

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 to begin.

Parish music directors should be able to provide additional appropriate song choices.

Possibilities: Eye Has Not Seen (Haugen) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jYgOQC82aU>

Though Not Seeing You (Hurd)

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

Hold on to Love (Manibusan) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtrbxIW7bRo>

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S35MFbDJLX8>

Peace I Leave with You (Bridge) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FV9ky-9mPA>

Jesus, I Trust in You (Hart / McDonell)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3barNdICNI>

He's So Real (Nicks) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwfNSjkmbQE>

Mercy (Redman) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8z98MK1aqyg>

Heart of God (Hillsong) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRSC06T4IKs>

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.

The good news of Easter fills our hearts with joy as we remember Christ's victory over sin and death. In him, who offered his life on the cross, a broken world has been renewed and the promise of eternal life made sure.

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 April 11.

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

THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM: The Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 118) 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 Saint John" and close with "The Word of the Lord."

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

CANTOR: (Sing a favorite version of the “Alleluia” – all repeat)

“You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; blessed are those who have not seen me, but still believe!”

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:

ACTS: On what issues or values does your community seem to be of “one heart and one mind”? Where is there still division?

PSALM: To whom do I need to offer mercy?

1 JOHN: Where are you encountering hardship or feeling burdened in your faith journey?

JOHN: Where are you being sent to share Jesus’ peace?

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, may we be of one heart and one mind in bearing the peace of the risen Lord to the ends of the earth ...

READER: For nations at war, may politicians and diplomats work tirelessly to end violence and promote justice and goodwill ...

READER: For those who suffer from addiction and mental illness, may they find strength, courage and healing in Jesus' merciful heart ...

READER: For those who have committed crimes and feel that they are beyond mercy, may they be truly remorseful and come to know the unbounded mercy of God ...

READER: For those initiated into the Church last weekend, may their new life in the Lord inspire and strengthen the faith of all Christians ...

READER: For our parish community, in following the example of the early church, may we share our treasures, both spiritual and material, with those in need ...

READER: For an end to the Covid-19 pandemic; may our leaders be blessed with wisdom as they guide us; may researchers be granted insight in their continued works and discoveries; and may healthcare workers and essential personnel 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)