

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

Gather in a place where an environment appropriate for prayer can be created. Put a green branch on the front door or on a window of the home. It doesn't need to be a palm branch, any branch will do. Through this green branch on our door we can remember each other and Jesus' sacrifice for us as we enter into the holiest week of the Christian calendar.

Instrumental music may be played or an appropriate song may played or sung.

Possibilities:

- In the Breaking of the Bread (Hurd) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVC2e7ldF2g>
- In the Breaking of the Bread (Ward) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eExBStKG3kA>
- Two Were Bound for Emmaus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMpe3jVtFMs>
- Christ is Risen (Maher) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ur18pw3m5qM>
- Emmaus (Alonso) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBmqxMAe29g>
- Along This Holy Way (DeSilva) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5s-G19_ElGI
- Eye Has Not Seen (Haugen) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jYgOQC82aU>

LEADER: 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: 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.

The good news of Easter fills our hearts with joy as we remember Christ's victory over death. In him, who offered his life on the cross, a broken world has been renewed and the promise of eternal life made sure.

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

Acts 2:14, 22-33 (46A)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven,
raised his voice, and proclaimed:
"You who are Jews, indeed all of you staying in Jerusalem.
Let this be known to you, and listen to my words.
You who are Israelites, hear these words.
Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God
with mighty deeds, wonders, and signs,
which God worked through him in your midst, as you yourselves know.
This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God,
you killed, using lawless men to crucify him.
But God raised him up, releasing him from the throes of death,
because it was impossible for him to be held by it.
For David says of him:
I saw the Lord ever before me,
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.
Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has exulted;
my flesh, too, will dwell in hope,
because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld,
nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption.
You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.
"My brothers, one can confidently say to you
about the patriarch David that he died and was buried,
and his tomb is in our midst to this day.
But since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him
that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne,
he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ,
that neither was he abandoned to the netherworld
nor did his flesh see corruption.

God raised this Jesus;
of this we are all witnesses.
Exalted at the right hand of God,
he received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father
and poured him forth, as you see and hear.”

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11

R. (11a) Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge;
I say to the LORD, “My Lord are you.”
O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,
you it is who hold fast my lot.

R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.

I bless the LORD who counsels me;
even in the night my heart exhorts me.
I set the LORD ever before me;
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,
my body, too, abides in confidence;
because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld,
nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.

R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.

You will show me the path to life,
abounding joy in your presence,
the delights at your right hand forever.

R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:17–21

A reading from the first letter of Peter

If you invoke as Father him who judges impartially
according to each one’s works,
conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning,
realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct,
handed on by your ancestors,
not with perishable things like silver or gold
but with the precious blood of Christ
as of a spotless unblemished lamb.

He was known before the foundation of the world
but revealed in the final time for you,
who through him believe in God
who raised him from the dead and gave him glory,
so that your faith and hope are in God.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

CANTOR: Alleluia, Alleluia. (ALL repeat)

CANTOR: Lord Jesus, open the scriptures to us; make our hearts burn while you speak to us.

All: Alleluia, Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

(Proclaimed by Leader)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

That very day, the first day of the week,
two of Jesus' disciples were going
to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus,
and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.
And it happened that while they were conversing and debating,
Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,
but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.
He asked them,
"What are you discussing as you walk along?"
They stopped, looking downcast.
One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply,
"Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem
who does not know of the things
that have taken place there in these days?"
And he replied to them, "What sort of things?"
They said to him,
"The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene,
who was a prophet mighty in deed and word
before God and all the people,
how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over
to a sentence of death and crucified him.
But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel;
and besides all this,
it is now the third day since this took place.
Some women from our group, however, have astounded us:
they were at the tomb early in the morning
and did not find his body;
they came back and reported
that they had indeed seen a vision of angels
who announced that he was alive.
Then some of those with us went to the tomb
and found things just as the women had described,
but him they did not see."
And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are!
How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!
Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things
and enter into his glory?"
Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
he interpreted to them what referred to him
in all the Scriptures.
As they approached the village to which they were going,
he gave the impression that he was going on farther.
But they urged him, "Stay with us,

for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.”
So he went in to stay with them.
And it happened that, while he was with them at table,
he took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, and gave it to them.
With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him,
but he vanished from their sight.
Then they said to each other,
“Were not our hearts burning within us
while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?”
So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem
where they found gathered together
the eleven and those with them who were saying,
“The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!”
Then the two recounted
what had taken place on the way
and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

Take the passage “Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?” or another short phrase that stood out to you and repeat it several times. Place yourself in the story. As you repeat the phrase, meditate on the people and the actions of the story. Have the leader read the Gospel again if necessary.

Meditate on what this phrase means to you at this point in your life.

Share your personal response to the text: Allow everyone to simply share their thoughts and feelings about what the text means to them. Dialogue and converse about each other’s responses after the prayer service over a meal.

Take time in silence to personally encounter how Christ has touched you and those you are with through your meditation on this story.

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

1. Where do you find strength and/or courage when something new is required of you?
2. In the life of discipleship, how do you perceive Jesus as walking alongside you?
3. What spiritual practices bring you closer to Jesus?
4. For forty days of Lent, we take up practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving ... There are fifty days of celebration in the Easter season: How can you and your family or community continue to keep the Easter feast alive?

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 all members of the Church, may we be renewed in our desire to draw close to the risen Lord, testifying to Christ's promise of salvation to all humanity, we pray to the Lord...

READER: For politicians, legislators, and government officials, may they empathize with those whom they serve, showing mutual respect and care for all people, we pray to the Lord...

READER: For those who are having difficulty providing enough food for their family, and for all who are working in every way to continuously provide food equitably during this time, we pray to the Lord ...

READER: For all care-givers, health-care workers, first responders, and essential personnel; for all those who are working to heal the sick and suffering during this pandemic, we pray to the Lord...

READER: For all young people discerning a vocation, may they answer God's call to a religious vocation, the priesthood or lay service in the Church, we pray to the Lord...

READER: For all of us, may we be generous with our abundance to those in need, striving to recognize Jesus in those we encounter on our journeys, we pray to the Lord...

READER: For all who have died, (mention any names...) especially victims of COVID-19, to attain the fullness of life in the eternal kingdom, we pray to the Lord...

LEADER: Ever-living God, hear our prayers that we might be broken and shared for others, for the life of the world. 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.
(See options on page 1).

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