

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: Hallelujah is Our Song (Hart) [Hallelujah Is Our Song - YouTube](#)

Two Were Bound for Emmaus (Hurd)

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

Come to the Lord (Angrisano) [Come to the Lord - YouTube](#)

Christ, the Lord, is Risen Again [Christ, The Lord, Is Risen Again - YouTube](#)

Alleluia! Love is Alive (Stephan / Angrisano) [Alleluia! Love Is Alive - YouTube](#)

Glorious is the Name of Jesus (Fryson) [Glorious Is the Name of Jesus - YouTube](#)

Because He Lives (Amen) (Maher)

[Matt Maher - Because He Lives \(Amen\) \[Official Lyric Video\] - YouTube](#)

God's Not Dead (Newsboys) [Newsboys - God's Not Dead - YouTube](#)

No Longer Slaves (Bethel / Zach Williams)

[Zach Williams - No Longer Slaves \(Live from Harding Prison\) - YouTube](#)

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 18.

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 4) 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)

"Lord, Jesus, open the scriptures to us;
make our hearts burn while you speak to us."

GOSPEL: The Gospel is proclaimed by the leader. Begin with “A reading from the Holy Gospel According to Luke” 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: Has ignorance ever clouded your following of Christ?

PSALM: What wonders have you witnessed in the life of faith?

JOHN: How can I give witness to the forgiveness I have experienced in Jesus?

LUKE: How do you make meals with friends and family a true time of communion?

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 bishops, priests and deacons, may their ministry be characterized by fidelity to the truth and humble service of the lowly ...

READER: For leaders of nations, may they work together to put an end to torture and inhumane acts against prisoners and captives ...

READER: For all of us; may we open our minds and hearts to the truth that all people are beloved children of God ...

READER: For married couples who are struggling; may the peace of Christ bring about healing, reconciliation and understanding ...

READER: For all who are receiving their First Holy Communion, and for all of us each time we receive the Eucharist, may we know the Lord in the breaking of the bread ...

READER: For farm workers and all who plant and tend to the crops that feed us, may they realize the fruits of their labors ...

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 my 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)