

## A PRAYER SERVICE AT HOME

WHEN ATTENDANCE AT MASS IS NOT POSSIBLE

### **Thirty-third 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.

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.**

## GLORIA

**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 Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **COLLECT**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, the constant gladness of being devoted to you, for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good. 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**

**Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31**

**Reader:** A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife,  
her value is far beyond pearls.

Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,  
has an unfailing prize.

She brings him good, and not evil,  
all the days of her life.

She obtains wool and flax  
and works with loving hands.

She puts her hands to the distaff,  
and her fingers ply the spindle.

She reaches out her hands to the poor,  
and extends her arms to the needy.

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;  
the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Give her a reward for her labors,  
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 128

**Reader:** Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

**All: Blessed are those who fear the Lord.**

**Reader:** Blessed are you who fear the Lord,  
who walk in his ways!  
For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork;  
blessed shall you be, and favored.

**All: Blessed are those who fear the Lord.**

**Reader:** Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine  
in the recesses of your home;  
Your children like olive plants  
around your table.

**All: Blessed are those who fear the Lord.**

**Reader:** Behold, thus is the man blessed  
who fears the Lord.  
The Lord bless you from Zion:  
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem  
all the days of your life.

**All: Blessed are those who fear the Lord.**

## SECOND READING

1 Thes 5:1-6

**Reader:** A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

Concerning times and seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need for anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night. When people are saying, "Peace and security," then sudden disaster comes upon them, like labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to overtake you like a thief. For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 15: 4a, 5b

**Cantor:** Alleluia, alleluia.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Cantor:** Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord.  
Whoever remains in me bears much fruit.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia.**

## GOSPEL

Mt 25:14-30

**Leader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Leader:** Jesus told his disciples this parable: "A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one — to each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

"After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' Then the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, 'Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.' His master said to him in reply, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## REFLECTION

## 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 the following two lines:]**

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became 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**

### **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

**All:** My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment 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

Father McLaughlin, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Richboro, PA

*English translation of Lectionary for Mass*

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