

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

Easter Sunday 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.

GREETING

Leader: We gather here to celebrate Easter Sunday. Sunday has been called the Lord's Day because it was on this day, the first Easter, that Jesus conquered sin and death and rose to new life. Unfortunately, we are not able to attend Mass today; in the light of the coronavirus pandemic, all public celebration of Mass has been suspended. But, let us now 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 Jesus, you brought us to salvation by your paschal mystery:
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader Lord Jesus, you renew us by the wonders of your passion:
Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader Lord Jesus, you give us your body to make us one with your Easter
sacrifice:
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

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.**

COLLECT

Leader: Let us pray.

O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have
conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we
pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may,
through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life.
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

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak and said: "You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 118

Reader: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

All: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

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: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

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: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

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

All: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:1-4

Reader: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters: If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor: Alleluia, alleluia.

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

Cantor:

Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed;
let us then feast with joy in the Lord. *Cf. 1 Cor 5:7b-8a*

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 20:1-9

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

This reflection appears in *The Word Among Us* which is providing free access to their magazine content during this stage of the coronavirus crisis. Visit wau.org.

Reader: Happy Easter! Christ is risen! Sin is defeated, and death has lost its sting! The long years of waiting and hoping have finally come to an end.

You would think that the Gospel reading for today would reflect all the joy embedded in these truths. But that's not what we hear. Rather, we hear a tale of panic, misunderstanding, and incomplete faith. Mary Magdalene thinks Jesus' corpse has been stolen. Peter is stunned by the empty tomb. And John? He begins to believe, but he still leaves the scene unsatisfied. Where is the joy? What about the victory that Jesus has promised?

It's on the threshold, just about to break through. One more thing still had to happen. The disciples still have to *meet* the risen Lord.

Over the next few days at Mass, we'll see Mary Magdalene, the apostles, the Emmaus disciples, and Peter all have personal encounters with Jesus. And when they do — that's when the joy comes in.

Today at Mass, we sang "Alleluia" before the Gospel reading. And we will hear how "on this day . . . above all" it is right and just to praise Jesus "more gloriously" than at any other time of the year (Preface I of Easter). But don't limit your rejoicing based on your having *heard* the good news proclaimed in the Gospel. Instead, imagine how great, how deep, and how glorious your rejoicing will be as you come to meet the risen Lord in Holy Communion. Imagine what will happen as you come seeking a personal encounter with him, an encounter with his love and grace.

Christ is risen — *for you*. He has overcome sin — *for you*. He has opened heaven — *for you*. Take hold of these gifts by taking hold of Jesus. Then watch as your heart is filled with joy.

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.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made, when Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Let ask God our Father through our Risen Lord, for the grace to be witnesses to the power of the Resurrection.

Reader: The response will be: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For the Church, the Body of Christ,
that we preach Christ's resurrection as the victory over sin,
death and the world, providing life and light to all the nations,
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those in positions of authority
who bear the weight of having to make decisions in this pandemic,
that God will guide and protect them.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For our families,
that this time without Mass may increase
our spiritual strength from home
with a deeper hunger and love for God.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all who are suffering from this pandemic,
that God may grant health to the sick,
strength to those who care for them, comfort to families
and salvation to all the victims who have died.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For peace throughout the world,
that the Risen Lord will guide the human family away from violence
particularly in the Middle East and Africa,
and toward new efforts of cooperation and human development.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all who are unemployed,
that God will guide them in maximizing their resources
and open new opportunities for them to use their gifts and skills.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the sick, especially those for whom we have been asked to pray, and, particularly, those who are placed in quarantine and isolation, that God's healing touch may bring them comfort and peace.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all our sisters and brothers who have died, especially those who have died as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, that they experience the joy of God's heavenly family for all eternity.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the prayers we now make in the silence of our hearts, (*pause*)
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Father, hear the prayers we offer with all our hearts, so that the message of Easter may be with us always.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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.**

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

St. Alphonsus Liguori

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

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Prayers at Home When Gathering for Mass Is Not Possible

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