

SUNDAY CELEBRATION OF THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

For use in the home or in a small community

INTRODUCTORY RITES

The rose-colored candle (if used) is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent along with the previous two purple candles.

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: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0CP1eHgWY>

Let the Light In (Carnes, Younker, Stanfill)

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

Come People of the Risen King (Getty, Townend)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Hv87llwvYc>

The Great Forerunner of the Morn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRG9mVuC69E>

You Have Anointed Me (Balhoff)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSP57Jpak7Q>

Magnificat (Chepponis) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9LXefzbUkU>

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord (Moore)

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

Creator of the Stars of Night <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fG8Wj0yODLY>

Emmanuel (Angrisano) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFghkY6OwA0>

Christ, Circle Round Us (Schutte)

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

Say to the Frightened Heart (Hurd)

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

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:

Blessed are you, Father, Holy, and Divine Creator. All creation comes from your hand; the entire universe bears the imprint of your goodness. You call us not only to inhabit the earth, but also to build it and thus become your co-workers.

You give us a Sabbath day of rest when men and women everywhere raise their song to you and become the voice of all creation. What you accomplished in creation and wrought for your people in the Exodus has found its fullest expression in Christ's death and resurrection. And so we remember on this first day of the week the salvation which you have given us in baptism and which has made us a new creation in Christ.

In these Advent days when we prepare for the coming of the Lord in glory and the celebration of his birth into the human family, we pray, O God, that you would remove from our hearts whatever might hinder us from receiving Christ with joy.

We praise you, Almighty God and Father, for there is no greater power that saves and no greater love and mercy, than that which comes from you through your Son, Jesus Christ, in communion with the Holy Spirit, 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/bible/readings/121320.cfm> for the readings for December 13.

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

THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM: The Responsorial Psalm (Luke 1: Magnificat) 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 Thessalonians...” 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 Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.” (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 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:

ISAIAH: Where do you see justice and peace growing in the world?

LUKE: What reasons does your soul have to rejoice in the Lord?

THESSALONIANS: When in your life have you experienced the faithfulness of God?

JOHN: How does the way you live your life give testimony to the light of Christ?

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 those who preach the Gospel, may their words and actions testify to the light, proclaiming glad tidings to the poor, healing to the brokenhearted, and liberty to captives ...

READER: For leaders of nations, in their policies and decisions may they work tirelessly to ensure support and care for hungry, homeless, and suffering ...

READER: For the prophets of our time who boldly proclaim the truth, may they know strength and courage as they stand up for what is right and just ...

READER: For our Jewish brothers and sisters who have begun to celebrate Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, may this joyful season bring them comfort and health ...

READER: 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 those who grieve the loss of a loved one during this holiday season, may they know the tender compassion of God and find joy in the midst of sorrow ...

READER: For our beloved dead, especially all victims of COVID-19, and for (*mention any names...*); in the fullness of time may they be raised to eternal life in everlasting peace and joy with 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.

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