

An Online Communal Celebration of the Word

Before you Begin

As many dioceses decide to cancel Sunday Masses to help limit the spread of the corona virus, it is important that we all remember that we are the Church and that we can gather on our own initiative. The Church is not primarily a building, it is the people of God gathered together.

We have found that the easiest online gathering tools for this model of communal prayer have been Zoom and Google Hangouts. We have experimented with this form of prayer, and we recommend the following:

- *Make sure you have this participant's copy of the celebration in front of you, so that you can follow properly.*
- *It is important for participants to turn off their microphones when they are asked to do so.*
- *Before starting, each member of the group should also have the texts of [the Sunday readings](#) at hand, ideally in hard copy: either a copy of Living With Christ or similar worship aid, or else a printout of the Sunday readings you will have found online or received from the presider.*

When everyone is gathered, the person who is acting as "presider of the assembly" or facilitator takes the time to review the flow of the prayer, give any instructions, and assign roles (readers, cantor(s), prayer of the faithful, etc.).

Then everyone is invited to introduce themselves by first name.

Finally, the presider invites everyone to take a moment of silence.

Introductory Rites (ALL MICROPHONES ARE ON)

After a moment of silence, the Presider says (making the sign of the cross):

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

All answer:

Amen

Presider:

Let us celebrate together in joy....

Presider:

Lord Jesus, source of love, you know us and call us to follow you, have mercy on us...

All:

Have mercy on us

Presider:

O Christ, source of love, you give us sisters and brothers to love, have mercy on us...

All:

Have mercy on us

Presider:

Lord, source of joy, you teach us to build a better world through our gestures of sharing, have mercy on us.

All:

Have mercy on us.

Presider:

We give thanks to God who has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

All:

Amen.

First Reading

Is read by one of the members of the group. (THAT PERSON'S MIKE IS ON, ALL OTHERS OFF)

Psalm

You have two choices:

- Ask a member of the group to read the psalm in the same way as one of the readings.
- The presider proclaims the antiphon of the psalm and then reads the first stanza, and in a predetermined order, the

group members each read one stanza. (IN THIS CASE, MIKES ALL ON)

Second Reading

Is read by a member of the group. (READER'S MIKE ON, ALL OTHERS OFF)

Gospel

Proclaimed by the Presider or a member of the group. (READER'S MIKE ON, ALL OTHERS OFF)

Time for silent reflection

The presider invites each member of the group to a time of silent reflection. Please listen for instructions.

Two-part sharing

First round: The presider invites each person, one at a time, by naming them one by one, to share the fruits of his or her reflection. It is always possible to pass his turn. During this first round, each person is attentive to what the others bring to the conversation, and how they feel as they listen to the others: What affects me as I listen to the members of the group, what gives me hope and inner peace? (ONE MIKE ON AT A TIME)

Second round: we reflect on the sharing of the first round. What brought me comfort, peace, hope in what was shared? The presider invites the group members to share their

experience of the first round of sharing, in no predetermined order, but rather as inspiration comes to them. (ALL MIKES ON)

Baptismal Profession of Faith (optional)

The Presider asks each question, and the members of the group respond (ALL MIKES ON):

Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven
and earth?

We believe

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord?
who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered the Passion,
was buried, rose from the dead,
and who sits at the right hand of the Father?

We believe

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, in the Holy Catholic Church,
in the communion of saints, in the forgiveness of sins,
in the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

We believe

May Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who brought us back to life by water and the Holy Spirit,
and granted us forgiveness of all sin,
still keep us by his grace in Christ Jesus,
our Lord, for everlasting life.

Amen

Prayer of the Faithful (MIKES OFF)

A member of the group announces each prayer (READER'S MIKE ON). Rather than answering each invocation, the group members observe a time of silence between each prayer.

Our Father

- Follow the presider's instructions for microphones during this prayer

Prayer of thanksgiving

The Presider says:

To you, God, our praise!

we acclaim you, you are Lord!

To you, Eternal Father,

the anthem of the universe.... (etc)

All:

Amen.

The Presider says (as all make the sign of the cross):

May God Almighty bless us

May he keep us safe from harm

And leads us to eternal life.

All:

Amen.