

# INTRODUCTORY RITES

## INTRODUCTION

*The celebration begins without a procession. As the liturgical assembly and ministers gather at their place, instrumental music may be played. When all have taken their place, the deacon or lay leader of prayer, standing at a place other than behind the altar or at the chair designated for the priest, facing the gathered assembly, begins the celebration with the following 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  
because we do not have a priest.  
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.**

**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.

## OPENING PRAYER

Leader:       **Let us pray.  
God of all creation,  
we gather on this first day of the week  
made holy by the resurrection of Christ, your Son.  
In the waters of baptism we were buried with him**

**so that we might also rise with him  
and so share his victory over sin and death.**

**You have transformed our lives into the living stones  
that form your Church with Christ as the foundation stone.  
Strengthen this community's bond of communion and peace  
and deepen our solidarity with your Church throughout the world.  
Rekindle within us this Sabbath day the vision of your kingdom  
so that our daily concerns and labor  
may find their proper perspective.**

**Fill our homes with the spirit of the Gospel  
and give us the grace to see the true face of the people with whom we live.  
In a world torn by sin and division  
make us instruments of reconciliation and mercy.**

**We raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to you, O God.  
May we who celebrate Christ's resurrection this day  
share in his eternal glory where he lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.**

All: Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The readings are taken from the Lectionary for the given Sunday.*

*When the leader of prayer is a deacon, he gives a homily. Afterward, there is a period of silent prayer.  
When the leader of prayer is a layperson, s/he may read a text prepared by the priest. If that has not  
been prepared, there is no homily, only silent prayer.*

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

*Either the Nicene or the Apostle's Creed may be used.*

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Introduction: **In faith and humility let us offer our needs to the God of compassion.**

Conclusion: **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.  
Through Christ our Lord.**

## COMMUNION RITE

*The deacon or lay leader of prayer goes to the place where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved, genuflects, take the ciborium containing the body of the Lord, and places it on the altar.*

### LORD'S PRAYER

*The deacon or lay leader of prayer then returns to the designated chair and invites all present to sing or say the Lord's Prayer in these words.*

Leader: **The Father provides us with food for eternal life.  
Let us pray for nourishment and strength.**

**Our Father,...**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Leader: **This is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.**

*All say:*

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

### COMMUNION

*The deacon or lay leader of prayer reverently consumes the Body of Christ. Then the deacon or lay leader of prayer and other extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, if needed, take the ciborium with the Eucharist and go to the communicants.*

*During Holy Communion, an appropriate processional song may be sung.*

*After Holy Communion the deacon or lay leader of prayer or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion return any remaining sacred hosts to the tabernacle.*

*The deacon or lay leader of prayer returns to the designated chair. When the distribution of Holy Communion is finished, all spend some time praying privately.*

### ACT OF THANKSGIVING

*The deacon or lay leader of prayer invites all to an Act of Thanksgiving, in which the faithful praise the glory and mercy of God. This can be done by the use of a psalm, a canticle, a hymn, or a litany of praise, or a prayer.*

All: **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.**

## CONCLUDING RITE

*There follow brief announcements and the collection of monetary offerings from the gathered assembly. The celebration ends with an invitation to pray for vocations to the priesthood, the blessing and sign of peace.*

Leader: **Mindful of the Lord's word, "Ask the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for the harvest," let us pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood. May our prayer hasten the day when we will be able to take part in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist every Sunday.**

## BLESSING

*A leader of prayer who is a deacon says:*

Leader: **The Lord be with you.**

All: And with your spirit.

*He blesses the people using the following blessing.*

**May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son + and the Holy Spirit.**

All: Amen.

*A leader of prayer who is a layperson using no gesture says:*

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

## SIGN OF PEACE

*The deacon or lay leader of prayer may invite the people to exchange the sign of peace in these words:*

**Let us offer each other the sign of peace.**

*All exchange an appropriate sign of peace.*

*A song, instrumental music or choral anthem of the day may conclude the celebration.*