

SUNDAY CELEBRATION OF THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

For use in the home or in a small community

Adapted from *Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest*

INTRODUCTORY RITES

LEADER (or individual): We gather here to celebrate the Lord's Day. Sunday has been called the Lord's Day because it was on this day that Jesus conquered sin and death and rose to new life. While we are not able to celebrate Mass today and receive Holy Communion, let us be united in spirit the of Christ with the Church around the world and celebrate our redemption in Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection.

All stand and make the sign of the cross as leader continues:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL (or individual): Amen

LEADER: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God forever.

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

LEADER: Let us pray.

All pray in silence for a short time, then leader continues:

God of all creation, we gather on this first day of the week made holy by the resurrection of Christ. In the waters of baptism we were buried with him so that we might also rise with him and so share his victory over sin and death.

You have transformed our lives into the living stones that form your Church with Christ as the foundation stone. Strengthen our community's bond of communion and peace during this uncertain time, and deepen our solidarity with your Church throughout the whole world.

Rekindle in us today the vision of your kingdom so that our daily concerns and labor may find their proper perspective.

Fill our homes with the spirit of the Gospel and give us the grace to see the true face of the people with whom we live. In a world torn by fear, sin and division make us instruments of reconciliation and mercy.

Acknowledging our sins, we pray, O God, for the gift of true repentance and genuine conversion. Renew the grace of our baptism within us and inspire us to express our love for you in our service of others.

We raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to you, O God. May we who celebrate Christ's resurrection this day share in his eternal glory where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

The LORD said to Samuel:
"Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way.
I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem,
for I have chosen my king from among his sons."
As Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice,
Samuel looked at Eliab and thought,
"Surely the LORD's anointed is here before him."
But the LORD said to Samuel:
"Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature,
because I have rejected him.
Not as man sees does God see,
because man sees the appearance
but the LORD looks into the heart."
In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel,
but Samuel said to Jesse,
"The LORD has not chosen any one of these."
Then Samuel asked Jesse,
"Are these all the sons you have?"
Jesse replied,
"There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep."
Samuel said to Jesse,
"Send for him;
we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here."
Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them.
He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold
and making a splendid appearance.
The LORD said,
"There—anoint him, for this is the one!"
Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand,
anointed David in the presence of his brothers;
and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.

THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND READING

Brothers and sisters:
You were once darkness,
but now you are light in the Lord.
Live as children of light,
for light produces every kind of goodness
and righteousness and truth.
Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.
Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness;
rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention
the things done by them in secret;
but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,
for everything that becomes visible is light.
Therefore, it says:

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will give you light.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

If the Gospel Acclamation cannot be not sung, it should be omitted and leader continues with Gospel.

CANTOR: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of Endless Glory. (ALL repeat)

CANTOR: I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. (ALL: Praise to you...)

GOSPEL (Proclaimed by Leader)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth.
He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva,
and smeared the clay on his eyes,
and said to him,
“Go wash in the Pool of Siloam” — which means Sent —.
So he went and washed, and came back able to see.
His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said,
“Isn’t this the one who used to sit and beg?”
Some said, “It is, “
but others said, “No, he just looks like him.”
He said, “I am.”
They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees.
Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath.
So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see.
He said to them,
“He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see.”
So some of the Pharisees said,
“This man is not from God,
because he does not keep the sabbath.”
But others said,
“How can a sinful man do such signs?”
And there was a division among them.
So they said to the blind man again,
“What do you have to say about him,
since he opened your eyes?”
He said, “He is a prophet.”
They answered and said to him,
“You were born totally in sin,
and are you trying to teach us?”
Then they threw him out.
When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,

he found him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

He answered and said,

“Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”

Jesus said to him,

“You have seen him, and
the one speaking with you is he.”

He said,

“I do believe, Lord,” and he worshiped him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

Share together some or all of the following questions based on the scriptures:

1 SAMUEL: When was a time that a first impression about someone (no names!) or something was proven to be far from the reality? Was there ever a time in your life when something seemingly insignificant made a significant impact? How do you wish to be judged by others? How can we better “look into the hearts” of others?

PSALM 23: What are the “dark valleys” that we face in our lives right now? What are the “green pastures” and “safe waters” that God has provided? In what other ways have you experienced the abundance of God in your life?

EPHESIANS: What does it mean to be called “a child of light?” Are there any “fruitless works of darkness” in your life that need to be exposed? How can you continue to grow in your spiritual journey, moving from “darkness” to “light”?

JOHN: Who is someone you admire because they are overcoming a disability? Has there ever been a physical or emotional misfortune in your life that has turned into an opportunity for the demonstration of God’s power? Has your faith ever made you feel outcast? How do you answer the question “Why?” concerning pain or suffering in your life? When did you first see Jesus as the light of *your* world? How do you measure your spiritual vision?

After the reflections or sharing, a period of silence for further meditation on the readings should be observed.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

At the words that follow, all bow.

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man. **(end bow)**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day in accordance with the scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father
and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LEADER: With faith in God's promises, let us now present our needs and petitions.

READER: For the holy Church, for all of us, may we serve as beacons of light in
this world during difficult times, we pray to the Lord...

READER: For civic leaders, and for those who work to ensure the well-being of all,
especially the most vulnerable, we pray to the Lord...

READER: For people living with disabilities, and for those who work to meet their
needs, we pray to the Lord...

READER: For all health care workers, counselors, and care-givers, for all who work
to heal those suffering from coronavirus in every way, we pray to the
Lord...

READER: For victims of human rights violations and their families and loved ones,
and for those who work to bring to them the healing touch of Christ, we
pray to the Lord...

READER: For those preparing for the Easter Sacraments, may they walk in the light of Christ and reflect that light to others, we pray to the Lord...

READER: For all of us, may we look beyond appearances and attempt to see the face of Christ in all people, celebrating diversity and promoting the gifts each person brings, we pray to the Lord...

READER: For all who have died, especially victims of the coronavirus pandemic, and for their loved ones, and for all who have died to rise in glory on the last day, we pray to the Lord...

LEADER: God of love, our refuge and our strength, hear the prayers of your Church, and grant us what we ask of you in faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer may be prayed at this time

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

All Recite

Jesus, I know and believe in your real presence in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. It is you I desire to love and receive above all things. As I am unable to receive your sacramental presence now, come and be with me in heart and soul. Let my entire self be united with you as I welcome you again and know your loving embrace. Amen.

ACT OF THANKSGIVING

The act of thanksgiving may be a song, hymn, psalm, canticle, or litany.

CONCLUDING RITE

LEADER: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

ALL: Amen

SIGN OF PEACE

If appropriate, all may exchange a sign of peace