

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.

Possibilities: It is Well with My Soul / All is Well with My Soul (several versions)

You Are the Healing (Soper) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErKeGhv8yW8>

Your Words are Spirit and Life (Farell)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pz382d_XLwA

I Will Choose Christ (Booth) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L793clHztwo>

Rejoice in the Promise of Jesus (Crandal)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVMXIW6Agrw>

Here's My Heart <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFw42tZVDKI>

May the Words

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cl1HF5NchLg&list=RDcl1HF5NchLg&start_radio=1

Lead Me, Lord (Becker) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Qm5JG8zVhk>

There is a Balm in Gilead (several versions)

We Cannot Measure How You Heal (Bell)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LpIF4JhWuU>

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, and 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 a 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 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 January 31.

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

THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM: The Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 95) 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: "The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light; on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen." (All: Alleluia!)

GOSPEL: The Gospel is proclaimed by the leader. Begin with "A reading from the Holy Gospel According to Mark" 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:

DEUTERONOMY: Who are our modern-day prophets who call us to walk in the ways of the Lord?

PSALM: What message or new way of thinking is God inviting you to be open to?

CORINTHIANS: What spiritual practices center you in God's peace?

MARK: What unclean spirits need to be driven out of your life?

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 and all Church leaders; For all those who, filled with Holy Spirit, bring justice to the oppressed, food to the hungry, plenty to the poor, and compassion to the suffering ...

READER: For diplomats, civil leaders, and all those in positions of authority; For those committed to finding just and nonviolent solutions to conflict ...

READER: For those who are suffering from the cold, especially children, the elderly, and those in poor health ...

READER: For teachers, administrators, staff and parents within Catholic Schools to be blessed in their efforts to form each student into a person who will grow to live out the values of our shared faith ...

READER: For the students of our Catholic Schools; for the joy of learning in a safe environment where they are each seen as a beloved child of God ...

READER: For our community of faith; For freedom from anxieties and distractions that keep us from living joyfully in God's presence ...

READER: For an end to the Covid-19 pandemic; For our leaders to be blessed with wisdom as they guide us; for researchers to be granted insight in their continued works and discoveries; for healthcare workers and essential personnel to be strengthened and protected as they care for the ill and those who need comfort....

READER: For those who have died, especially all victims of COVID-19, and for (*mention any names...*), to be gathered into paradise by Jesus, lover of our souls ...

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.

Adapted from *Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest* (ICEL, USCCB)
Pastoral Patterns (GIA), and *Living Liturgy* (LitPress)