

THE DEDICATION OF AN ALTAR

Prayer of Dedication

(Chapter IV, no. 48)

We glorify you, Lord, and we bless you, for in the ineffable Sacra-
ment of your love, you have decreed that the mystery of the al - tar
should be brought to fulfill - ment in Christ, to whom all types and
shad-ows give way. For Noah, a second father of the hu-man race,
once the flood had receded, set up an altar to you and of-fered a
sac - ri - fice, which you, Father, accepted as a fra-grant of - fer-ing,
thereby renewing your covenant of love with the hu - man race.
A - braham, our father in faith, clinging to your word with all
his heart, con - struct - ed an al - tar, so that by not sparing Isaac,
his belov - ed son, he might be pleas-ing to you. Mo - ses too, the
mediator of the old Law, built an al - tar, which, sprinkled with the
blood of a lamb, would mystically prefigure the altar of the Cross.

All this, Christ has fulfilled in the Pas-chal Mys-ter - y: for by
 ascending the tree of the Cross as Priest and Vic-tim he handed
 himself over to you, Father, as a pure ob - la - tion, so that the sins
 of the whole world might be blot-ted out and a new and eternal cov-
 enant be made with you. There-fore, we humbly beseech you,
 O Lord: pour forth from heaven your sanctifying power upon this
 altar, built in the house of the Church, that it may be an altar dedi-
 cated for all time by the sacrifice of Christ, and stand as the Lord's ta-
 ble where your people are refreshed by the di-vine ban-quet. Let
 (Let
 this stone, cut and shaped, be for us a sign of Christ, from whose
 this altar _____)
 pierced side flowed blood and wa-ter, by which were established the
 Sacraments of the Church. Let this be a festive table, to which the

guests of Christ hasten with joy, so that, casting on you their cares
 and bur - dens, they may gain new strength of spirit for new paths
 a-head. Let it be the place of intimate communion with you and
 a place of peace, where those who feed on the Body and Blood of
 your Son may be filled with his Spir-it and grow in your love. Let
 it be the source of the Church's unity and of frater-nal har-mo-ny,
 where your faithful, gathering as one, may drink of the spirit of mu -
 tu - al char - i - ty. Let it be the center of our praise and thanks-
 giv-ing un - til we come jubilant to the eter-nal dwell-ings where we
 are to offer you the sacrifice of unend-ing praise with Christ, the High
 Priest and liv - ing Al-tar. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity
 of the Ho - ly Spir-it, one God, for ev - er and ev - er. **R.** A - men.

The English translation and chants of *The Order of the Dedication of a Church and an Altar* © 2014, 2018, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. *The Revised Grail Psalms*, copyright © 2010, Conception Abbey/The Grail, admin. by GIA Publications, Inc., www.giamusic.com. Used with permission. All rights reserved. This music may be reproduced free of charge in printed form, for non-commercial purposes, and in publications not for sale.