

SUNDAY CELEBRATION OF THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Based on *Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest*, USCCB

This rite may be used in the home when Sunday Mass may not be celebrated. The purpose is that the people should be nourished by the Word of God. By hearing it they learn that the marvels it proclaims reach their climax in the paschal mystery of which the Mass is a sacramental memorial and in which they share by communion. The faithful are invited to make an act of Spiritual Communion within this liturgy.

There is no entrance antiphon or hymn.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Introduction

After all have assembled and preparation for the service is complete, the lay leader of prayer introduces the celebration.

**We gather 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.
Unfortunately, we are not able to celebrate the Mass today.
Let us be united in the spirit of Christ
with the Church around the world
and celebrate our redemption
in Christ's suffering, death and resurrection.**

Stand

All stand and the lay leader of prayer, making the Sign of the Cross upon him or herself, says:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All make the Sign of the Cross and reply:

Amen.

Greeting

The lay leader of prayer greets those present in the following words, taken from Sacred Scripture.

**Grace and peace to you from God our Father
and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God for ever.**

All respond:

Blessed be God for ever.



Opening Prayer

The Opening Prayer follows. The lay leader of prayer invites the liturgical assembly to pray, saying:

Let us pray.

All pray in silence for a short time. Then the lay leader of prayer, with hands extended, says the prayer. At the end, the liturgical assembly responds: Amen.

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.**

Lent Insert

**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.**

Easter Insert

**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 the psalm are those assigned in the Lectionary for Mass for the Sunday (or weekday) found at www.usccb.org/bible/readings/.

Sit

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel

Stand

Reflection on the Readings or Time of Silence

Sit

[Reflection on the Readings by Pope Francis](#)

[Daily Reflections from the US Bishops](#)

[Lectio Divina from the American Bible Society](#)

Profession of Faith Stand

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

At the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow.

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven**



**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The universal prayer or prayer of the faithful follows.



Universal Prayer *(other intercessions follow on page 7 and following)*

With hands together, the lay leader of prayer invites all to pray in these words:

With faith in God's promises, let us now present our needs and petitions, responding: Lord, hear our prayer.

℟. Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For the Church: that the Lord, who consecrated the days of Holy Lent with his fast may bless the penance of his Church and protect it from the attacks of the enemy, we pray to the Lord. **℟**
2. For the communities of the world: that, faced with the fragility of life, all will be united as sisters and brothers in placing their hope in God, we pray to the Lord. **℟**
3. For the advancement of scientific knowledge: that the Holy Spirit would inspire new breakthroughs in overcoming the coronavirus, we pray to the Lord. **℟**
4. For healthcare professionals tending the sick: that the Lord may protect them from the illnesses they are treating and make them instruments of His healing, we pray to the Lord. **℟**
5. For those who are suffering from the coronavirus, flu viruses, or other illnesses: that through this trial they would be brought nearer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and receive healing in body and soul from the Divine Physician, we pray to the Lord. **℟**
6. For those who have died from the coronavirus, the flu, or other causes: that the Lord grant them eternal rest and consolation, welcoming them into the light of His presence, we pray to the Lord. **℟**

The lay leader of prayer concludes the intercessions:

God of all goodness, grant that your people convert to you with all their hearts, so that they may receive from your mercy what they confidently ask of you, through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Lord's Prayer

Next, the lay leader of prayer, with hands together, says:

At the Savior's command, and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

The leader continues with the people:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Act of Spiritual Communion

The lay leader of prayer invites everyone to pray silently to prepare themselves to make an act of Spiritual Communion. After a few moments all pray together:

**My Dearest Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot, at this moment, receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You
as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me
to be separated from You. Amen.**

The lay leader of prayer invokes God's blessing and makes the Sign of the Cross upon him or herself, saying:

**May the Lord bless us,
Protect us from all evil
And bring us to everlasting life.**

All make the Sign of the Cross and reply: Amen.



Holy Week¹

In this time of the Lord's Passion, when Christ offered prayers and supplications to his Father with loud cries and tears, let us humbly beseech God, that in answer to his Son's reverent submission he may in mercy hear our prayers also.

1. That the Church, the Bride of Christ, may be more fully cleansed by his Blood in this time of his Passion, let us pray to the Lord.
2. That through the Blood of Christ's Cross all things in the world may be brought to peace for the sake of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
3. That all who work to eradicate disease, especially today's COVID-19 pandemic, may have the strength and wisdom they need, we pray to the Lord.
4. That God may grant fortitude and patience to all who through sickness or hardship have a share in Christ's Passion, let us pray to the Lord.
5. That we may all be led through the Lord's Passion and Cross to the glory of his Resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

The lay leader of prayer concludes the intercessions:

**Be present, O Lord, to your people at prayer,
so that what we do not have the confidence or presumption to ask
we may obtain by the merits of your Son's Passion.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

R. Amen

¹ Roman Missal, Appendix V. Examples of Formularies for the Universal Prayer.



Easter Time

Dear brothers and sisters, filled with paschal joy, let us pray more earnestly to God that he, who graciously listened to the prayers and supplications of his beloved Son, may now be pleased to look upon us in our lowliness.

1. For the shepherds of our souls, that they may have the strength to govern wisely the flock entrusted to them by the Good Shepherd, let us pray to the Lord.
2. For the whole world, that rather than the chaos and uncertainty the pandemic brings, it may truly know the peace given by Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
3. For our brothers and sisters who suffer, that their sorrow may be turned to gladness which no one can take from them, let us pray to the Lord.
4. For our own community, that it may bear witness with great confidence to the Resurrection of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

The lay leader of prayer concludes the intercessions:

O God,
who know that our life in this present age
is subject to suffering and need,
hear the desires of those who cry to you
and receive the prayers of those who believe in you.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

