

CELEBRATION OF THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

During these times of uncertainty because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, your obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been lifted for March 15, 22, & 29. However, you are still encouraged and required to make the Sabbath holy. Below is a way that you can lead your family members in prayer together on Sunday. Archbishop ListECKI has encouraged a comparable time spent in prayer and reflection.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

If desired, a song may begin the celebration. See final pages.

Leader: 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 from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God for ever.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Leader: We gather today to celebrate the Lord's Day. Our parish priest is unable to be with us. One with our sisters and brothers and with the entire Church, let us know listen to God's Word and join in prayer.

My brothers and sisters,
as we begin our celebration let us praise our merciful God.

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:
Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Let us pray for confidence in the love of God and the strength to overcome all our weakness.

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness,
who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving
have shown us a remedy for sin,
look graciously on this confession of our lowliness,
that we, who are bowed down by our conscience,
may always be lifted up by your mercy.
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.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the Book of Exodus

In those days, in their thirst for water,
the people grumbled against Moses,
saying, "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt?
Was it just to have us die here of thirst
with our children and our livestock?"
So Moses cried out to the LORD,
"What shall I do with this people?
a little more and they will stone me!"
The LORD answered Moses,
"Go over there in front of the people,
along with some of the elders of Israel,
holding in your hand, as you go,
the staff with which you struck the river.
I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb.
Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it
for the people to drink."
This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel.
The place was called Massah and Meribah,
because the Israelites quarreled there
and tested the LORD, saying,
"Is the LORD in our midst or not?"

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

Reader If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

All: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Reader: Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;
let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

All: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
Reader: Come, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.
For he is our God,
and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.
All: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
Reader: Oh, that today you would hear his voice:
“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as in the day of Massah in the desert,
Where your fathers tempted me;
they tested me though they had seen my works.”
All: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans,

Brothers and sisters:

Since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have gained access by faith
to this grace in which we stand,
and we boast in hope of the glory of God.

And hope does not disappoint,
because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
For Christ, while we were still helpless,
died at the appointed time for the ungodly.
Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,
though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.
But God proves his love for us
in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar,
near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

Jacob's well was there.
Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well.
It was about noon.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water.

Jesus said to her,
"Give me a drink."

His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.

The Samaritan woman said to him,

"How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?"

—For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.—

Jesus answered and said to her,

"If you knew the gift of God
and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,'
you would have asked him
and he would have given you living water."

The woman said to him,

"Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep;
where then can you get this living water?"

Are you greater than our father Jacob,
who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself
with his children and his flocks?"

Jesus answered and said to her,

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again;
but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst;
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

The woman said to him,

"Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty
or have to keep coming here to draw water.

"I can see that you are a prophet.

Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain;
but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem."

Jesus said to her,

"Believe me, woman, the hour is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

You people worship what you do not understand;
we worship what we understand,

because salvation is from the Jews.
But the hour is coming, and is now here,
when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth;
and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him.
God is Spirit, and those who worship him
must worship in Spirit and truth.”
The woman said to him,
“I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ;
when he comes, he will tell us everything.”
Jesus said to her,
“I am he, the one who is speaking with you.”

Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him.
When the Samaritans came to him,
they invited him to stay with them;
and he stayed there two days.
Many more began to believe in him because of his word,
and they said to the woman,
“We no longer believe because of your word;
for we have heard for ourselves,
and we know that this is truly the savior of the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Profession of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come 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 life everlasting. Amen.

Leader:: In faith and humility let us offer our needs to the God of compassion.

Reader: For the Church: that her members may announce the Good News of the Gospel to those who live in material, moral, and spiritual destitution, let us pray to the Lord

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those preparing to enter the Church at Easter: that they may find strength and courage in the Lord Jesus as they continue their Lenten pilgrimage, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who hold public office, and for all working for solutions to the ongoing coronavirus crisis, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all those who are feeling the effects of loneliness, isolation, or sadness from the separation from the Sacraments and community life, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all families, especially those of our parish communities: that they may grow in holiness and love for the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all who have died, that they may rest in the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

All: Amen.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

Together: 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 into 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.

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.

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

All: Amen.

If desired, a song may conclude the celebration.

Optional Hymns:

The Glory of These Forty Days

The glory of these forty days
We celebrate with songs of praise;
For Christ, by whom all things were made,
Himself has fasted and has prayed.

Alone and fasting Moses saw
The loving God who gave the law;
And to Elijah, fasting, came
The steeds and chariots of flame.

So Daniel trained his mystic sight,
Deliver'd from the lions' might;
And John, the Bridegroom's friend, became
The herald of Messiah's name.

Then grant us, Lord, like them to do
Such things as bring great praise to you;

Our spirits strengthen with your grace
And give us joy to see your face.

O Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
To you be every prayer addressed
And by all mankind be adored,
From age to age, the only Lord.

Take Up Your Cross

Take up your cross, the Savior said,
If you would my disciple be;
Deny yourself, the world forsake,
And humbly follow after me.

Take up your cross, let not its weight
Fill your weak spirit with alarm;
His strength shall bear your spirit up,
Shall brace your heart and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross then in his strength,
And ev'ry danger calmly brave,
To guide you to a better home,
And vict'ry over death and grave.

Take up your cross and follow Christ,
Nor think till death to lay it down;
For only he who bears the cross
May hope to wear the glorious crown.

To you, great Lord, the One in three,
All praise for evermore ascend;
O grant us here below to see
The heav'nly life that knows no end.

Acknowledgements: Texts taken from *Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest*; the *Roman Missal*. Intercessions based on *Magnificat* publication. Hymns accessed through iBreviary. Prepared by Rev. J.A. Schmeckel