

CELEBRATION OF THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FOURTH 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 – 1 Sam 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A

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—anooint him, for this is the one!”

Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand,

anoointed 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. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 23

Reader The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
All: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Reader: 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.
Reader: 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.
All: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Reader: 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.
Reader: 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 – Eph 5:8-14

A reading from the Letter of Saint 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. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel – John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

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 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

Lord, who throughout these forty days
For us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins,
And close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend
And did the vict'ry win,
O give us strength in you to fight,
In you to conquer sin.

As you did hunger and did thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self and so to live
By your most holy word.

Abide with us that through this life
Of suffering and of pain
An Easter of unending joy
We may at last attain.

Tune: *St. Flavian C.M.* | Music: *Day's Psalter, 1562* | Text: *Claudia Hernaman, 1838-1898, alt.*

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