

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

**Easter Vigil of the Resurrection of the Lord**

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.

One way you can do this by joining broadcast Masses on radio, television, or via the internet.

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.

THE EXSULTET: THE PROCLAMATION OF EASTER

Leader:

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven,  
exult, let Angel ministers of God exult, let  
the trumpet of salvation  
sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!

Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her,  
ablaze with light from her eternal King,  
let all corners of the earth be glad,  
knowing an end to gloom and darkness.

Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice,  
arrayed with the lightning of his glory, let  
this holy building shake with joy,  
filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.  
Therefore, dearest friends,

standing in the awesome glory of this holy light,  
invoke with me, I ask you,  
the mercy of God almighty,  
that he, who has been pleased to number me,  
though unworthy, among the Levites,  
may pour into me his light unshadowed, that I  
may sing this candle's perfect praises.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

Leader Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader:

It is truly right and just, with ardent love of mind and heart and  
with devoted service of our voice,  
to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father,  
and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten. Who  
for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father, and,  
pouring out his own dear Blood,  
wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.

These, then, are the feasts of Passover,  
in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb, whose  
Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.

This is the night,  
when once you led our forebears, Israel's children,  
from slavery in Egypt  
and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.

This is the night  
that with a pillar of fire  
banished the darkness of sin.

This is the night  
that even now, throughout the world,  
sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices and  
from the gloom of sin,

leading them to grace  
and joining them to his holy ones.

This is the night,  
when Christ broke the prison-bars of death and  
rose victorious from the underworld.

Our birth would have been no gain, had  
we not been redeemed.

O wonder of your humble care for us! O  
love, O charity beyond all telling,  
to ransom a slave you gave away your Son! O  
truly necessary sin of Adam,  
destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!  
O happy fault  
that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!

O truly blessed night,  
worthy alone to know the time and hour  
when Christ rose from the underworld!

This is the night  
of which it is written:  
The night shall be as bright as day,  
dazzling is the night for me,  
and full of gladness.

The sanctifying power of this night  
dispels wickedness, washes faults away,  
restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners,  
drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty.  
On this, your night of grace, O holy Father,  
accept this candle, a solemn offering,  
the work of bees and of your servants' hands,  
an evening sacrifice of praise,  
this gift from your most holy Church.  
But now we know the praises of this pillar,

which glowing fire ignites for God's honor,  
a fire into many flames divided,  
yet never dimmed by sharing of its light,  
for it is fed by melting wax,  
drawn out by mother bees  
to build a torch so precious.

O truly blessed night,  
when things of heaven are wed to those of earth,  
and divine to the human.

**All:**

Therefore, O Lord,  
we pray you that this candle,  
hallowed to the honor of your name,  
may persevere undimmed,  
to overcome the darkness of this night.

Receive it as a pleasing fragrance,  
and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.

May this flame be found still burning  
by the Morning Star:  
the one Morning Star who never sets,  
Christ your Son,  
who, coming back from death's domain,  
has shed his peaceful light on humanity,  
and lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Reader:

A reading from the Book of Genesis

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters.

Then God said,

"Let there be light," and there was light.

God saw how good the light was.

God then separated the light from the darkness.

God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night."

Thus evening came, and morning followed—the first day.

Then God said,

"Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other."

And so it happened:

God made the dome,

and it separated the water above the dome from the water below it.

God called the dome "the sky."

Evening came, and morning followed—the second day.

Then God said,

"Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear."

And so it happened:

the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared.

God called the dry land "the earth, "

and the basin of the water he called "the sea."

God saw how good it was.

Then God said,

"Let the earth bring forth vegetation:

every kind of plant that bears seed

and every kind of fruit tree on earth

that bears fruit with its seed in it."

And so it happened:

the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed

and every kind of fruit tree on earth

that bears fruit with its seed in it.  
God saw how good it was.  
Evening came, and morning followed—the third day.

Then God said:

"Let there be lights in the dome of the sky,  
to separate day from night.  
Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years,  
and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky,  
to shed light upon the earth."

And so it happened:

God made the two great lights,  
the greater one to govern the day,  
and the lesser one to govern the night;  
and he made the stars.

God set them in the dome of the sky,  
to shed light upon the earth,  
to govern the day and the night,  
and to separate the light from the darkness.

God saw how good it was.  
Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day.

Then God said,

"Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures,  
and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky."

And so it happened:

God created the great sea monsters  
and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water teems,  
and all kinds of winged birds.

God saw how good it was, and God blessed them, saying,  
"Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas;  
and let the birds multiply on the earth."

Evening came, and morning followed—the fifth day.

Then God said,

"Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures:  
cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds."

And so it happened:

God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle,  
and all kinds of creeping things of the earth.

God saw how good it was.

Then God said:

"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.  
Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,  
the birds of the air, and the cattle,

and over all the wild animals  
and all the creatures that crawl on the ground."  
God created man in his image;  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.  
God blessed them, saying:  
"Be fertile and multiply;  
fill the earth and subdue it.  
Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air,  
and all the living things that move on the earth."  
God also said:  
"See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth  
and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food;  
and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air,  
and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground,  
I give all the green plants for food."  
And so it happened.  
God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.  
Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.  
Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed.  
Since on the seventh day God was finished  
with the work he had been doing,  
he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken.

The Word of the Lord.

**All:        Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Reader: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

**All: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

Reader: Bless the LORD, O my soul!  
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!  
You are clothed with majesty and glory,  
robed in light as with a cloak.

**All: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

Reader: You fixed the earth upon its foundation,  
not to be moved forever;  
with the ocean, as with a garment, you covered it;  
above the mountains the waters stood.

**All: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

Reader: You send forth springs into the watercourses  
that wind among the mountains.  
Beside them the birds of heaven dwell;  
from among the branches they send forth their song.

**All: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

Reader: You water the mountains from your palace;  
the earth is replete with the fruit of your works.  
You raise grass for the cattle,  
and vegetation for man's use,  
Producing bread from the earth.

**All: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

Reader: How manifold are your works, O LORD!  
In wisdom you have wrought them all—  
the earth is full of your creatures.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul!

**All: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

SECOND READING

Reader:

A reading from the Book of Genesis

In God put Abraham to the test.

He called to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am, " he replied.

Then God said:

"Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love,  
and go to the land of Moriah.

There you shall offer him up as a holocaust  
on a height that I will point out to you."

Early the next morning Abraham saddled his donkey,  
took with him his son Isaac and two of his servants as well,  
and with the wood that he had cut for the holocaust,  
set out for the place of which God had told him.

On the third day Abraham got sight of the place from afar.

Then he said to his servants:

"Both of you stay here with the donkey,  
while the boy and I go on over yonder.

We will worship and then come back to you."

Thereupon Abraham took the wood for the holocaust  
and laid it on his son Isaac's shoulders,  
while he himself carried the fire and the knife.

As the two walked on together, Isaac spoke to his father Abraham:

"Father!" Isaac said.

"Yes, son, " he replied.

Isaac continued, "Here are the fire and the wood,  
but where is the sheep for the holocaust?"

"Son," Abraham answered,

"God himself will provide the sheep for the holocaust."

Then the two continued going forward.

When they came to the place of which God had told him,  
Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it.

Next he tied up his son Isaac,

and put him on top of the wood on the altar.

Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son.

But the LORD's messenger called to him from heaven,

"Abraham, Abraham!"

"Here I am!" he answered.

"Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger.

"Do not do the least thing to him.

I know now how devoted you are to God,

since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son."

As Abraham looked about,

he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket.  
So he went and took the ram  
and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son.  
Abraham named the site Yahweh-yireh;  
hence people now say, "On the mountain the LORD will see."

Again the LORD's messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said:  
"I swear by myself, declares the LORD,  
that because you acted as you did  
in not withholding from me your beloved son,  
I will bless you abundantly  
and make your descendants as countless  
as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore;  
your descendants shall take possession  
of the gates of their enemies,  
and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing--  
all this because you obeyed my command."

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Reader: You are my inheritance, O Lord

**All: You are my inheritance, O Lord**

Reader: O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,  
you it is who hold fast my lot.  
I set the LORD ever before me;  
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

**All: You are my inheritance, O Lord**

Reader: Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,  
my body, too, abides in confidence;  
because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld,  
nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.

**All: You are my inheritance, O Lord**

Reader: You will show me the path to life,  
fullness of joys in your presence,  
the delights at your right hand forever.

**All: You are my inheritance, O Lord**

THIRD READING

Reader:

A reading from the Book of Exodus

The LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me?  
Tell the Israelites to go forward.  
And you, lift up your staff and, with hand outstretched over the sea,  
split the sea in two,  
that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land.  
But I will make the Egyptians so obstinate  
that they will go in after them.  
Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army,  
his chariots and charioteers.  
The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD,  
when I receive glory through Pharaoh  
and his chariots and charioteers."

The angel of God, who had been leading Israel's camp,  
now moved and went around behind them.  
The column of cloud also, leaving the front,  
took up its place behind them,  
so that it came between the camp of the Egyptians  
and that of Israel.  
But the cloud now became dark, and thus the night passed  
without the rival camps coming any closer together  
all night long.  
Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea,  
and the LORD swept the sea  
with a strong east wind throughout the night  
and so turned it into dry land.  
When the water was thus divided,  
the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land,  
with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.

The Egyptians followed in pursuit;  
all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and charioteers went after them  
right into the midst of the sea.  
In the night watch just before dawn  
the LORD cast through the column of the fiery cloud  
upon the Egyptian force a glance that threw it into a panic;  
and he so clogged their chariot wheels  
that they could hardly drive.  
With that the Egyptians sounded the retreat before Israel,  
because the LORD was fighting for them against the Egyptians.

Then the LORD told Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea,  
that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians,

upon their chariots and their charioteers."  
So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea,  
and at dawn the sea flowed back to its normal depth.  
The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward the sea,  
when the LORD hurled them into its midst.  
As the water flowed back,  
it covered the chariots and the charioteers of Pharaoh's whole army  
which had followed the Israelites into the sea.  
Not a single one of them escaped.  
But the Israelites had marched on dry land  
through the midst of the sea,  
with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.  
Thus the LORD saved Israel on that day  
from the power of the Egyptians.  
When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore  
and beheld the great power that the LORD  
had shown against the Egyptians,  
they feared the LORD and believed in him and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:  
I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant;  
horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.  
The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Reader: Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

**All: Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.**

Reader: I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant;  
horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.  
My strength and my courage is the LORD,  
and he has been my savior.  
He is my God, I praise him;  
the God of my father, I extol him.

**All: Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.**

Reader: The LORD is a warrior,  
LORD is his name!  
Pharaoh's chariots and army he hurled into the sea;  
the elite of his officers were submerged in the Red Sea.

**All: Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.**

Reader: The flood waters covered them,  
they sank into the depths like a stone.  
Your right hand, O LORD, magnificent in power,  
your right hand, O LORD, has shattered the enemy.

**All: Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.**

Reader: You brought in the people you redeemed  
and planted them on the mountain of your inheritance  
the place where you made your seat, O LORD,  
the sanctuary, LORD, which your hands established.  
The LORD shall reign forever and ever.

**All: Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.**

#### FOURTH READING

Reader:

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Thus says the LORD:

All you who are thirsty,  
come to the water!

You who have no money,  
come, receive grain and eat;  
come, without paying and without cost,  
drink wine and milk!

Why spend your money for what is not bread,  
your wages for what fails to satisfy?

Heed me, and you shall eat well,  
you shall delight in rich fare.

Come to me heedfully,  
listen, that you may have life.

I will renew with you the everlasting covenant,  
the benefits assured to David.

As I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander of nations,  
so shall you summon a nation you knew not,  
and nations that knew you not shall run to you,  
because of the LORD, your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call him while he is near.

Let the scoundrel forsake his way,  
and the wicked man his thoughts;  
let him turn to the LORD for mercy;  
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.  
As high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so high are my ways above your ways

and my thoughts above your thoughts.

For just as from the heavens  
the rain and snow come down  
and do not return there  
till they have watered the earth,  
making it fertile and fruitful,  
giving seed to the one who sows  
and bread to the one who eats,  
so shall my word be  
that goes forth from my mouth;  
my word shall not return to me void,  
but shall do my will,  
achieving the end for which I sent it.

The Word of the Lord

**All:            Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Reader: You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

**All:            You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

Reader: God indeed is my savior;  
I am confident and unafraid.  
My strength and my courage is the LORD,  
and he has been my savior.  
With joy you will draw water  
at the fountain of salvation.

**All:            You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

Reader: Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name;  
among the nations make known his deeds,  
proclaim how exalted is his name.

**All:            You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

Reader: Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement;  
let this be known throughout all the earth.  
Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,  
for great in your midst  
is the Holy One of Israel!

**All:            You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

GLORY TO GOD

**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),  
              Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
              in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

EPISTLE

Reader:

A reading from the letter to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus  
were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,  
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead  
by the glory of the Father,  
we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like  
his,

we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.

We know that our old self was crucified with him,  
so that our sinful body might be done away with,  
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.

For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

If, then, we have died with Christ,

we believe that we shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;  
death no longer has power over him.

As to his death, he died to sin once and for all;  
as to his life, he lives for God.

Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to  
sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Reader: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Reader: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his mercy endures forever.  
Let the house of Israel say,  
"His mercy endures forever."

**All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Reader: The right hand of the LORD has struck with power;  
the right hand of the LORD is exalted.  
I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Reader: The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.  
By the LORD has this been done;  
it is wonderful in our eyes.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL

Leader:

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning,  
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.  
And behold, there was a great earthquake;  
for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven,

approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it.  
His appearance was like lightning  
and his clothing was white as snow.  
The guards were shaken with fear of him  
and became like dead men.  
Then the angel said to the women in reply,  
"Do not be afraid!  
I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified.  
He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said.  
Come and see the place where he lay.  
Then go quickly and tell his disciples,  
'He has been raised from the dead,  
and he is going before you to Galilee;  
there you will see him.'  
Behold, I have told you."  
Then they went away quickly from the tomb,  
fearful yet overjoyed,  
and ran to announce this to his disciples.  
And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them.  
They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage.  
Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid.  
Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee,  
and there they will see me."  
The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Leader: Dear brethren (brothers and sisters), through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so I ask you:

Do you renounce Satan?

**All: I do.**

Leader: And all his works?

**All: I do.**

Leader: And all his empty show?

**All: I do.**

Leader: Do you believe in God,

the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth?

**All: I do.**

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered death and was buried,  
rose again from the dead  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

**All: I do.**

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting?

**All: I do.**

Leader: And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has  
given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us  
forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord,  
for eternal life.

**All: Amen.**

#### 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.**

**All:**      **My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now 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

*Lectionary for Sunday Mass*

♥ 1998, 1997, 1970, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC

*Prayers at Home When Gathering for Mass Is Not Possible*

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*The Roman Missal* ♥ 2011, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC

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

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