

SUNDAY LITURGY AT HOME

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)

Alongside the Mass Christians down through the ages have prayed by singing hymns, psalms and canticles, listening to passages of Scripture, and offering prayers of intercession – we call this kind of prayer the ‘Liturgy of the Hours,’ or the ‘Divine Office.’ As we cannot gather for the Eucharist at this time let us embrace this ancient tradition and pray in our homes either as a family or by ourselves. The liturgy put together here to mark this Sunday combines Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours with a Liturgy of the Word and Act of Spiritual Communion. If you are praying as a family one person leads, the others say the words in bold.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Introduction

✠ O God, ✠ come to our aid
✠ O Lord, make haste to help us

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

Hymn

W. Chatterton Dix (1866)

Alleluia! sing to Jesus;
his the sceptre, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone:
Hark! the songs of peaceful Sion
thunder like a mighty flood:
Jesus out of ev'ry nation,
hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how;
though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget His promise,
'I am with you evermore'?

Alleluia! bread of heaven,
here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful
flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal,
thee the Lord of Lords we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heav'n thy throne;
Thou within the veil hast entered
robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
thou on earth both Priest and Victim
in the Eucharistic Feast.

PSALMODY

Song of rejoicing in salvation

Ps 117(118)

This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, but which has become the cornerstone (Acts 4:11)

Ant 1: I shall not die, * **I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord. Alleluia!**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love endures for ever.

**Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love endures for ever.'**

**Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love endures for ever.'**

**Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love endures for ever.'**

I called to the Lord in my distress;
he answered and freed me.
The Lord is at my side; I do not fear.
What can man do against me?
The Lord is at my side as my helper;
I shall look down on my foes.

**It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in men;
it is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes.**

The nations all encompassed me;
in the Lord's name I crushed them.
They compassed me, compassed me about;
in the Lord's name I crushed them.
They compassed me about like bees;
they blazed like a fire among thorns.
In the Lord's name I crushed them.

**I was hard-pressed and was falling,
but the Lord came to help me.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he is my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just.**

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me.
The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.
I was punished, I was punished by the Lord,
but not doomed to die.

**Open to me the gates of holiness:
I will enter and give thanks.
This is the Lord's own gate
where the just may enter.
I will thank you for you have answered
and you are my saviour.**

Ant 1: **I shall not die, I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord. Alleluia!**

Let every creature praise the Lord

Dan 3:52-57

The Creator is blessed for ever (Rom 1:25)

Ant 2: **Blessed be your glorious * and holy name. Alleluia!**

You are blest, Lord God of our fathers.
To you glory and praise for evermore.

**Blest your glorious holy name.
To you glory and praise for evermore.**

You are blest in the temple of your glory.
To you glory and praise for evermore.

**You are blest who gaze into the depths.
To you glory and praise for evermore.**

You are blest in the firmament of heaven.
To you glory and praise for evermore.

**You who walk on the wings of the wind.
To you glory and praise for evermore.**

Ant 2: **Blessed be your glorious and holy name. Alleluia!**

Praise the Lord

Ps 150

Sing praise in your spirit, sing praise with your soul, that is: give glory to God in both your soul and your body (Hesychius)

Ant 3: **Tell the greatness of our God. * The works of God are perfect; and all his ways are right. Alleluia!**

Praise God in his holy place,
praise him in his mighty heavens.
Praise him for his powerful deeds,
praise his surpassing greatness.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad.

**O Lord, grant us salvation;
O Lord, grant success.
Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
the Lord God is our light.**

Go forward in procession with branches
even to the altar.
You are my God, I thank you.
My God, I praise you.
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his love endures for ever.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,**
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

May they bless you, the saints and the angels.
To you glory and praise for evermore.

**From the heavens, the earth and the sea.
To you glory and praise for evermore.**

You are blest, Lord God of our fathers.
To you glory and praise for evermore.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,**
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

**O praise him with sound of trumpet,
praise him with lute and harp.
Praise him with timbral and dance,
praise him with strings and pipes.**

O praise him with resounding cymbals,
praise him with clashing of cymbals.
Let everything that lives and that breathes
give praise to the Lord.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,**
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Ant 3: **Tell the greatness of our God. The works of God are perfect; and all his ways are right. Alleluia!**

COLLECT OF THE MASS

Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.
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. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Acts 2:14,36-41

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ

A reading from the book of Acts.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

The word of the Lord.

℟️ Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22(23):1-6

℟️ The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **℟️**
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **℟️**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **℟️**
Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **℟️**

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

℟️ Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my own sheep and my own know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading

John 10:1-10

I am the gate of the sheepfold

A reading from the Holy Gospel ✠ according to John.

℟️ Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said:

‘I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.’

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

‘I tell you most solemnly,

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come

are thieves and brigands;

but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:

he will go freely in and out

and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes

only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come

so that they may have life and have it to the full.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

℟️ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

A time for either silent reflection by oneself, or sharing amongst the household

PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Intercessions

In real humility of heart let us pray to God who cares for everyone, saying:

℟ Lord, have mercy on your people.

Defend the church against all danger. ℟

Protect Francis our Pope. ℟

Be the strength of Patrick our Bishop. ℟

Keep our parish united in prayer. ℟

Save your people. ℟

Preserve the world in peace. ℟

Bring light to those who do not believe. ℟

Guide the rulers of all nations. ℟

Come to the aid of the poor. ℟

Comfort the afflicted. ℟

Guide and strengthen healthcare workers. ℟

Bring an end to the coronavirus. ℟

Have mercy on the dead. ℟

We pause to make our own prayers.

We ask Mary to place the whole world under her maternal protection, saying:

**Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Our Father

Let us pray together in the words Jesus taught us, saying:

**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.**

Spiritual Communion

Spend a few moments in silence, then pray asking Jesus to make his home in your heart:

**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 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.**

THANKSGIVING AND CONCLUSION

The Benedictus

Luke 1:68-79

The Messiah and the one who was sent before him

Ant: 'I am the gate. * **Anyone who enters through me will be safe and be sure of finding pasture,' says the Lord. Alleluia!**

Blessed be the Lord, ✠ the God of Israel!
He has visited his people and redeemed them.

**He has raised up for us a mighty saviour
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.**

A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.

**He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear,
and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence.**

As for you, little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,

**To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.**

He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and guide us into the way of peace.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,**
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Ant: 'I am the gate. **Anyone who enters through me will be safe and be sure of finding pasture,' says the Lord. Alleluia!**

Blessing

The Lord bless us, ✠ and keep us from all evil,
and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**