

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

**Nineteenth 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 born of the Virgin Mary  
for the salvation of the world.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader Christ, you died on the cross to heal the wounds of sin.  
Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader Lord, you rose from the dead to open for us the gates of heaven.  
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.  
Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to  
call our Father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of  
adoption as your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into  
the inheritance which you have promised. 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

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

Reader: At the mountain of God, Horeb, Elijah came to a cave where he took shelter. Then the Lord said to him, "Go outside and stand on the mountain before the Lord; the Lord will be passing by." A strong and heavy wind was rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the Lord-but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake — but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was fire-but the Lord was not in the fire. After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 85

Reader: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

**All: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

Reader: I will hear what God proclaims;  
the Lord-for he proclaims peace.  
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,  
glory dwelling in our land.

**All: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

Reader: Kindness and truth shall meet;  
justice and peace shall kiss.  
Truth shall spring out of the earth,  
and justice shall look down from heaven.

**All: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

Reader: The Lord himself will give his benefits;  
our land shall yield its increase.  
Justice shall walk before him,  
and prepare the way of his steps.

**All: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

SECOND READING

Romans 9: 1-5

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

Brothers and sisters: I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie; my conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me witness that I have great sorrow and constant anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites; theirs the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; theirs the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor: Alleluia, alleluia.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia.**

Cantor:

I wait for the Lord;  
my soul waits for the Lord.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22-33

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

After he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear. At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

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](http://wau.org).

Reader: *Theirs [is] the worship.* (Romans 9:3)

Paul begins his long meditation on the mystery of Israel's rejection of Christ by listing some of the blessings God has given to his fellow Jews: "adoption, . . . covenants, . . . the law, . . . the promises" (Romans 9:3). And in the middle of this list is a curious phrase: "the worship." How unique-and, yes, how blessed-was Israel's worship! Unlike their pagan neighbors, who devised their own kinds of sacrifices to please their many gods, the people of Israel had the privilege of offering God the kind of worship that he desired. Following the commandments God gave Moses, they offered sacrifices of love and communion, of repentance and reconciliation with God. They worshipped God for his salvation. They praised him for his greatness and power. The fact that he had chosen them and made a covenant with them proved that he loved them deeply and wanted to form them in his image! For our part, we have the privilege of worshipping God every time we celebrate Mass. Like the Israelites, we can praise him for his glory. We can thank him for saving us from sin and opening heaven for us. We can worship him for his promise never to leave us or abandon us. Of course, we don't slaughter sheep or cattle, and we don't burn barley or wheat. That kind of worship played its part in the past. On the cross, Jesus offered one, perfect sacrifice to God and sealed an everlasting covenant with us through his blood. Now, when we gather to worship, we do it by recalling Jesus' sacrifice, by receiving him in the Eucharist, and by pledging ourselves to live out the covenant he has so freely made with us. So set your heart on worshipping the one true God at Mass today. His love for you is everlasting, and his salvation is eternal. It is a privilege and an honor to come into his presence with praise!

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: We come to this Eucharist with the faith of Peter:  
we know that Christ will save us when we call out to him.  
With confidence, then, let us call out to the Lord in prayer.

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

Reader: For the Church:  
that we may recognize God's presence in both  
the extraordinary and ordinary events of our lives  
so that we may cooperate with God more fully.  
We pray to the Lord.

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

Reader: For an end to nuclear weapons:  
that God will turn world leaders from weapons of mass destruction,  
open new avenues to resolve disputes,  
and protect the human family from their use again  
We pray to the Lord.

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

Reader: For a renewal of our faith:  
that we may keep Christ as the center  
of our attention and never tire of calling  
out for God's saving help when challenges arise.  
We pray to the Lord.

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

Reader: For freedom from fear:  
that we may hear the voice of Christ calling  
us to "not be afraid" and learn to turn to God  
in every circumstance that is beyond our control  
We pray to the Lord.

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

Reader: For the Jewish people, recipients of the promises and covenant,  
and bearers of much hardship,  
that they may ever deepen their relationship with God  
and remain faithful to the One who has called them.  
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 recovering from hurricanes, floods, or other disasters, that God will give them courage, ease their pain, and touch the hearts of many to assist them.  
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 **Joan Ames, Deacon Bill Iacobellis, William O'Donnell, Louis Picciani, 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 hear us when we call on you.  
May we be always sensitive to your voice  
and walk forever in your presence.  
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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