

A PRAYER SERVICE AT HOME

WHEN ATTENDANCE AT MASS IS NOT POSSIBLE

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

[Pause for silent reflection]

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, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 9:26-31

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples,
but they were all afraid of him,
not believing that he was a disciple.
Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles,
and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord,
and that he had spoken to him,
and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.
He moved about freely with them in Jerusalem,
and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord.
He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists,
but they tried to kill him.
And when the brothers learned of this,
they took him down to Caesarea
and sent him on his way to Tarsus.

The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace.
It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord,
and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 26a, 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32

Reader: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

All: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

Reader: I will fulfill my vows before those who fear the LORD.
The lowly shall eat their fill;
they who seek the LORD shall praise him:
“May your hearts live forever!”

All: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

Reader: All the ends of the earth
shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of the nations
shall bow down before him.

All: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

Reader: To him alone shall bow down
all who sleep in the earth;
before him shall bend
all who go down into the dust.

All: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

Reader: And to him my soul shall live;
my descendants shall serve him.
Let the coming generation be told of the LORD
that they may proclaim to a people yet to be born
the justice he has shown.

All: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

SECOND READING

1 Jn 3:18-24

Reader: A reading from the first letter of Saint John

Children, let us love not in word or speech
but in deed and truth.

Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth
and reassure our hearts before him
in whatever our hearts condemn,
for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything.
Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,
we have confidence in God
and receive from him whatever we ask,
because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.
And his commandment is this:
we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,
and love one another just as he commanded us.
Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them,
and the way we know that he remains in us
is from the Spirit he gave us.

The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA

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 will bear much fruit.

All: **Alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL

Jn 15:1-8

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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

Leader: Jesus said to his disciples:
“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.
He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit,
and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.
You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you.
Remain in me, as I remain in you.
Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own
unless it remains on the vine,
so neither can you unless you remain in me.
I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit,
because without me you can do nothing.
Anyone who does not remain in me
will be thrown out like a branch and wither;
people will gather them and throw them into a fire
and they will be burned.
If you remain in me and my words remain in you,
ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.
By this is my Father glorified,
that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

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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English translation of The Roman Missal

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Prayers at Home When Gathering for Mass Is Not Possible

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