

## 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: 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=1Tgz9X8I3GM>

Holy Spirit, Come to Me (Hoy) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ngxaf\\_Aoik](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ngxaf_Aoik)

Spirit of the Living God (Sooter/Fieldes)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M\\_4vdhBjs8E](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 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/053120-day.cfm> for the readings for May 31.*

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 104) is sung or read.

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

The Pentecost Sequence is proclaimed today.

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: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful  
and kindle in them the fire of your love. (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](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions))

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.

2. QUESTION(S) OF THE WEEK

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

ACTS: How does being filled with the Spirit relate to your witness to Jesus?

PSALM: Where do you see the need for renewal in our world?

CORINTHIANS: What unique gifts and talents have you been given by God, and how do you use them to serve others?

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 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](http://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: 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: 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.