

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

**Twentieth 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 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: Lord, you were sent by the Father  
to bring good news to the poor,  
Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader Christ, you came to save us from sin,  
Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader Lord, you were sent to proclaim  
the grace and mercy of God,  
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.

God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. 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. Amen.

**All: Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

Reader: Thus says the LORD: Observe what is right, do what is just; for my salvation is about to come, my justice, about to be revealed.  
The foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, ministering to him, loving the name of the LORD, and becoming his servants — all who keep the sabbath free from profanation and hold to my covenant, them I will bring to my holy mountain and make joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.  
The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 85

Reader: O God, let all the nations praise you!

**All: O God, let all the nations praise you!**

Reader: May God have pity on us and bless us;  
may he let his face shine upon us.  
So may your way be known upon earth;  
among all nations, your salvation.

**All: O God, let all the nations praise you!**

Reader: May the nations be glad and exult  
because you rule the peoples in equity;  
the nations on the earth you guide.

**All: O God, let all the nations praise you!**

Reader: May the peoples praise you, O God;  
may all the peoples praise you!  
May God bless us,  
and may all the ends of the earth fear him!

**All: O God, let all the nations praise you!**

SECOND READING

Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

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

Brothers and sisters: I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I glory in my ministry in order to make my race jealous and thus save some of them. For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. Just as you once disobeyed God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now disobeyed in order that, by virtue of the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor: Alleluia, alleluia.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia.**

Cantor:

Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom and cured every disease among the people.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 15:21-28

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But Jesus did not say a word in answer to her. Jesus' disciples came and asked him, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us." He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, "Lord, help me." He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

REFLECTION

their magazine content during this stage of the coronavirus crisis. Visit [wau.org](http://wau.org).

Reader: Daily Meditation: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

*My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. (Isaiah 56:7)*

All of today's readings tell us that God's salvation is meant for everyone. The prophet Isaiah speaks of foreigners who will join themselves to the Lord (56:6). The psalmist declares, "May the peoples praise you, O God" (Psalm 67:6). Jesus praises a Canaanite woman's faith (Matthew 15:28). And Paul, apostle to the Gentiles, proclaims that God wants to "have mercy upon all" (Romans 11:32).

For the Jewish people in today's first reading, this must have been difficult to accept. They had just returned from exile to discover foreigners living in their holy city, Jerusalem. Their covenant told them that they were set apart as a holy people chosen by God. So how could "impure" Gentiles be living on their land? They forgot that God had chosen them by his grace, not just for their own sake, but to bring his light to every nation.

This call became increasingly clear in the early Church. Initially, all of Jesus' followers were Jewish. But as Gentiles came to believe in the Lord, the Jewish Christians began to understand that God's plan of salvation was far bigger than they had expected. Learning to live and work and pray alongside Gentiles could not have been easy. But they, like us, had to allow God's grace to help them love each other. The result? The diverse, beautiful, sometimes messy Church we know today.

Jesus wants his Church to be a house of prayer for all nations so that every person can belong to his family. He sees people who are searching for hope, meaning, and a place to meet God, and he is asking us to draw them in, to be the loving, welcoming face of the Church. May we always be open to everyone who is seeking the Lord, and through us, may God's grace flow out to the entire world!

"Jesus, help me to show everyone the love that you have given me."

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: With the confident faith of the Canaanite woman,  
let us offer our prayers to the Father in Jesus' name:

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

Reader: For the Church:  
that we may be instruments of God's mercy,  
guides for all who are seeking God,  
and companions to those developing a relationship with God.  
We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For the leaders of our nation,  
that God will give them wisdom  
and inspire them in developing new policies on healthcare  
and assistance for the unemployed.  
We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For a spirit of hospitality,  
that our faith community may welcome all visitors as if they were Christ  
and that our liturgies may help them draw closer to God.  
We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For all who have helped to strengthen our faith — for parents,  
teachers, and those who give witness by the fidelity of their life,  
that they may continue to be examples of Christian discipleship  
to all who encounter them  
We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For an end to racism and prejudice,  
that God will turn hearts and change minds  
so that everyone may be respected, and their dignity affirmed.  
We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For refugees and immigrants, particularly those fleeing violence,  
that God will ease their suffering, guide them to safety,  
and stir the hearts of many to assist them.  
We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For all who are recovering from hurricanes, wildfires, explosions,  
or other disasters:  
that God will ease their pain, give them strength,  
and renew their hope.  
We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For all missing children, particularly those caught in human trafficking,  
that God will free them and reunite them with their families.  
We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For all parents,  
that God will inspire them and give them the patience  
to help their children learn and grow during the pandemic restrictions.  
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 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  
**Barbara Lento, Deacon Bill Iacobellis, William O'Donnell, Charles Quaste**  
**and 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, you forgive us our sins  
and give us the gift of faith.  
May your mercy be known to everyone.  
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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