

## A PRAYER SERVICE AT HOME

WHEN ATTENDANCE AT MASS IS NOT POSSIBLE

### **Twenty-Seventh 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

Isaiah: 5:1-7

**Reader:** A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Let me now sing of my friend, my friend's song concerning his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside; he spaded it, cleared it of stones, and planted the choicest vines; within it he built a watchtower, and hewed out a wine press. Then he looked for the crop of grapes, but what it yielded was wild grapes.

Now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard: What more was there to do for my vineyard that I had not done? Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes? Now, I will let you know what I mean to do with my vineyard: take away its hedge, give it to grazing, break through its wall, let it be trampled! Yes, I will make it a ruin: it shall not be pruned or hoed, but overgrown with thorns and briars; I will command the clouds not to send rain upon it.

The vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished plant; he looked for judgment, but see, bloodshed! for justice, but hark, the outcry!

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Psalm 25: 4-5, 8-9, 10, 14**

**Reader:** The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

**All: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.**

**Reader:** A vine from Egypt you transplanted;  
you drove away the nations and planted it.  
It put forth its foliage to the Sea,  
its shoots as far as the River.

**All: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.**

**Reader:** Why have you broken down its walls,  
so that every passer-by plucks its fruit,  
The boar from the forest lays it waste,  
and the beasts of the field feed upon it?

**All: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.**

**Reader:** Once again, O LORD of hosts,  
look down from heaven, and see;  
take care of this vine,  
and protect what your right hand has planted  
the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

**All: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.**

**Reader:** Then we will no more withdraw from you;  
give us new life, and we will call upon your name.  
O LORD, God of hosts, restore us;  
if your face shine upon us, then we shall be saved.

## SECOND READING

Philippians 4:6-9

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

Brothers and sisters:

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Cantor:** Alleluia, alleluia.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Cantor:** I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord, to go and bear fruit that will remain.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia.**

## GOSPEL

Matthew 21: 33-43

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

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Leader:** Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: "Hear another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce. But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned. Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones, but they treated them in the

same way. Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.' They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?" They answered him, "He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times."

Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures:

*The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;  
by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes?*

Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."

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*

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