

A PRAYER SERVICE AT HOME
WHEN ATTENDANCE AT MASS IS NOT POSSIBLE

Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

In these extraordinary times when we cannot gather as a Christian Community to celebrate Mass, let us unite ourselves spiritually to the Mass as it is being celebrated in our churches.

This resource is offered to provide a ritual by which families, "the domestic church," can keep the Lord's day holy by joining together to celebrate part of the Church's liturgy at home. Ideally, the head of the family will lead the service; other members of the family should take on roles as readers.

It would be appropriate to celebrate this service at the usual time the family would attend Mass. If possible, prepare a suitable prayer space with a crucifix, holy picture and/or a candle or two. If the family is blessed with musical talent, hymns would be appropriate.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

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

All: Amen.

GREETING

Leader: We gather together to keep holy the Lord's Day. Sunday has been called the Lord's Day because it was on this day, on the first Easter, that Jesus conquered sin and death and rose to new life. Although public Mass has been restored, the threat of the transmission of COVID-19 continues, the bishop is continuing the dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation, and those who are not yet comfortable with the potential risk of returning to Sunday Mass still strive through these prayers to be united in the spirit of Christ with the Church around the world and celebrate our redemption in Christ's suffering, death and resurrection.

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

All: Blessed be God for ever.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Leader: Coming together as God's family, with confidence let us acclaim the Father's forgiveness, for God is full of gentleness and compassion.

After a pause for silent reflection, the leader continues.

Leader: Lord, you were sent by the Father to bring good news to the poor,
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Christ, you came to save us from sin,
Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lord, you were sent to proclaim the grace and mercy of God,
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA

**All: Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

COLLECT

Leader: Let us pray.
O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing
mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening
to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven. Through our Lord Jesus
Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one
God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18: 25-28

Reader: A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the LORD:

You say, "The LORD's way is not fair!"

Hear now, house of Israel: Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair?

When someone virtuous turns away from virtue to commit iniquity, and dies, it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die.

But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed, he does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life; since he has turned away from all the sins that he has committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 25: 4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

Reader: Remember your mercies, O Lord.

All: Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Reader: Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths, guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior.

All: Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Reader: Remember that your compassion, O LORD, and your love are from of old. The sins of my youth and my frailties remember not; in your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O LORD.

All: Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Good and upright is the LORD; thus he shows sinners the way.

He guides the humble to justice, and teaches the humble his way.

All: Remember your mercies, O Lord.

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:1-11 or 2:1-5

Reader: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing.

Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests,

but also for those of others.

Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus,
Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God
something to be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human
likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming
obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name
which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue
confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor: Alleluia, alleluia.

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

Cantor: My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21: 28-32

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Leader: Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: "What is your
opinion?"

A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, 'Son, go out and work in
the vineyard today.' He said in reply, 'I will not,' but afterwards changed his
mind and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He
said in reply, 'Yes, sir,' but did not go.

Which of the two did his father's will?" They answered, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are
entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in the way
of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes
did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and
believe him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

PROFESSION OF FAITH

All: 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,
[All bow during the following two lines:]
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.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

All: 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.
Amen.**

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

**All: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in 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.**

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Leader: St Michael, the Archangel, Protect and Pray for us.

All: Amen.

Leader: The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us; the Lord turn his face toward us and give us his peace both now and forever.

All: Amen.

Leader: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

SOURCES

Father McLaughlin, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Richboro, PA

English translation of Lectionary for Mass

© 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation, (ICEL)

English translation of The Roman Missal

© 2010, ICEL.

Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition.

© 1970, 1986, 1997, 1998, 2001, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC.

Prayers at Home When Gathering for Mass Is Not Possible

© 2020, the Diocese of Clonfert and the Diocese of Elphin, Ireland

Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest: Leader's Edition

© 2007, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC