

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

Twenty-First 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.

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. 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 22:19-23

Reader: Thus says the Lord to Shebna, master of the palace: "I will thrust you from your office and pull you down from your station. On that day I will summon my servant Eliakim, son of Hilkiyah; I will clothe him with your robe, and gird him with your sash, and give over to him your authority. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim's shoulder; when he opens, no one shall shut when he shuts, no one shall open. I will fix him like a peg in a sure spot, to be a place of honor for his family."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 85

Reader: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

All: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Reader: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with all my heart,
for you have heard the words of my mouth;
in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;
I will worship at your holy temple.

All: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Reader: I will give thanks to your name,
because of your kindness and your truth:
When I called, you answered me;
you built up strength within me.

All: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Reader: The Lord is exalted, yet the lowly he sees,
and the proud he knows from afar.
Your kindness, O Lord, endures forever;
forsake not the work of your hands.

All: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

SECOND READING

Romans 11:33-36

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

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways!
For who has known the mind of the Lord
or who has been his counselor?
Or who has given the Lord anything
that he may be repaid?
For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be glory forever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor: Alleluia, alleluia.

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

Cantor:

You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church
and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-20

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ. Profession of Faith

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: Daily Meditation: Isaiah 22:19-23

He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. (Isaiah 22:21)

Master of the palace: it was a sought-after title, and Shebna knew it. That title gave him far-reaching authority over the king's household and possessions. But he abused that power by taking advantage of perks like the royal chariots and even making a beautiful carved tomb for himself (Isaiah 22:16, 18). That's why God unseated Shebna and established Eliakim in his place. He wanted someone who would exercise that authority with fatherly concern and compassion, not self-promotion, domination, or greed. In other words, the master of the palace should imitate the way God uses his authority: to serve his people.

These words point to something important about God's desires for his kingdom. He wants a kingdom where leaders don't lord their authority over the people in their care. He wants them to show compassion and concern for their people (Matthew 20:25-26).

Jesus gave that type of authority to Peter. Yes, Peter received the "keys to the kingdom" and the power to bind and to loose (Matthew 16:19). But first and foremost, he was to be the rock, the solid foundation upon which the Church would be built. He would not be raised up above all his brothers and sisters; he would be beneath them to support them.

That's the type of leadership God wants parents or anyone in authority to exercise. Godly leaders don't put themselves first. They are not greedy for honor or power. His kingdom is a place where, instead of setting themselves up against one another, his people serve one another with love, respect, and honor.

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: God is present to us in this holy assembly.
In joyful hope, then, let us pray:

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

Reader: For Pope Francis, successor of St. Peter, *(pause)*
that he be always guided by the Holy Spirit
so that his answers to the worlds' problems
are inspired by a deep faith and personal love of the Lord.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those in position of authority, *(pause)*
that when their faith in God or themselves fails them,
they may turn their faces again to the Lord,
and their faith once more may be firm as a rock.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For educators and teachers preparing for a new academic year, *(pause)*
that they may guide their students in discovering
"the riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God."
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For healing in cities and neighborhoods: *(pause)*
that God will guide leaders in addressing issues of racism,
discrimination, and injustice in our communities,
turn hearts from violence, and open pathways
that will lead to reconciliation.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For an end to the pandemic: *(pause)*
that God will deliver the human race
from the coronavirus, heal those who are ill,
and inspire those who are developing cures or vaccines.
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 **Deacon Bill Iacobellis, Barbara Lento, 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, hear the prayers of your Church,
in which our faith is based as on a rock.
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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