

A PRAYER SERVICE AT HOME
WHEN ATTENDANCE AT MASS IS NOT POSSIBLE
Feast of Christ the King — November 21, 2021

In these times when not all feel free to gather together 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: To Jesus, the Lamb, be the glory and the power now and forever.

After a pause for silent reflection, the leader continues.

Leader: Lord Jesus, we follow you, for you are the Way.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader Christ Jesus, we believe you, for you are the Truth.
Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader Lord Jesus, we receive you, for you are the Life.
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.
Almighty ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise. 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. Amen.

All: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Daniel 7:13-14

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Daniel

As the visions during the night continued, I saw one like a Son of man coming, on the clouds of heaven; when he reached the Ancient One and was presented before him, the one like a Son of man received dominion, glory, and kingship; all peoples, nations, and languages serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away, his kingship shall not be destroyed.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 93:1-2, 5

Reader: The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

All: The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

Reader: The Lord is king, in splendor robed;
robed is the Lord and girt about with strength.

All: The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

Reader: And he has made the world firm,
not to be moved.
Your throne stands firm from of old;
from everlasting you are, O Lord.

All: The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

Reader: Your decrees are worthy of trust indeed;
holiness befits your house,
O Lord, for length of days.

All: The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

SECOND READING

Revelation 1:5-8

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Revelation

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, who has made us into a kingdom, priests for his God and Father, to him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

Behold, he is coming amid the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him. All the peoples of the earth will lament him. Yes. Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "the one who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor: Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Cantor:

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!

All: Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 18:33b-37

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Pilate said to Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?" Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here."

So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

Reader: Daily Meditation: John 18:33-37

My kingdom does not belong to this world. (John 18:36)

Pilate must have been confused. He had asked Jesus point-blank, "Are you the King of the Jews?" (John 18:33). Jesus didn't answer him directly, but he made it clear that his kingdom wasn't what Pilate had been envisioning. Instead, he said this kingdom "is not here" and "does not belong to this world" (18:36).

So where is Jesus' kingdom, and what's it like? On today's feast of Christ the King, let's reflect on God's kingdom and how it compares with the kingdom of the world.

The kingdom of the world values power, wealth, honor, and pleasure. These things are not bad in themselves, but we can easily make them idols. We can even fool ourselves into thinking that we are not going after them. But if they are the primary reason we get out of bed in the morning, and if we spend most of our time seeking them out, then we are probably too immersed in the kingdom of the world.

The kingdom of God, on the other hand, values sacrificial love, forgiveness, humility, and service. Such things are not always attractive because they come with a cost. Yet the reward is always greater — not only in this life, as we experience Jesus' abundant love and mercy, but also in the next, when we will see him face-to-face and live in his joyful embrace forever.

Today as you worship the King of kings at Mass, think about what you most value and what you are most anxious to achieve. Then see if these things are more in line with God's kingdom or with the kingdom of the world. We are all tempted at times to straddle both kingdoms at the same time. But over and over again, we are faced with choices to serve one or the other. May we always choose to serve Jesus, our King and Lord!

Praise you, King of kings and Lord of lords!

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: Our Lord leads us to truth and justice.
Let us follow him and present the needs of those who suffer.

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

Reader: For the Church: *(pause)*
For the Church: that we may become people of truth through listening
to God's Word,
sharing in the Eucharist, and giving witness to it
in our decisions and actions.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For leaders of government and judges: *(pause)*
that they may recognize that their authority comes from God
and that it is intended for the service of the human community.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all whose commitment to the truth brings them into conflict
with the social, governmental, and religious authorities: *(pause)*
that they may learn from and be strengthened by Christ,
the suffering servant of truth.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the safety of all travelers: *(pause)*
that God will protect all who are traveling this week
and help them to have renewing visits with family and friends.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For protection of the earth: *(pause)*
that God will guide world leaders and each of us
in caring for the earth, and give us the courage to follow through
on difficult choices to preserve our common home.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For families: *(pause)*
that members may speak the truth in love to one another
and deepen their support for one another along life's journey.
We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the sick, especially those for whom
we have been asked to pray, 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, . . . *(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: God you are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.
Help us to follow you and to know your ways.
We ask this through your son and our brother Jesus 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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Prayers at Home When Gathering for Mass Is Not Possible

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Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest: Leader's Edition

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