

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

Third Sunday of Easter

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 together to keep holy the Lord's Day. 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.

May your people exult for ever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection. 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 2:14, 22-33

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed: "You who are Jews, indeed all of you staying in Jerusalem. Let this be known to you, and listen to my words. You who are Israelites, hear these words. Jesus the Nazorean was a man commended to you by God with mighty deeds, wonders, and signs, which God worked through him in your midst, as you yourselves know. This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify him. But God raised him up, releasing him from the throes of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it. For David says of him:

I saw the Lord ever before me, with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has exulted; my flesh, too, will dwell in hope, because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.

"My brothers, one can confidently say to you about the patriarch David that he died and was buried, and his tomb is in our midst to this day. But since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne, he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he abandoned to the netherworld nor did his flesh see corruption. God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses. Exalted at the right hand of God, he received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father and poured him forth, as you see and hear.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 16

Reader: Lord, you will show us the path of life.

All: Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Reader: Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge;
I say to the Lord, "My Lord are you."
O Lord, my allotted portion and my cup,
you it is who hold fast my lot.

All: Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Reader: I bless the Lord who counsels me;
even in the night my heart exhorts me.
I set the Lord ever before me;
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

All: Lord, you will show us the path of life.

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: Lord, you will show us the path of life.

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

All: Lord, you will show us the path of life.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1: 17-21

Reader: A reading from the First Letter of Saint Peter

Beloved: If you invoke as Father him who judges impartially according to each one's works, conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning, realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb.

He was known before the foundation of the world but revealed in the final time for you, who through him believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor: Alleluia, alleluia.

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

Cantor:

Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us;
make our hearts burn while you speak to us. *Cf. Lk 24:32*

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see."

And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures.

As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"

So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

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: Have you ever heard the word *kerygma*? It's a Greek word that means "the proclamation." The Church uses this word to describe the core message that Peter and the apostles preached after Jesus' resurrection. Today's first reading — from Peter's Pentecost sermon — is one clear example of the Church's *kerygma*, the key events that are at the heart of our faith:

- Jesus worked "mighty deeds, wonders, and signs" while he was on the earth (Acts 2:22). The Gospels are filled with stories of Jesus healing people, raising the dead, calming storms, casting out demons. All these miracles showed that Jesus was no ordinary man.
- Jesus was "delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God" (Acts 2:23). Jesus' death was not just a travesty of justice or an accident of fate. No, it was part of God's plan. Jesus went to his death willingly, an innocent victim of the sin that was in the world, so that he could deliver us from that sin.
- "God raised him up" (Acts 2:24). Jesus is now risen from the dead. He broke the chains of death and revealed the promise of resurrection — both for himself and for everyone who comes to him.
- Having ascended to heaven, Jesus has poured out "the promise of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:33). Because of that Spirit, every one of us can experience God's life and love active within them. We can know forgiveness of our every sin, we can be filled with the hope of eternal life, and we can receive the power to live a new life here and now.

This *kerygma* is not just a set of truths to be believed. It's the story of our redemption. It's a series of promises that we can experience: Physical and spiritual healing. Forgiveness. Eternal life. The Holy Spirit.

This is your heritage. This is everything Jesus died to secure for you. This is how much he loves you and treasures you.

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 these two lines:]

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and become 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

**Leader: The Lord opened the Scriptures for the disciples as they walked to
Emmaus.**

**May we open the Scriptures and journey with Christ,
and may he make God's plan for us clearer each day
for he is Lord forever and ever.**

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 all government leaders,
that the Lord will guide them in developing safe and prudent plans
for reopening as the pandemic wanes.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all who are awaiting the sacraments,
especially those who were preparing for First Communion,
that all may know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who live in hunger
and for food banks facing critical shortages,
that we will hear God's summons to greater charity
towards our neighbors and communities.
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 all who work in essential jobs,
that God will protect them and their families from illness
and give them strength to fulfill their duties
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: God, our Father, may our hearts burn within us
as we listen to your only-begotten Son;
accept the prayers of pilgrims on his path of life.
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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Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest: Leader's Edition

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