

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

Twelfth 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.

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, 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 Archbishop 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 Jesus, you are the way that leads us to the Father:
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader Lord Jesus, you are the truth that enlightens your people:
Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader Lord Jesus, you are the life that renews the world:
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.
Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name,
for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the
foundation of your love. 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

Jeremiah 20: 10-13

Reader: A reading from the Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah said: "I hear the whisperings of many: 'Terror on every side! Denounce! let us denounce him!' All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine. 'Perhaps he will be trapped; then we can prevail, and take our vengeance on him.' But the Lord is with me, like a mighty champion: my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph. In their failure they will be put to utter shame, to lasting, unforgettable confusion. O Lord of hosts, you who test the just, who probe mind and heart, let me witness the vengeance you take on them, for to you I have entrusted my cause. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!"

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 69

Reader: Lord, in your great love, answer me.

All: Lord, in your great love, answer me.

Reader: For your sake I bear insult,
and shame covers my face.
I have become an outcast to my brothers,
a stranger to my children,
Because zeal for your house consumes me,
and the insults of those who blaspheme you fall upon me.

All: Lord, in your great love, answer me.

Reader: I pray to you, O Lord,
for the time of your favor, O God!
In your great kindness answer me
with your constant help.
Answer me, O Lord, for bounteous is your kindness;
in your great mercy turn toward me.

All: Lord, in your great love, answer me.

Reader: "See, you lowly ones, and be glad;
you who seek God, may your hearts revive!
For the Lord hears the poor,
and his own who are in bonds he spurns not.
Let the heavens and the earth praise him,
the seas and whatever moves in them!"

All: Lord, in your great love, answer me.

SECOND READING

Romans 5: 12-15

Reader: A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: Through one man sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned — for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law. But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come.

But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor: Alleluia, alleluia.

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

Cantor:

The Spirit of truth will testify to me, says the Lord;
and you also will testify. *Jn 15: 26b, 27a*

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 10: 26-33

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the Twelve: "Fear no one. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father."

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: "My persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph." (Jeremiah 20:11)

Jeremiah was not having a good week. He had been arrested, beaten, and thrown into prison. Then, having been released, he pronounces an oracle of destruction against Jerusalem and offers a bitter prayer accusing the Lord of "seducing" him into this dangerous ministry (Jeremiah 20:7). And he prays for the chance to see his enemies' downfall — and to savor it (20:12)!

Today's reading is not what Jesus had in mind when he said, "Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44). We have only to think of Jesus' words of forgiveness on the cross to see how he really wants his people to respond to persecution and enmity.

It's comforting to know that even a great prophet like Jeremiah had bad days. It gives us some perspective on our own lives. Who among us hasn't wished vengeance on someone who has hurt us? We know we shouldn't, we know it's wrong, but sometimes we find it very hard to resist the pull toward resentment and revenge.

The truth is, change takes time, and we have to keep working at it. We have to keep checking our thoughts, examining our motives, and holding our tongues until we develop the virtues that mirror Jesus' perfect, unconditional love. We also have to keep pressing in to stay close to the Lord so that his love continues to shape our hearts.

But remember this: you are not alone! You are part of a Church filled with saints, both famous and obscure, who show that change is possible. You also have friends you can turn to for support when you need it. And most important — and most reassuring — you have the Holy Spirit, who is always ready to remind you of Jesus' love and to give you his grace and encouragement.

Jeremiah had far more good days than bad days because he never gave up. Neither should we.

"Lord, teach me how to love everyone, even the people who are making my life difficult."

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: Loving Father, as we gather before you today, in confidence we turn to you in prayer.

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

Reader: For the Church,
that we may live in the confident assurance
of God's abiding concern and providential care for us.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all elected leaders,
that God will give them insight into the effects of their decisions
and help them to make choices that will bring about
the greatest good for society.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the families of those who have died during this pandemic,
that they may soon be able to celebrate
the lives of those they have lost,
and gather together to support one another in their grief.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all fathers and those who have shown us a father's love,
that God will grant them good health,
guide them in being good examples,
and help them to be a source of encouragement to their children.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all who serve in our military services,
that their generosity and sacrifices may contribute
to lasting peace and a better world.
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 all who have experienced or who live under the threat of violence,
whether from neighborhood turmoil, organized crime,
terrorism, or armed conflict,
that they will know God's strengthening presence and redeeming love.
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 from 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, we make our prayers to you, confident that you will fill us with your love, which takes away all fear.

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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