

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:

- Come, Holy Ghost <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jqAGF3j2GI>
- One Spirit, One Church (Keil) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nF0GoEUuMoE>
- Send Us Your Spirit (Haas) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-XzID3SDPw>
- By the Waking of Our Hearts (Manalo) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ilHQTEETiY>
- May Your Kingdom Come (Angrisano) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pt9y51KNb2A>
- Holy Spirit (Battistelli) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvBBC7-PSHo>
- Holy Spirit, Come Now (Manibusan) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Tgz9X8l3GM>
- Holy Spirit, Come to Me (Hoy) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgxatF_Aoik
- Spirit of the Living God (Sooter/Fieldes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_4vdhBjs8E

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 the Spirit of Christ with the Church around the world as we 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 Christ 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 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled,
they were all in one place together.
And suddenly there came from the sky
a noise like a strong driving wind,
and it filled the entire house in which they were.
Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire,
which parted and came to rest on each one of them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak in different tongues,
as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.
Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem.
At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd,
but they were confused
because each one heard them speaking in his own language.
They were astounded, and in amazement they asked,
"Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans?
Then how does each of us hear them in his native language?
We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites,
inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia,
Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia,
Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene,
as well as travelers from Rome,
both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs,
yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues
of the mighty acts of God."

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

R. (30) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!
How manifold are your works, O Lord!
the earth is full of your creatures;

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD be glad in his works!
Pleasing to him be my theme;
I will be glad in the LORD.

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

If you take away their breath, they perish
and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:3B-7, 12-13

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:
No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;
there are different workings but the same God
who produces all of them in everyone.
To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit
is given for some benefit.

As a body is one though it has many parts,
and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.
For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,
whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons,
and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

The Word of the Lord

PENTECOST SEQUENCE

(Proclaimed by one)

*Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
Shed a ray of light divine!
Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine.
You, of comforters the best;*

*You, the soul's most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below;
In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.
O most blessed Light divine,
Shine within these hearts of yours,
And our inmost being fill!
Where you are not, we have naught,
Nothing good in deed or thought,
Nothing free from taint of ill.
Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away:
Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.
On the faithful, who adore
And confess you, evermore
In your sevenfold gift descend;
Give them virtue's sure reward;
Give them your salvation, Lord;
Give them joys that never end. Amen.
Alleluia.*

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: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

All: Alleluia, Alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 20:19-23

(Proclaimed by Leader)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you."
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained."

The Gospel of the Lord.

INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

Take the passage “Receive the Holy Spirit” or another phrase that stood out to you. 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: How does being filled with the Spirit relate to your witness to Jesus?
2. PSALM: Where do you see the need for renewal in our world?
3. CORINTHIANS: What unique gifts and talents have you been given by God, and how do you use them to serve others?
4. MATTHEW: How do you strive to bring the peace of Christ to those you greet each day?

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 Church and all Church leaders; for all who bring justice to the oppressed, food to the hungry, plenty to the poor, and compassion to the suffering, we pray to the Lord ...
- READER:** For elected officials, and for public servants making difficult decisions during this time; for all men and women in positions of trust to seek peace and act in truth, we pray to the Lord ...
- READER:** For the earth, and for all living things that call this planet home; for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to bring renewal and refreshment, we pray to the Lord ...
- READER:** For continued efforts to break down walls between members of the human race; for an end to divisions of race, ethnicity, language, or way of life; and for those cultures are threatened with extinction, 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 keep our complex world moving forward in hope, we pray to the Lord...
- READER:** For all members of our faith community; for all who use their spiritual gifts for the benefit of all people, we pray to the Lord...
- READER:** For all who have died, especially all victims of COVID-19, and for the loved ones who mourn them; and for (mention any names...), 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