

Sample and Guidelines
Sunday Celebration of the
Word and Communion:
Revised 2018



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INTRODUCTORY RITES

Gathering Song

There is no procession. The Leader and other ministers sing from their places in the assembly.

Liturgical Greeting

The leader of prayer goes from his/her seat to the place from which he/she will preside. This is not the chair that the priest normally uses. The priest's chair is left empty to symbolise the absence of the ordained member of this community who represents the bishop – thus linking this community with the wider church.

Leader: + In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Introductory Remarks

Leader: Since our usual celebrant, Fr, is unable to be with us today and no alternative priest is available, we cannot celebrate the Eucharist together. Nevertheless, we have gathered to be nourished by God's Word and to share Holy Communion. My name is, and I have been commissioned as a lay leader of liturgy for the parish.

Opening Rite

Either

A: Litany of Praise

Leader: Our Saviour is rich in mercy and kindness.
Let us give praise to Christ our Lord.

Jesus, Word of God, you came to reveal God's love to us. Lord, have mercy.
All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Jesus, risen from the dead. You bring us to new life. Christ, have mercy.
All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Jesus, Sun of Justice, you gather together the scattered flock of God.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins
and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Or

B: Penitential Act

Leader: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: For we have sinned against you.

Leader: Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

All: And grant us your salvation.

Leader: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins
and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Or

C: Penitential Act

Leader: Gathered together in Christ, let us ask forgiveness with confidence,
for God is full of gentleness and compassion.

After a brief silence, all pray together
I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Leader: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen

Or

C: Sung Kyrie / Lord Have Mercy

Opening Prayer:

Leader: Let us pray (pause)

Choose the prayer of the specific Sunday from the Roman Missal.

All: Amen.

Leader: We remain standing for the procession of the Word of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Procession of the Word of God

The Lectionary is carried slowly to the ambo (lectern) in procession while the assembly sings an appropriate acclamation. On reaching the ambo, the minister holds up the Lectionary for all to see and places it on the lectern.

Leader: May the word of God always be heard in this place,
as it unfolds the mystery of Christ before us
and achieves our salvation within the church.

The Leader may gesture with his/her hands for people to sit now OR s/he simply says: Let us be seated.

First Reading: Use the reading of the Sunday from the Lectionary

Responsorial Psalm: Use the psalm of the Sunday from the Lectionary (ideally, sung)

Second Reading: Use the reading of the Sunday from the Lectionary

Gospel Acclamation: Sung in the usual way

Gospel: Use the reading of the Sunday from the Lectionary

Reflection: [homily]

A reflection on the readings is given (from the ambo) by a person who has been delegated by the arch/bishop to preach OR a person reads a text provided by the parish priest. After the reflection, a period of silence is always given.

Profession of Faith:

Leader: In union with the whole Church, let us profess our faith.

All: I believe in God, ... (the Apostles' Creed)

The Nicene Creed may be used instead of the Apostles' Creed

General Intercessions:

Leader: In response to God's word proclaimed in our midst,
we pray to God for the needs of the Church and the world.

A reader announces the intentions in the usual way. After the final intention, the Leader continues:

Leader: God of love, hear the prayers of your people
and grant us today what we ask of you in faith.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Proclamation of Praise

- *The proclamation of praise should celebrate the saving work of God as revealed in the Scriptures rather than imitate the Eucharistic Prayer or focus on the Eucharist which is not celebrated today.*
- *The lay leader should not stand at the altar, nor should the Blessed Sacrament be placed on the altar at this point. Acclamations from the Eucharistic Prayer should not be used.*

Either

A: **Gloria** (do not use during Advent and Lent)

All: Glory to God in the highest ... (ideally sung)

Or

B: **A Song of Praise** (*Sing a hymn or antiphon that is well-known by the community*)

Or

C: **The Song of Mary** (*Sing or recite the Magnificat:
See Evening Prayer from Liturgy of the Hours*)

Or

D: **The Song of Zechariah** (*Sing or recite the Benedictus:
See Morning Prayer from Liturgy of the Hours*)

Or

E: **Father, We Give You Thanks** (*from The Didache, late first or early second century*)

All: Father, we give you thanks, who planted
your holy name within our hearts.
Knowledge and faith and life immortal
Jesus your son to us imparts.

Lord, you have made all for your pleasure,
and given us food for all our days
giving in Christ the bread eternal;
yours is the power, be yours the praise.

Watch o'er your church, O Lord, in mercy,
save it from evil, guard it still,
perfect it in your love, unite it,
cleansed and conformed unto your will.

As grain, once scattered on the hillsides,
was in the broken bread made one,
so may your world-wide church be gathered
into your kingdom by your Son.

Sign of Peace

Leader: Let us seal our prayer with a sign of unity and reconciliation
as we offer one another a sign of peace.

The sign of peace is exchanged in the usual manner.

COMMUNION RITE

- *The community remains standing after the sign of peace. Simply and with dignity, a communion minister brings the Blessed Sacrament in procession from the tabernacle to the altar. Candles (which may accompany the minister) are placed on the altar.*
- *If appropriate, a brief rite of receiving the Eucharist from another place (as spoken below by the minister) may be used.*
- *The leader stands alone at the altar facing the people to introduce the Lord's Prayer.*
- *The 'Deliver us, Lord...' is not said, but the people add the doxology: 'For the kingdom...'*

Rite of receiving the Eucharist from another community (*used only if this is indeed the case*)

Minister: I bring the Body of our Lord from the celebration of Eucharist held in (place).

Our brothers and sisters there send their greetings and love.
May our sharing in the one bread make us truly one in Christ.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

The (other) Communion ministers come out in the usual way.

Lord's Prayer

Leader: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

ALL: **OUR FATHER ...**

Invitation to Communion

NOTE: *Communion is given to the people only in the form of bread. The bread is never broken and the Lamb of God is never used.*

The leader genuflects, takes a host, raises it slightly and says:

Leader: Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: 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 communion hymn begins while the lay leader receives communion. Hymns that suggest that the Eucharist has been celebrated are not appropriate. After communion, what remains of the Blessed Sacrament is returned to the tabernacle and the vessels are purified in the usual way.

A period of silence is observed after Communion.

Then, standing at the altar or at another place, the lay leader says the Prayer after Communion. Many of the Prayers after Communion in the Missal will not be appropriate since they presume that the Eucharist has been celebrated. The following prayer may be used instead of the one in the Missal.

Prayer after Communion:

Leader: Let us pray ... *(pause)* ...

God of blessings,
we have been fed at this table with the bread of heaven.
Give us this food always,
that it may strengthen your love in our hearts
and inspire us to serve you in our brothers and sisters.
Grant this in the name of Jesus, our Redeemer.

All: Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

Announcements: *as usual for a Sunday liturgy*

Collection: *Note the different time for taking up the Collection*

Blessing:

Leader: Let us stand to ask for God's blessing ... (*wait*) ...

+ May the God of hope fill us with every joy in believing.

May the peace of Christ abound in our hearts.

May the Holy Spirit enrich us with gifts for service, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Dismissal:

Leader: Let us go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Or

Leader: Let us go in peace.

All: Thanks be to God.

A song may be sung to end the liturgy although a final song is not an official part of the rite itself. There is no procession. All ministers simply return to their places in the assembly to sing the final song.

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