

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.
Instrumental music may be played or an appropriate song may played or sung.
Parish music directors should be able to provide additional appropriate song choices.
A musician can lead one of the following songs or all can sing along to recording (YouTube, etc)

Possibilities: Go Out, Go Out (Stephan) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdiEEVlhvPI>

I Send You Out (Angotti) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLQOkRBpTo>

Jesus Forever (Elevation Worship) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9DZHRg_i-4

You Are My Friends (Haas) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9wxq4oUtmk>

One Sacrifice of Christ (Feduccia / Modlin)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ya6fNOcyQpg>

Make Your Home in Me (Walther) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQn0S7ldgwI>

With One Voice (Manalo) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwXtDuLFHJg>

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise (arr. Thompson)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwA2d0FqucE>

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 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 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

The readings and psalm are those assigned for the day in the Lectionary for Mass.

Visit <http://cms.usccb.org/bible/readings/052420-ascension.cfm> for the readings for May 24.

FIRST READING: The First Reading is proclaimed by someone other than the leader. Begin with "A reading from the Acts of the Apostles" ..." and close with "The Word of the Lord."

THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM: The Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 47) is sung or read.

SECOND READING: The second reading is proclaimed by someone other than the leader. Begin with "A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians..." ..." and close with "The Word of the Lord.:"

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

If not sung, omit and leader continues with Gospel.

CANTOR: Alleluia! (Sing a favorite version of the Alleluia, and have all repeat)

CANTOR: Go and teach all nations, says the Lord;
I am with you always, until the end of the world. (All: Alleluia!)

GOSPEL: The Gospel is proclaimed by the leader. Begin with “A reading from the Holy Gospel According to John” and conclude with “The Gospel of the Lord.”

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS: Parish Catechetical Leaders can be consulted for appropriate materials and sources for reflection and sharing on the readings. The following options for reflection are provided but can be adapted as necessary by parishes. In addition, the pastor may wish to provide a homily which can be played or read by the leader at this time.

1. LECTIO DIVINA (for more background and information on this type of prayer visit www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions)

Take the passage “And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age” 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.

2. QUESTION(S) OF THE WEEK

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

ACTS: In what area(s) of your life is God calling you to move from contemplation to action?

PSALM: In what ways do you give praise to God?

EPHESIANS: Have you felt the power of the Holy Spirit working within you when you were able to do something you may have thought impossible?

MATTHEW: How is your faith community still carrying out Jesus’ great commission to “make disciples” even during this time of pandemic?

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

If there are catechumens or elect present, after the silence, continue breaking open the Word of God if necessary to conclude the celebration (Parish RCIA Coordinators will be helpful with providing additional materials to facilitate this) and then close with the Concluding Rite

PROFESSION OF FAITH: Recite either the Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed

www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/basic-prayers.cfm

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

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

READER: That the Church may continue to carry on the great commission Christ gave to his first disciples, preaching, teaching, and baptizing throughout all nations, we pray to the Lord ...

READER: That all nations lay down their arms and resolve to never again use weapons of death to resolve disagreements and discord, we pray to the Lord ...

READER: That justice and righteousness may overcome sin and evil, liberating all who suffer from systemic persecution, oppression, and discrimination, we pray to the Lord ...

READER: That all care-givers, health-care workers, first responders, essential personnel, and all who are returning to work be blessed with wisdom and hope as they witness to God's joy and consolation ... we pray to the Lord...

READER: That all who have been displaced from their homes, due to violence or natural disaster, may find shelter, safety, and welcome, we pray to the Lord...

READER: That the members of our parish community may be enlightened to Christ's presence in the Word, in Sacrament, and in one another, we pray to the Lord...

READER: For all who have died; for the repose of the soul of Bishop Galante on this one-year anniversary of his death, (*mention any other names...*), and for victims of COVID-19, may they 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: 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 music choices above. Parish music directors may advise their communities on additional appropriate choices within parish repertoire for the season.

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

Another song or instrumental music may conclude the celebration.