

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:

- I Know That My Redeemer Lives (Various Versions)
- For the Sake of Christ (Canedo) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ld6SvgVYXoo>
- Remain in Me, I Am the Vine (Angrisano/Stephan) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQOgb7x9KHg>
- Hallelujah Is Our Song (Hart/Kroger/Blakesley) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BL065Ww1Z4w>
- We Have Been Told (Haas) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZowVhbf4T4>
- If Ye Love Me (Tallis) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqt005j1dB0>
- Healer of Our Every Ill (Haugen) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwBewCxunL0>
- Glorious Day (Stanfill) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gklJ2XZwDHc>

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.

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 of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Philip went down to the city of Samaria
and proclaimed the Christ to them.
With one accord, the crowds paid attention to what was said by Philip
when they heard it and saw the signs he was doing.
For unclean spirits, crying out in a loud voice,
came out of many possessed people,
and many paralyzed or crippled people were cured.
There was great joy in that city.
Now when the apostles in Jerusalem
heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God,
they sent them Peter and John,
who went down and prayed for them,
that they might receive the Holy Spirit,
for it had not yet fallen upon any of them;
they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
Then they laid hands on them
and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20

R. (1) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth,
sing praise to the glory of his name;
proclaim his glorious praise.
Say to God, "How tremendous are your deeds!"

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

"Let all on earth worship and sing praise to you,
sing praise to your name!"
Come and see the works of God,
his tremendous deeds among the children of Adam.

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

He has changed the sea into dry land;
through the river they passed on foot;
therefore let us rejoice in him.
He rules by his might forever.

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Hear now, all you who fear God, while I declare
what he has done for me.
Blessed be God who refused me not
my prayer or his kindness!

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of Peter

Beloved:
Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts.
Always be ready to give an explanation
to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope,
but do it with gentleness and reverence,
keeping your conscience clear,
so that, when you are maligned,
those who defame your good conduct in Christ
may themselves be put to shame.
For it is better to suffer for doing good,
if that be the will of God, than for doing evil.
For Christ also suffered for sins once,
the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous,
that he might lead you to God.
Put to death in the flesh,
he was brought to life in the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

CANTOR: Alleluia, Alleluia. (ALL repeat)

CANTOR: Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord,
and my Father will love him and we will come to him.

ALL: Alleluia, Alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

(Proclaimed by Leader)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

And I will ask the Father,

and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always,
the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept,
because it neither sees nor knows him.

But you know him, because he remains with you,
and will be in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

In a little while the world will no longer see me,
but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

On that day you will realize that I am in my Father
and you are in me and I in you.

Whoever has my commandments and observes them
is the one who loves me.

And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father,
and I will love him and reveal myself to him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

Take the passage “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” 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.

QUESTION(S) OF THE WEEK

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

1. ACTS: Who has proclaimed Christ to you, in either word or deed?
2. PSALM: What freedoms do you hope for in life?
3. PETER: What is your reason to continue to hope in God?
4. JOHN: How do you strive, in love, to keep the commandments as Jesus asks?

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, that we may be strengthened in Christ, and sustained by the Holy Spirit as we teach and keep the commandments, we pray to the Lord...
- READER:** For those in public office, that they may respond with assistance and compassion to the challenges and issues that confront us during this pandemic, we pray to the Lord...
- READER:** For those who are having difficulty discerning their purpose or their calling, that they may recognize the movement of the Holy Spirit their lives, we pray to the Lord ...
- READER:** For all care-givers, health-care workers, first responders, and essential personnel, that they may carry Christ in their hearts, willing to suffer for doing good in today's world, we pray to the Lord...
- READER:** For our Elect, and for all who continue to prepare for sacraments of initiation, that they may be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Lord...
- READER:** For all who are gathered today through this live-stream, that like the early disciples we may boldly proclaim Christ to others, 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:** God of love, our refuge and our strength, hear the prayers of your Church, and grant us today what we ask of you, in faith, 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