

Liturgy of the Word Service in the Home

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Notes/Instructions

- *Gather in a place that is comfortable for your family. Consider setting up a prayer space with a family Bible, candles, crucifix, and/or any other religious images or objects in your home.*
- *If you have never led prayer like this before, try to release your nervousness and discomfort and instead focus on the sure knowledge of God's love and presence.*
- *If you are praying this with your family, try to include others in different roles (e.g. readers) as they are able and willing.*
- *Use whatever prayer postures are most comfortable for your family at each point of this prayer service.*
- *Special Note: If using any of the video/song options, open them in advance and cue them to the beginning of the video so as to avoid having your prayer time interrupted by ads from YouTube.*

INTRODUCTORY RITES

An opening song may be sung.

Suggested Song: [Gracious God](#)

Introduction

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.

Unfortunately, we are not able to celebrate the Mass today.

Let us be united in the spirit of Christ with the Church around the world and celebrate our redemption in Christ's suffering, death and resurrection.

Sign of the Cross: Led by leader. All make the sign of the cross and reply.

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

Greeting

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.

Opening Prayer

Leader: **Let us pray.**

(All present pray in silence for a short time. Then the leader proceeds with the prayer.)

Father,

help us to be like Christ your Son,

who loved the world and died for our salvation.

Inspire us by his love,

guide us by his example,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel (37:12-14)

Thus says the Lord GOD: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the LORD. I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

If possible, listen to and sing with the [psalm](#).

The psalm may also be proclaimed by a reader with those in attendance reciting the response.

Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

Response: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

LORD, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to my voice in supplication. *R.*

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities,

LORD, who can stand?

But with you is forgiveness,

that you may be revered. *R.*

I trust in the LORD;

my soul trusts in his word.

More than sentinels wait for the dawn,

let Israel wait for the LORD. *R.*

For with the LORD is kindness

and with him is plenteous redemption;

and he will redeem Israel

from all their iniquities. *R.*

Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (8:8-11)

Brothers and sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although

the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the One who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **John 11:25a, 26**

If possible, listen to and sing the [Gospel Acclamation](#).

Or, the leader may lead the following:

Leader:

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will never die.**

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 11:1-45 (Shorter Form [], 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45)

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill. So [the sisters of Lazarus sent word to Jesus saying, “Master, the one you love is ill.” When Jesus heard this he said, “This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”] The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in a day? If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” He said this, and then told them, “Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him.” So the disciples said to him, “Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved.” But Jesus was talking about his death, while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep. So then Jesus said to them clearly, “Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may

believe. Let us go to him.” So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go to die with him.”

[When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.] Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. [When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.” Martha said to him, “I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.”]

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying, “The teacher is here and is asking for you.” As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and went to him. For Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him. So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her saw Mary get up quickly and go out, they followed her, presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, [he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Sir, come and see.” And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him.” But some of them said, “Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?”

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him, “Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me.” And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.”

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.]

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily or Reflection on the Readings

Options:

- Watch the [daily reflection for this Sunday](#) from the USCCB
- Watch the homily from Catholic Kids Homilies for the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle A (“Lent 4A”) when it’s posted on [Catholic Kids Media YouTube channel](#).
- Use the resources from [Loyola Press, Sunday Connection](#). Read the “Background on the Gospel Reading” and then explore the connections most age-appropriate for those in your family.
- Discuss the Questions of the Week or do the Activity of the Week from [Our Sunday Visitor, Lifelong Catechesis](#).
- Use the resources from [RCL Benziger, Lectionary Resources](#), especially the Reflection for Families, suggested action for Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family, and Discussion Starters for family conversation.

Profession of Faith

Either the Nicene or Apostles’ Creed may be used.

Nicene Creed

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

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
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.**

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader:

With faith in God's promises, let us now offer our needs to the God of compassion.

Our response will be: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who make up the Church of Jesus Christ, that we may always remain open to hearing the Word of God and have the strength to keep it, let us pray to the Lord. R.

That public officials may be blessed with the gifts of wisdom and understanding in serving the needs of their people, especially in this time of crisis. let us pray to the Lord. R.

For those who suffer in any way, especially those who suffer from any form of abuse, that they experience the love and concern of Christ through the generosity of Christ's disciples, let us pray to the Lord. R.

For the sick and infirm, especially those who have contracted the coronavirus; that their patient suffering may show forth the presence of God as the source of their strength, let us pray to the Lord. R.

That the Holy Spirit may guide Pope Francis in the selection of the next Bishop of Buffalo, let us pray to the Lord. R.

The leader may invite those present to offer their own prayers and petitions.

**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.

Lord's Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray together, using the words Jesus taught us:

**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 Prayer

Pray 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.

Amen.

Allow time for silent prayer.

Act of Thanksgiving

Sing or pray one of the following options:

[Psalm 136](#): Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting

Psalm 100

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing for joy.

Know that he, the Lord, is God.

He made us, we belong to him,

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Go within his gates, giving thanks.

Enter his courts with songs of praise.

Give thanks to him and bless his name.

Indeed, how good is the Lord,

Eternal his merciful love.

He is faithful from age to age.

Canticle of Zechariah

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
he has come to his people and set them free.**

**He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through his holy prophets he promised of old
that he would save us from our enemies,**

from the hands of all who hate us.

**He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath he swore to our father
Abraham:**

**to set us free from the hands of our
enemies,**

free to worship him without fear,

holy and righteous in his sight

all the days of our life.

**You, my child, shall be called the prophet
of the Most High;**

**for you will go before the Lord to prepare
his way,**

**to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

**In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon
us,**

**to shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death,**

**and to guide our feet into the way of
peace. Amen.**

Canticle of Mary

[Holy Is His Name](#), David Haas

[Holy Is His Name](#), John Michael Talbot

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the
Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly
servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me
blessed:**

**the Almighty has done great things for
me,
and holy is his Name.**

**He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.**

**He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their
conceit.**

**He has cast down the mighty from their
thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.**

**He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.**

**He has come to the help of his servant
Israel
for he has remembered his promise of
mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

CONCLUDING RITE

Blessing

Leader:

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

All: Amen.

Sign of Peace

Leader:

Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

A concluding song may be sung.

Suggested song: [Though the Mountains May Fall](#)