

## 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: Unless a Grain of Wheat Shall Fall (Farrell)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19RINpG56Qs>

Renew Me, Lord (Farrell) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VhzlBtEhdlw>

For the Sake of Christ (Canedo)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nocjB\\_9K0EE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nocjB_9K0EE)

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross (Crosby / Doane)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8ehn\\_oqL\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8ehn_oqL_g)

Christ Be Magnified (Carnes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjGMlYywK9M>

Rest in You (Leonard / Jordan)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVKjCKYSGT4>

As the Deer Longs (Hurd) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oENlmc-U1dc>

I Have Loved You (Joncas) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkMBSchV0Hc>

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.

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 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> for the readings for March 21.

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

THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM: The Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 51) is sung or read.

SECOND READING: The second reading is proclaimed by someone other than the leader. Begin with "A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews" and close with "The Word of the Lord."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **If not sung, omit and leader continues with Gospel.**

CANTOR: "Praise to You, Lord Jesus, Christ, King of Endless Glory"  
(Sing a favorite version of the Gospel Acclamation – all repeat)

“Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, there also will my servant be.”

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 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:

JEREMIAH: How have you experienced God’s forgiveness this Lent?

PSALM: What attributes help to create a “clean heart”?

HEBREWS: How have you embraced the mystery that suffering and death leads to growth and new life?

JOHN: How might you be able to sow the seeds of the kingdom 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](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 God's holy Church, may we continue to boldly preach the good news of Jesus Christ...

READER: For leaders of governments and business, may they come together to end production of weapons of destruction and craft a vision for world peace...

READER: For victims of racial discrimination, may they know justice and success as they strive for equal treatment in the workplace, in their communities, and in society...

READER: For those who are imprisoned for their religious beliefs, may their freedom be secured and their human rights safeguarded...

READER: For an increase in the awareness that all people are made in the image and likeness of God, worthy of love and respect...

READER: For all catechumens, elect, and candidates for full communion, may they grow daily in their desire for perfection...

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...*); may they be with their Savior in paradise...

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)