

SUNDAY CELEBRATION OF THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

For use in the home or in a small community

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 be 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: The Least of These (Hurd) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ntt4IUmmHSM>

The Lord is My Shepherd (Blakesley)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALSsKDo8eKY>

God of the Hungry (Soper) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2GAwKMU_gXw

In Christ Alone (Getty/Townend)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16KYvflc2bE>

Crown Him with Many Crowns
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNBDdjo2hMU> – Michael W Smith

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psmel83jB7U> – Traditional

He Is Exalted (Paris) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUPPVMynphU>

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQZRRjmlgYQ>

King of Glory (Passion) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WiRXP9peUe4>

Humble King (Brown) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YV_3l6Ng5lA

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:

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

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

Visit <https://bible.usccb.org> for the readings for November 22.

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

THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM: The Responsorial Psalm (23) 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 St. Paul to the Corinthians..." 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: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!" (All: Alleluia!)

GOSPEL: The Gospel is proclaimed by the leader. Begin with “A reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew” 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 a passage or a short phrase from one of the readings 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 God has touched you and those you are with through your meditation on this passage.

2. QUESTION(S) OF THE WEEK

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

EZEKIEL: How might you reach out to people who you feel are missing from your parish community?

PSALM: How have you experienced God’s shepherding care most recently?

CORINTHIANS: What difference has Christ’s victory over death made to you in terms of hope, courage, and/or purpose for your life?

MATTHEW: How can you better incorporate the corporal works of mercy into your life in the coming year?

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: For the Church; For those who lead us in faith, shepherding God's flock with wisdom and compassion, always aligning themselves with the poor and vulnerable ...

READER: For world leaders; For those who are inspired to develop policies and laws that hasten our work to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, and comfort the neglected ...

READER: For all who are seeking acceptance in today's complex world to see the face of Christ in the goodness and mercy of those who reach out and welcome them ...

READER: For all youth who have received the sacrament of Confirmation this fall; for young people who are outward signs of the faith of their families, friends, and communities ...

READER: For parents, teachers, and catechists; For those who shepherd and guide us in our daily lives, helping us to understand and appreciate God's love for us ...

LEADER: For an end to the Covid-19 pandemic; For researchers to be granted insight as they work to discover a cure, and for healthcare personnel to be strengthened as they care for those who are sick ...

READER: For all who have died, especially all victims of COVID-19, and for (*mention any names...*), may they know eternal happiness and peace in our generous and merciful God ...

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.

