 For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; 10 but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. 13 And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Reflection

Leader: Let us pray

Dear God,

We thank you that before a word is on our tongues, you know it completely.

We thank you that in an age of algorithms and artificial minds, you remain the One who knows us fully as persons, we are loved and called by name.

We thank you for the gift of gathering face to face, in this unique city.

Grant us wisdom and teach us how to be your disciples today.

Through Christ, in whom we are fully known and fully loved. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER (to be prayed in your native language)

Leader: The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life.

All: Amen

Hymn: Bless the Lord my Soul

Bless the Lord my soul

m.: J.Berthier, Taizé

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system contains the lyrics: "Bless the Lord my soul and bless His ho - ly name." The second system contains the lyrics: "Bless the Lord my soul, He leads me in - to life." The score includes dynamic markings such as *p* (piano) and *f* (forte), and various musical notations including notes, rests, and bar lines. Chord symbols (d, g, B, C, F, A) are placed above the vocal line to indicate the harmonic structure.