

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

**Twenty-Fifth 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 founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbor, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. 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 55:6-9

Reader: Seek the Lord while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked his thoughts; let him turn to the Lord for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 145

Reader: The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

**All: The Lord is near to all who call upon him.**

Reader: Every day will I bless you, and I will praise your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord and highly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

**All: The Lord is near to all who call upon him.**

Reader: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all his works.

**All: The Lord is near to all who call upon him.**

Reader: The Lord is just in all his ways and holy in all his works. The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.

**All: The Lord is near to all who call upon him.**

### SECOND READING

Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Reader: A reading from Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters: Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me life is Christ, and death is gain. If I go on living in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. And I do not know which I shall choose. I am caught between the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better. Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for your benefit.

Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor: Alleluia, alleluia.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia.**

Cantor:

Open our hearts, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your Son.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16a

Leader: Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o'clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.' So they went off. And he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o'clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.'

When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.' When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat.' He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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: To God, the Father of mercy and forgiveness, let us pray:

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

Reader: For the Church, *(pause)*  
that she touch people's hearts and minds.  
We pray to the Lord.

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

Reader: For our parish community, *(pause)*  
that we may joyfully imitate the limitless generosity of God  
in every dimension of our life together.  
We pray to the Lord.

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

Reader: For leaders of nations, *(pause)*  
That they seek policies to uphold the dignity of every man,  
woman and child as sons and daughters of God:  
We pray to the Lord.

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

Reader: For those in charge of industry, *(pause)*  
that they reconcile profits for their companies  
with the rights and dignity of each individual worker,  
so that the purpose of work in God's plan is not debased.  
We pray to the Lord.

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

Reader: For those who are unemployed, *(pause)*  
that they use their time well to reflect on life,  
and not become bitter, depressed or lazy,  
and that the Lord will open up new avenues of employment for them.  
We pray to the Lord.

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

Reader: For fire fighters and relief workers, *(pause)*  
that God will renew their strength, keep them safe in their service,  
and sustain their families and loved ones.  
We pray to the Lord.

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

Reader: For those discerning the RCIA program, *(pause)*  
that they may be moved to inquire more about the Catholic faith  
and enter the next stage of the process.  
We pray to the Lord.

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

Reader: For an end to the coronavirus pandemic, *(pause)*  
that the Spirit will bring healing to those who are ill,  
protection for those who are vulnerable,  
and inspiration to those working on a cure or a vaccine.  
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,  
*(pause)*  
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,  
*(pause)*  
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 pray to you that we may understand your ways,  
and continually praise you for all your gifts to us.  
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*

© 1998, 1997, 1970, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC

*Prayers at Home When Gathering for Mass Is Not Possible*

© 2020, the Diocese of Clonfert and the Diocese of Elphin, Ireland

*The Roman Missal* © 2011, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC

*Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest: Leader's Edition*

© 2007, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC

*The Word Among Us*, © 2020 The Word Among Us.