

## A PRAYER SERVICE AT HOME

WHEN ATTENDANCE AT MASS IS NOT POSSIBLE

### **The Baptism of the Lord**

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:** 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:** You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader:** You came to call sinners:  
Christ, have mercy.

**All:** Christ, have mercy.

**Leader:** You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:  
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, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. 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

Is 42:1-4, 6-7

**Reader:** A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the LORD:  
Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one with whom I am pleased,  
upon whom I have put my spirit;  
he shall bring forth justice to the nations,  
not crying out, not shouting,  
not making his voice heard in the street.  
a bruised reed he shall not break,  
and a smoldering wick he shall not quench,  
until he establishes justice on the earth;  
the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice,  
I have grasped you by the hand;  
I formed you, and set you  
as a covenant of the people,  
a light for the nations,  
to open the eyes of the blind,  
to bring out prisoners from confinement,  
and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 11b, 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10

**Reader:** The Lord will bless his people with peace.

**All:** **The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

**Reader:** Give to the LORD, you sons of God,  
give to the LORD glory and praise,  
Give to the LORD the glory due his name;  
adore the LORD in holy attire.

**All:** **The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

**Reader:** The voice of the LORD is over the waters,  
the LORD, over vast waters.  
The voice of the LORD is mighty;  
the voice of the LORD is majestic.

**All:** **The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

**Reader:** The God of glory thunders,  
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"  
The LORD is enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD is enthroned as king forever.

**All:** **The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

## SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-38

**Reader:** A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered  
in the house of Cornelius, saying:  
"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.  
Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly  
is acceptable to him.  
You know the word that he sent to the Israelites  
as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all,  
what has happened all over Judea,  
beginning in Galilee after the baptism  
that John preached,  
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth  
with the Holy Spirit and power.

He went about doing good  
and healing all those oppressed by the devil,  
for God was with him.”

The Word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Jn 1:29**

**Cantor:** Alleluia, alleluia.

**All:** **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Cantor:** John saw Jesus approaching him, and said:  
Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

**All:** **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**GOSPEL**

**Mk 1:7-11**

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

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

**Leader:** This is what John the Baptist proclaimed:  
“One mightier than I is coming after me.  
I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.  
I have baptized you with water;  
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee  
and was baptized in the Jordan by John.  
On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open  
and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him.  
And a voice came from the heavens,  
“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

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*

© 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation, (ICEL)

*English translation of The Roman Missal*

© 2010, ICEL.

*Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition.*

© 1970, 1986, 1997, 1998, 2001, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC

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

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

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

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