

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:

- Hosanna to the Son of David (Schutte or Booth)
- Hosanna (Hillsong: Ligertwood or Haas or Avolicino or Soper or O'Brien)
- All, Glory, Laud and Honor
- Crown Him with Many Crowns
- Take up Your Cross (ERHALT UNS, HERR or Cortez or Haas)
- Take up Our Cross (Stephan/Hart)

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.

Praise to you, O God, our Father, for you give us this first day of the week to restore our hope, to refresh our spirits, and inspire us for works of mercy, charity, apostolic service. On this day that belongs to you, we recall in faith that day when Christ rose from the dead; and with great fervor we look forward to the future of Christ's return.

May our gathering this day lead us to a deeper solidarity of faith and a profound sense of gratitude for the grace of our baptism.

May our prayer lead us to love for the poor, a greater respect for the dignity of human life, and the liberation of the oppressed.

As we remember the resurrection of your Christ, may we receive the life-giving breath of the Holy Spirit, so that we might be effective witnesses of the Gospel.

To you belong all glory and honor and power both now and forever.
Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9, (164A)

A reading from the Book of Exodus

Early in the morning Moses went up Mount Sinai
as the LORD had commanded him,
taking along the two stone tablets.

Having come down in a cloud, the LORD stood with Moses there
and proclaimed his name, "LORD."

Thus the LORD passed before him and cried out,
"The LORD, the LORD, a merciful and gracious God,
slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity."

Moses at once bowed down to the ground in worship.

Then he said, "If I find favor with you, O Lord,
do come along in our company.

This is indeed a stiff-necked people; yet pardon our wickedness and sins,
and receive us as your own."

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55

R. (52b) Glory and Praise for ever!

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers,
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever;
And blessed is your holy and glorious name,
praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages.

R. Glory and Praise for ever!

Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory,
praiseworthy and glorious above all forever.

R. Glory and Praise for ever!

Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom,
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

R. Glory and Praise for ever!
Blessed are you who look into the depths
from your throne upon the cherubim,
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.
R. Glory and Praise for ever!

SECOND READING
2 Corinthians 13:11-13

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters, rejoice.
Mend your ways, encourage one another,
agree with one another, live in peace,
and the God of love and peace will be with you.
Greet one another with a holy kiss.
All the holy ones greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

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: Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

ALL: Alleluia, Alleluia.

GOSPEL
John 3:16-139
(Proclaimed by Leader)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him might not perish
but might have eternal life.
For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.
Whoever believes in him will not be condemned,
but whoever does not believe has already been condemned,
because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

Take the passage “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son” 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. EXODUS: How do you invite God to journey with you in everyday life?
2. PSALM (DANIEL): If you burst into an uncontainable song of praise to God today, what would you be singing about?
3. CORINTHIANS: Which individuals (or groups) within your community need encouragement right now?
4. MATTHEW: What does today’s gospel tell you about the one we call “Father?” How can you better recognize God as a relationship of three persons?

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 vocations to ministries of the Church - priesthood, religious and consecrated life, diaconal ministry and lay ministry - let us pray to the Lord ...
- READER:** For vocations to ministries of public service - civic leadership, education, health-care and community service - let us pray to the Lord ...
- READER:** For vocations to ministries of liturgical life, spirituality and prayer; For continued conversion of hearts and minds to God - let us pray to the Lord ...
- READER:** For vocations to the ministries of building community; For the strength to mend our ways, live in peace, and confront the world with love - let us pray to the Lord ...
- READER:** For all care-givers, first responders, and essential personnel; for all who work to heal and encourage others - let us pray to the Lord...
- READER:** For all students who are graduating this year; For all who take proper pride in their success, looking forward to using their knowledge and talent in the next chapter of their lives - let us pray to the Lord ...
- READER:** For all who have died, especially all victims of COVID-19, and for the loved ones who mourn them ...
- 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