

## A PRAYER SERVICE AT HOME

WHEN ATTENDANCE AT MASS IS NOT POSSIBLE

### **Second Sunday of Advent**

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:** You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader:** You came to call sinners:  
Christ, have mercy.

**All:** **Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader:** You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All:** **Lord, have mercy.**

### COLLECT

**Leader:** Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. 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

Is 40:1-5, 9-11

**Reader:** A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Comfort, give comfort to my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her  
that her service is at an end,  
her guilt is expiated;  
indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:  
In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!  
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!  
Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill shall be made low;  
the rugged land shall be made a plain,  
the rough country, a broad valley.  
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together;  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain,  
Zion, herald of glad tidings;  
cry out at the top of your voice,  
Jerusalem, herald of good news!  
Fear not to cry out  
and say to the cities of Judah:  
Here is your God!  
Here comes with power  
the Lord GOD,  
who rules by his strong arm;  
here is his reward with him,  
his recompense before him.  
Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;  
in his arms he gathers the lambs,  
carrying them in his bosom,  
and leading the ewes with care.

The Word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 85:8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14

**Reader:** Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

**All:** Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

**Reader:** I will hear what God proclaims;  
the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people.  
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,  
glory dwelling in our land.

**All:** Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

**Reader:** Kindness and truth shall meet;  
justice and peace shall kiss.  
Truth shall spring out of the earth,  
and justice shall look down from heaven.

**All:** Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

**Reader:** The LORD himself will give his benefits;  
our land shall yield its increase.  
Justice shall walk before him,  
and prepare the way of his steps.

**All:** Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

## SECOND READING

1 Pt 3:8-14

**Reader:** A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his

promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Lk 3:4,6**

**Cantor:** Alleluia, alleluia.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Cantor:** Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia.**

**GOSPEL**

**Mk 1:1-8**

**Leader:** A reading from the beginning of the holy Gospel according to Mark

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

**Leader:** The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

*Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;  
he will prepare your way.*

*A voice of one crying out in the desert:  
"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths."*

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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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