

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.

The celebration begins without a procession.

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: Be Not Afraid (Dufford)

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone) – Chris Tomlin

Stand by Me (Kendzia)

Give Me Jesus (adapted by Hansen)

Now We Remain; We Will Rise Again (Haas)

I Will Rise (Tomlin)

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death (AZMON / Tucker)

Jerusalem, My Destiny (Cooney)

Sweet Redeemer (Angrisano)

Renew (S. 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 and 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.

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.

Acknowledging our sins, we pray, O God, for the gift of true repentance and genuine conversion. Renew the grace of our baptism within us and inspire us to express our love for you in our service of others.

We raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to you, O God. 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 www.usccb.org for the readings of the day, March 29, the Fifth Sunday of Lent

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 (Psalm 130) is sung or read.

If necessary, one of the common Lenten psalms (51 or 91) may be 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 Romans” ...” and close with “The Word of the Lord.:

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Gospel Acclamation given in the Lectionary is sung.

If is not sung, it should be omitted and leader continues with Gospel.

CANTOR: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of Endless Glory. (ALL repeat)

CANTOR: I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will never die. (ALL: Praise to you...)

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 “I am the resurrection and the life” or another short phrase that stood out to you and repeat it several times. 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:

EZEKIEL: What are some things that can raise your spirits on a gloomy day?

PSALM 130: Have you ever lost sleep anticipating the following day's events?

Have you been waiting for something for a long time?

ROMANS: How does the Spirit lead you when you feel "the body is dead"?

JOHN: Why do you feel it is important that it is accounted that "Jesus wept"?

Have you ever felt like God was not listening to you when you prayed?

How has God shown care for you during difficult times? How do you

show empathy for others when they are hurting? How can you free

yourself from any "burial bonds" in your life? What are the areas of your

life that need the healing touch of God?

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 all who proclaim God as the source of life within us, and for all who recognize the sanctity of all life, we pray to the Lord...

READER: For legislators and officials in elected office, and for those who enact laws that will support and protect all people in these difficult times, we pray to the Lord...

READER: For those who have done wrong, may they feel remorse and seek forgiveness, and for all of us to be aware of God's promise of redemption, we pray to the Lord...

READER: For all care-givers, doctors, nurses and health-care workers, for all those who are working to heal the suffering from this pandemic in every way, we pray to the Lord...

READER: For all of us to roll away the stones that block us from coming closer to God, and for the courage and wisdom to assist others in unraveling the bands that hold them in bondage, we pray to the Lord...

READER: For the Elect who are preparing for the Easter Sacraments, that the coming of the Holy Spirit into their lives may lead them to see the world around them through the eyes of faith, we pray to the Lord...

READER: For all those who mourn the loss of a loved one, may they know the care and comfort of Jesus, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus, we pray to the Lord...

READER: For all who have died, especially victims of COVID-19, to attain the fullness of life in paradise, we pray to the Lord...

LEADER: God of love, our refuge and our strength, hear the prayers of your Church, and grant us what we ask of you in faith. We ask this 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.