

## A PRAYER SERVICE AT HOME

WHEN ATTENDANCE AT MASS IS NOT POSSIBLE

### **The Solemnity of All Saints**

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.

Almighty ever-living God, by whose gift we venerate in one celebration the merits of all the Saints, bestow on us, we pray, through the prayers of so many intercessors, an abundance of the reconciliation with you for which we earnestly long. 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**

**RV 7:2-4, 9-14**

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

I, John, saw another angel come up from the East, holding the seal of the living God. He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were given power to damage the land and the sea, "Do not damage the land or the sea or the trees until we put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." I heard the number of those who had been marked with the seal, one hundred and forty-four thousand marked from every tribe of the children of Israel.

After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their

hands. They cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb."

All the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They prostrated themselves before the throne, worshiped God, and exclaimed: "Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Then one of the elders spoke up and said to me, "Who are these wearing white robes, and where did they come from?" I said to him, "My lord, you are the one who knows." He said to me, "These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb."

The Word of the Lord.

**All:**      **Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 24:1BC-2, 3-4AB, 5-6

**Reader:** Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

**All:**      **Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.**

**Reader:** The LORD's are the earth and its fullness;  
the world and those who dwell in it.  
For he founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the rivers.

**All:**      **Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.**

**Reader:** Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD?  
or who may stand in his holy place?  
One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean,  
who desires not what is vain.

**All:**      **Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.**

**Reader:** He shall receive a blessing from the LORD,  
a reward from God his savior.  
Such is the race that seeks him,  
that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

**All:**      **Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.**

## SECOND READING

1 John 3:1-3

**Reader:** A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:23

**Cantor:** Alleluia, alleluia.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Cantor:** Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest, says the Lord.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia.**

## GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12A

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

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

**Leader:** When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:  
"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.  
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.  
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.  
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

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

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