

March 22 SUNDAY CELEBRATION OF THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

For use in the home from *Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest*

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Gather in a place where an environment appropriate for prayer can be created.

Opening Song: please use Youtube.com to play any of the below recommended songs

Possibilities: Open the Eyes of My Heart – Paul Baloche

Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone) – Chris Tomlin

Open My Eyes – Jesse Manibusan

Christ, Be Our Light – Bernadette Farrell

You Are Mine – David Haas

Lead Me, Guide Me – Doris Akers

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light – Kathleen Thomerson

Those Who See Light – Nancy Elze

You are the Light – Sarah Hart

What Wondrous Love is This

LEADER: We gather here to celebrate the Lord's Day. Sunday has been called the Lord's Day because it was on this day that Jesus conquered sin and death and rose to new life. While we are not able to celebrate Mass today and receive Holy Communion, let us be united in spirit the of Christ with the Church around the world and celebrate our redemption in Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection.

All stand and make the sign of the cross as leader continues:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

LEADER: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God forever.

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

LEADER: Let us pray.

God of all creation, we gather on this first day of the week made holy by the resurrection of Christ.

You have transformed our lives into the living stones that form your Church with Christ as the foundation stone. Strengthen our community's bond of communion and peace during this uncertain time, and deepen our solidarity with your Church throughout the whole world.

Rekindle in us today the vision of your kingdom so that our daily concerns and labor may find their proper perspective.

Fill our homes with the spirit of the Gospel and give us the grace to see the true face of the people with whom we live. In a world torn by fear, sin and division make us instruments of reconciliation and mercy.

Acknowledging our sins, we pray, O God, for the gift of true repentance and genuine conversion. Renew the grace of our baptism within us and inspire us to express our love for you in our service of others.

We raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to you, O God. May we who celebrate Christ's resurrection this day share in his eternal glory where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: The First Reading is proclaimed by someone other than the leader.

A Reading from the Book of Samuel

The LORD said to Samuel:

"Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way.

I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem,
for I have chosen my king from among his sons."

As Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice,

Samuel looked at Eliab and thought,

"Surely the LORD's anointed is here before him."

But the LORD said to Samuel:

"Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature,
because I have rejected him.

Not as man sees does God see,

because man sees the appearance

but the LORD looks into the heart."

In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel,
but Samuel said to Jesse,
“The LORD has not chosen any one of these.”
Then Samuel asked Jesse,
“Are these all the sons you have?”
Jesse replied,
“There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep.”
Samuel said to Jesse,
“Send for him;
we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here.”
Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them.
He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold
and making a splendid appearance.
The LORD said,
“There—anoint him, for this is the one!”
Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand,
anointed David in the presence of his brothers;
and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Proclaimed by someone other than the leader.

Our Response is: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.

ALL: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me in right paths
for his name’s sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

ALL: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.

ALL: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND READING: The second reading is proclaimed by someone other than the leader.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians”

Brothers and sisters:

You were once darkness,
but now you are light in the Lord.
Live as children of light,
for light produces every kind of goodness
and righteousness and truth.
Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.
Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness;
rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention
the things done by them in secret;
but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,
for everything that becomes visible is light.
Therefore, it says:

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will give you light.”

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

LEADER: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of Endless Glory.

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of Endless Glory.

LEADER: I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of Endless Glory.

GOSPEL: The Gospel is proclaimed by the leader.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth.
He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva,
and smeared the clay on his eyes,
and said to him,
“Go wash in the Pool of Siloam” — which means Sent —.
So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said,
“Isn’t this the one who used to sit and beg?”
Some said, “It is, “
but others said, “No, he just looks like him.”
He said, “I am.”

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees.
Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath.
So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see.
He said to them,
“He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see.”
So some of the Pharisees said,
“This man is not from God,
because he does not keep the sabbath.”
But others said,
“How can a sinful man do such signs?”
And there was a division among them.
So they said to the blind man again,
“What do you have to say about him,
since he opened your eyes?”
He said, “He is a prophet.”

They answered and said to him,
“You were born totally in sin,
and are you trying to teach us?”
Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,
he found him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”
He answered and said,
“Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”
Jesus said to him,

“You have seen him, and
the one speaking with you is he.”
He said,
“I do believe, Lord,” and he worshiped him.

The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS: For the homily section, we are asking families to allow everyone to simply share their thoughts and feelings about what the readings meant to them. Talk about it as a family by sharing the below questions.

Have you ever heard the saying, "Don't judge a book by its cover"? Do you find yourself judging by appearances at times? Why? When?

Can you think of a time when you judged someone wrongly?

Have you ever been "judged wrongly"? Tell about it.

How do you want other to treat and judge you?

Jesus cures the blind man and can cure blind spots. How will you stay alert to really see and care for those who need Jesus' healing touch?

PROFESSION OF FAITH The Apostle's Creed

ALL:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, Our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LEADER: With faith in God's promises, let us now present our needs and petitions.

READER: For the holy Church, for all of us, may we serve as beacons of light in this world during difficult times, we pray to the Lord...

ALL: Lord hear our prayer

READER: For civic leaders, and for those who work to ensure the well-being of all, especially the most vulnerable, we pray to the Lord...

ALL: Lord hear our prayer

READER: For people living with disabilities, and for those who work to meet their needs, we pray to the Lord...

ALL: Lord hear our prayer

READER: For all health care workers, counselors, and care-givers, for all who work to heal those suffering from coronavirus in every way, we pray to the Lord...

ALL: Lord hear our prayer

READER: For those preparing for the Easter Sacraments, may they walk in the light of Christ and reflect that light to others, we pray to the Lord...

ALL: Lord hear our prayer

READER: For all of us, may we look beyond appearances and attempt to see the face of Christ in all people, celebrating diversity and promoting the gifts each person brings, we pray to the Lord...

ALL: Lord hear our prayer

READER: For all who have died, especially victims of the coronavirus pandemic, and for their loved ones, and for all who have died to rise in glory on the last day, we pray to the Lord...

LEADER: God of love, our refuge and our strength, hear the prayers of your Church, and grant us what we ask of you in faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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 them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
Amen.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

ALL:

Jesus, I know and believe in your real presence
in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.
It is you I desire to love and receive above all things.
As I am unable to receive your sacramental presence now,
come and be with me in heart and soul.
Let my entire self be united with you as I welcome you again
and know your loving embrace.
Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

LEADER: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

ALL: Amen

Another song or instrumental music may conclude the celebration.