

**A PRAYER SERVICE AT HOME**  
**WHEN ATTENDANCE AT MASS IS NOT POSSIBLE**

**Twenty-Second 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.

One way you can do this by joining broadcast Masses on radio, television, or via the internet.

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 Archbishop 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.**

GLORY TO GOD

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

COLLECT

Leader: Let us pray.

God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. 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. Amen.

**All: Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 20:7-9

Reader: You duped me, O Lord, and I let myself be duped; you were too strong for me, and you triumphed. All the day I am an object of laughter; everyone mocks me.

Whenever I speak, I must cry out, violence and outrage is my message; the word of the Lord has brought me derision and reproach all the day.

I say to myself, I will not mention him, I will speak in his name no more. But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones; I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 63

Reader: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

**All: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

Reader: O God, you are my God whom I seek;  
for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts  
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.

**All: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

Reader: Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary  
to see your power and your glory,  
For your kindness is a greater good than life;  
my lips shall glorify you.

**All: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

Reader: Thus will I bless you while I live;  
lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.  
As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied,  
and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.

**All: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

Reader: You are my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.  
My soul clings fast to you;  
your right hand upholds me.

**All: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

SECOND READING

Romans 11:33-36

Reader: A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor: Alleluia, alleluia.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia.**

Cantor:

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, that we may know what is the hope that belongs to our call.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-27

Leader: Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## REFLECTION

This reflection appears in *The Word Among Us* which is providing free access to their magazine content during this stage of the coronavirus crisis. Visit [wau.org](http://wau.org).

Reader: Daily Meditation: Matthew 16:21-27

*God forbid, Lord!* (Matthew 16:22)

What a stunning reversal! You don't confess someone as "the Son of the living God" and then turn around and scold them (Matthew 16:16)! What could have triggered such a strong reaction from Peter? The news that Jesus was going to "suffer greatly . . . and be killed" by Jerusalem's religious leaders (16:21).

Of course, Peter had the purest of intentions when he rebuked Jesus; he couldn't bear the thought of his beloved Master and friend suffering such a horrible fate.

But there may also have been a deeper motive in Peter's actions. Perhaps he was eager to preserve Jesus' image as an untouchable miracle worker so that he could be safe too. If he could keep Jesus from the cross, he wouldn't have to face his own cross.

Peter had been with Jesus long enough to see that being a disciple meant risking people's scorn and misunderstanding. It meant pouring out his life to God for the sake of the people around him. If Jesus was destined for the cross, then Peter might have to accept a similar fate. Better to shield Jesus from harm so that he could shield himself as well.

But Jesus would have none of it. So he told Peter that anyone who wanted to become like him had to take up his cross and follow in his footsteps (Matthew 16:24).

It's tempting to keep Jesus at arm's length so that he can't get too close and ask too much of us. Jesus made it very clear: there is a cost to discipleship. It's not always easy to follow the Lord and obey his commandments. But the glory of knowing Jesus' love and the joy of sharing his mercy with people far outweigh any sacrifice we might have to make. Peter ultimately learned this, and so can we.

So take up your cross today. Try your best to follow in Jesus' path of self-giving love.

"Lord, I don't want to keep you at a distance. Teach me how to give of myself as you did.

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 these two lines:]*

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

Leader: Let us lift up our hearts and voices to the Lord in prayer:

Reader: The response will be: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For Pope Frances, Bishop Perez and all bishops, priests, deacons.  
*(pause)*  
that they persevere in speaking  
the Word of God burning in their hearts.  
We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For those in position of authority, *(pause)*  
that they conduct the affairs of state  
by God's standards of justice and equality.  
We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For those discerning the RCIA program, *(pause)*  
that they may be moved to inquire more about the Catholic faith  
and enter the next stage of the process.  
We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For those who serve and advocate for the poor the oppressed, and all  
in need, *(pause)*  
that we may hear, in their cry for justice, the Word of God.  
We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For all who have been scandalized and who have acted scandalously:  
*(pause)*  
that God will give strength to the weak in faith  
and awareness to those who act without being conscious  
of the consequences of their actions  
We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For an end to the pandemic: *(pause)*  
that God will deliver the human race  
from the coronavirus, heal those who are ill,  
and inspire those who are developing cures or vaccines.  
We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For all who serve in our military services, *(pause)*  
that their generosity and sacrifices may contribute  
to lasting peace and a better world.  
We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For the sick, especially those for whom we have been asked to pray,  
and, particularly, those who are placed in quarantine and isolation,  
*(pause)*  
that God's healing touch may bring them comfort and peace.  
We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For all our sisters and brothers who have died, especially  
**those who have died from the coronavirus pandemic,**  
*(pause)*  
**that they experience the joy of God's heavenly family for all eternity.**  
**We pray to the Lord.**

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For the prayers we now make in the silence of our hearts, *((pause)*  
We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Father, in this vale of tears,  
we make our prayers to you  
who are our strength and joy,  
that we may always follow you.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**



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

St. Alphonsus Liguori

**All: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.  
I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot now 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

*Lectionary for Sunday Mass*

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