

INDIVIDUAL AND HOME RESOURCES FOR

THE EASTER TRIDUUM



Holy Thursday

The Triduum is all one liturgy, and Holy Thursday begins that liturgy. On Holy Thursday we remember how Christ celebrated the Passover with his disciples and washed their feet. For the Catholic Church, this day celebrates the institution of the priesthood and the first Eucharistic meal.

The following is a guide for a Holy Thursday Liturgy of the Word. The guide is based on the Roman Missal and can be adapted to your household. Homes with small children may wish to shorten the service by simply reading the Gospel and washing each other's feet. Others may wish to celebrate the full service and will need at least one leader and a reader. This service can be adapted for families to connect online as well. Groups may want write their own petitions, though some have been provided, or add music. Make the service work for you and your context. The goal is to pray together and to celebrate these holy days.

It is a good idea to celebrate in a prayerful atmosphere. One way to do this would be to set up a table like an altar with candles. You might put a white or purple table cloth on the table along with a crucifix, icon, or religious painting. This table could be your kitchen table, a coffee table, or whatever works for you, so long as the space is conducive for prayer. During the Holy Triduum you might want to return to this same space for the other parts of the liturgy.

Materials you might need: candles, bells for the Gloria, songs on a playlist, a washbasin if you choose to do the washing of the feet, a towel

Possible songs to sing or listen to: [Servant Song](#), [I am the Bread of Life](#), [What Wondrous Love is This](#), [Abide with Me](#), [At the Table](#), [We Will Feast in the House of Zion](#)

Entrance Antiphon

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection,
through whom we are saved and delivered.

Introductory Rites

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

All: Amen.

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And with your Spirit.

Leader: This night we are gathered to solemnly begin our celebration of the Sacred Triduum. Together we enter into the mystery of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. We pray that through this celebration the Lord may enter our hearts and we may grow in love and mercy.

We acknowledge that there are times when we have fallen short of our call to be imitators of Christ, and so we pray:

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: 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.

Gloria

It is recommended that the recitation or singing of the Gloria be accompanied by bells or other similar musical instruments.

All: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Collect

Leader: Let us pray.

O God, who have called us to participate in your most sacred Supper, in which your only Begotten Son, when about to hand himself over to death, entrusted to the Church a sacrifice new for all eternity, the banquet of his love.

Grant, we pray, that we may draw from so great a mystery, the fullness of charity and of life.

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.

All: Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading (Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14)

A reading from the Book of Exodus:

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,
“This month shall stand at the head of your calendar;
you shall reckon it the first month of the year.
Tell the whole community of Israel:
On the tenth of this month every one of your families
must procure for itself a lamb, one apiece for each household.
If a family is too small for a whole lamb,
it shall join the nearest household in procuring one
and shall share in the lamb
in proportion to the number of persons who partake of it.
The lamb must be a year-old male and without blemish.
You may take it from either the sheep or the goats.
You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month,
and then, with the whole assembly of Israel present,
it shall be slaughtered during the evening twilight.
They shall take some of its blood
and apply it to the two doorposts and the lintel
of every house in which they partake of the lamb.
That same night they shall eat its roasted flesh
with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

“This is how you are to eat it:
with your loins girt, sandals on your feet and your staff in hand,
you shall eat like those who are in flight.
It is the Passover of the LORD.
For on this same night I will go through Egypt,
striking down every firstborn of the land, both man and beast,
and executing judgment on all the gods of Egypt—I, the LORD!
But the blood will mark the houses where you are.

Seeing the blood, I will pass over you;
thus, when I strike the land of Egypt,
no destructive blow will come upon you.

“This day shall be a memorial feast for you,
which all your generations shall celebrate
with pilgrimage to the LORD, as a perpetual institution.”

The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 116)

Reader: Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.
All: Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

How shall I make a return to the LORD
for all the good he has done for me?
The cup of salvation I will take up,
and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

All: Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

Precious in the eyes of the LORD
is the death of his faithful ones.
I am your servant, the son of your handmaid;
you have loosed my bonds.

All: Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and I will call upon the name of the LORD.
My vows to the LORD I will pay
in the presence of all his people.

All: Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

Brothers and sisters:

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you,
that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over,
took bread, and, after he had given thanks,
broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood."
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

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

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:
love one another as I have loved you.

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

Gospel (John 13:1-15)

A reading of the Holy Gospel according to John

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father.
He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end.
The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over.
So, during supper,
fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God,
he rose from supper and took off his outer garments.
He took a towel and tied it around his waist.
Then he poured water into a basin
and began to wash the disciples' feet
and dry them with the towel around his waist.
He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,
"Master, are you going to wash my feet?"
Jesus answered and said to him,
"What I am doing, you do not understand now,
but you will understand later."
Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet."
Jesus answered him,
"Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me."
Simon Peter said to him,
"Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well."
Jesus said to him,
"Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed,
for he is clean all over;
so you are clean, but not all."
For he knew who would betray him;
for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean."

So when he had washed their feet
and put his garments back on and reclined at table again,
he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you?
You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am.
If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet,

you ought to wash one another's feet.
I have given you a model to follow,
so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

A prepared reflection may be offered. This time could also be a chance for silent meditation on the readings or even a time to allow each person present to share their own response to the readings and the feast.

Traditionally, a washing of the feet follows the reflection, but it may be omitted out of pastoral concern or necessity.

Prayers of the Faithful

These or similar petitions may be offered.

Leader: On this holy night, the Lord gave us the commandment to love one another. We now turn to the Father in humble petition and pray for the needs of our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

Reader: We pray for the Church and Her many ministries around the world. We pray especially for Her humble servant, Pope Francis, and all other ministers of the faith. May their witness to the love of Christ be a source of steady light, and may we all be drawn to contemplate how we may better serve our brothers and sisters.

We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for our world in this time of need. We pray for an end to this global pandemic and healing for all who have been affected by the virus. May the Lord grant wisdom to world leaders, perseverance to medical workers, comfort to the afflicted, and patience to all.

We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for the poor, the forgotten, the stranger, the addict, all who have no one to pray for them, and all who are suffering in any way. May Christ, who has called us to radical love, expand our hearts and inspire us to reach out to the most vulnerable in prayer and service.

We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for our families. We pray for mothers and fathers and children, for grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, for the families we were born into, and the families we have formed along the way. May those we hold most dear be a source of joy and strength in these difficult times, and may all of us come to see with greater clarity the one human family of which we are all a part.

We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for the sick, for the dying, and for all who will die this day. May the Lord, the Good Shepherd, grant them comfort, peace, and life eternal.

We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Consider inviting those present to offer their own petitions either in silence or aloud.

Leader: God, our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people. Hear our prayers and come to our aid. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Our Father

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

All: 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:

Leader: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, sustained by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope, the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sign of Peace

Depending on the setting, the sign of peace may be omitted. In a circumstance where physical contact is unwise, a simple and reverent bow may be more appropriate.

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always

All: And with your spirit.

Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

Conclusion

Leader: Let us pray.

God of infinite compassion, to love you is to be holy;
fill our hearts with your love.

By the death of your Son you have given us hope, born of faith;
by his rising again fulfill this hope in the perfect love of heaven,

where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: Go in peace.

All: Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgements

The Lectionary Texts

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The Liturgical Texts

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Good Friday

On Good Friday we gather to commemorate Christ's passion and death. Traditionally this service takes place at 3:00pm, but a later time may be chosen. There are two parts to this celebration: The Liturgy of the Word and the Adoration of the Cross.

Like on *Palm Sunday* the Gospel is often read in parts. The text provided here is written for four parts (Narrator, Jesus, Chorus, Speaker) but can be adapted to a context with fewer people. The readings are long, and families with young children may wish to shorten them or stick to the Gospel. Again, you are welcome to adapt this service to your context.

The traditional *Solemn Intercessions* have been included. These also could be rewritten or shortened by simply saying "We pray for the Church" [pause] "Lord, hear our prayer." The prayers themselves are beautiful and are a part of the universal prayer of the Church. So, if you would like to include them all, then please do, but know that they can be adapted.

The Adoration of the Cross takes place at the end of the service. A wooden cross is preferable, but use what you have. Adoration can be done by kissing the cross, kneeling before it, or bowing reverently. Some groups who are practicing distancing at this time may wish to bring their own crosses and venerate their personal cross.

Materials you may need: candles, a crucifix or cross, songs on a playlist

Possible songs to sing or listen to: [Were you there](#), [My God, My God \(Psalm 22\)](#), [Behold the Wood](#), [The Cry of the Poor](#), [Death be Not Proud](#)

It is recommended to begin with a moment of silence.

Collect

Leader: Let us pray.

Remember your mercies, O Lord,
and with your eternal protection sanctify your servants,
for whom Christ your Son,
by the shedding of his Blood,
established the Paschal Mystery.

Who lives and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading (Isaiah 52:13-53:12)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

See, my servant shall prosper,
he shall be raised high and greatly exalted.
Even as many were amazed at him—
so marred was his look beyond human semblance
and his appearance beyond that of the sons of man—
so shall he startle many nations,
because of him kings shall stand speechless;
for those who have not been told shall see,
those who have not heard shall ponder it.

Who would believe what we have heard?
To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
He grew up like a sapling before him,
like a shoot from the parched earth;
there was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him,
nor appearance that would attract us to him.

He was spurned and avoided by people,
a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity,
one of those from whom people hide their faces,
spurned, and we held him in no esteem.

Yet it was our infirmities that he bore,
our sufferings that he endured,
while we thought of him as stricken,
as one smitten by God and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our offenses,
crushed for our sins;
upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole,
by his stripes we were healed.
We had all gone astray like sheep,
each following his own way;
but the LORD laid upon him
the guilt of us all.

Though he was harshly treated, he submitted
and opened not his mouth;
like a lamb led to the slaughter
or a sheep before the shearers,
he was silent and opened not his mouth.
Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away,
and who would have thought any more of his destiny?
When he was cut off from the land of the living,
and smitten for the sin of his people,
a grave was assigned him among the wicked
and a burial place with evildoers,
though he had done no wrong
nor spoken any falsehood.
But the LORD was pleased
to crush him in infirmity.

If he gives his life as an offering for sin,
he shall see his descendants in a long life,
and the will of the LORD shall be accomplished through him.

Because of his affliction
he shall see the light in fullness of days;
through his suffering, my servant shall justify many,
and their guilt he shall bear.
Therefore I will give him his portion among the great,
and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty,
because he surrendered himself to death
and was counted among the wicked;
and he shall take away the sins of many,
and win pardon for their offenses.

The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 31)

Reader: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

All: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

In you, O LORD, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me.
Into your hands I commend my spirit;
you will redeem me, O LORD, O faithful God.

All: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

For all my foes I am an object of reproach,
a laughingstock to my neighbors, and a dread to my friends;
they who see me abroad flee from me.

I am forgotten like the unremembered dead;
I am like a dish that is broken.

All: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

But my trust is in you, O LORD;
I say, "You are my God.
In your hands is my destiny; rescue me
from the clutches of my enemies and my persecutors."

All: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your kindness.
Take courage and be stouthearted,
all you who hope in the LORD.

All: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Second Reading (Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9)

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

Brothers and sisters:
Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the
heavens,
Jesus, the Son of God,
let us hold fast to our confession.
For we do not have a high priest
who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,
but one who has similarly been tested in every way,
yet without sin.
So let us confidently approach the throne of grace
to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.

In the days when Christ was in the flesh,
he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears
to the one who was able to save him from death,
and he was heard because of his reverence.
Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered;
and when he was made perfect,
he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Christ became obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name which is above every other name.

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

Gospel (John 18: 1-19: 42)

*This account of the Passion is recommended, if possible, to be read in parts. The list of parts is as follows: **Narrator, Jesus, Chorus, Speaker.** If it is not possible to read in parts, the text is the same with the parts omitted.*

Narrator: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley
to where there was a garden,
into which he and his disciples entered.
Judas his betrayer also knew the place,
because Jesus had often met there with his disciples.

So Judas got a band of soldiers and guards
from the chief priests and the Pharisees
and went there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.
Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him,
went out and said to them,

Jesus: “Whom are you looking for?”

Narrator: They answered him,

Chorus: “Jesus the Nazorean.”

Narrator: He said to them,

Jesus: “I AM.”

Narrator: Judas his betrayer was also with them.
When he said to them, “I AM,”
they turned away and fell to the ground.
So he again asked them,

Jesus: “Whom are you looking for?”

Narrator: They said,

Chorus: “Jesus the Nazorean.”

Narrator: Jesus answered,

Jesus: “I told you that I AM.
So if you are looking for me, let these men go.”

Narrator: This was to fulfill what he had said,
“I have not lost any of those you gave me.”
Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it,

struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear.
The slave's name was Malchus.
Jesus said to Peter,

Jesus: "Put your sword into its scabbard.
Shall I not drink the cup that the Father gave me?"

Narrator: So the band of soldiers, the tribune, and the Jewish guards seized Jesus, bound him, and brought him to Annas first. He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had counseled the Jews that it was better that one man should die rather than the people. Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Now the other disciple was known to the high priest, and he entered the courtyard of the high priest with Jesus. But Peter stood at the gate outside. So the other disciple, the acquaintance of the high priest, went out and spoke to the gatekeeper and brought Peter in. Then the maid who was the gatekeeper said to Peter,

Speaker: "You are not one of this man's disciples, are you?"

Narrator: He said,

Speaker: "I am not."

Narrator: Now the slaves and the guards were standing around a charcoal fire that they had made, because it was cold, and were warming themselves. Peter was also standing there keeping warm. The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his doctrine.

Jesus answered him,

Jesus: “I have spoken publicly to the world.
I have always taught in a synagogue
or in the temple area where all the Jews gather,
and in secret I have said nothing. Why ask me?
Ask those who heard me what I said to them.
They know what I said.”

Narrator: When he had said this,
one of the temple guards standing there struck Jesus and said,

Speaker: “Is this the way you answer the high priest?”

Narrator: Jesus answered him,

Jesus: “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong;
but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?”

Narrator: Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.
Now Simon Peter was standing there keeping warm.
And they said to him,

Chorus: “You are not one of his disciples, are you?”

Narrator: He denied it and said,

Speaker: “I am not.”

Narrator: One of the slaves of the high priest,
a relative of the one whose ear Peter had cut off, said,

Speaker: “Didn’t I see you in the garden with him?”

Narrator: Again Peter denied it.

And immediately the cock crowed.
Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium.
It was morning.
And they themselves did not enter the praetorium,
in order not to be defiled so that they could eat the Passover.
So Pilate came out to them and said,

Speaker: “What charge do you bring against this man?”

Narrator: They answered and said to him,

Chorus: “If he were not a criminal,
we would not have handed him over to you.”

Narrator: At this, Pilate said to them,

Speaker: “Take him yourselves, and judge him according to your
law.”

Narrator: The Jews answered him,

Chorus: “We do not have the right to execute anyone,”

Narrator: in order that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled
that he said indicating the kind of death he would die.
So Pilate went back into the praetorium
and summoned Jesus and said to him,

Speaker: “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Narrator: Jesus answered,

Jesus: “Do you say this on your own
or have others told you about me?”

Narrator: Pilate answered,

Speaker: “I am not a Jew, am I?
Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me.
What have you done?”

Narrator: Jesus answered,

Jesus: “My kingdom does not belong to this world.
If my kingdom did belong to this world,
my attendants would be fighting
to keep me from being handed over to the Jews.
But as it is, my kingdom is not here.”

Narrator: So Pilate said to him,

Speaker: “Then you are a king?”

Narrator: Jesus answered,

Jesus: “You say I am a king.
For this I was born and for this I came into the world,
to testify to the truth.
Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

Narrator: Pilate said to him,

Speaker: “What is truth?”

Narrator: When he had said this,
he again went out to the Jews and said to them,

Speaker: “I find no guilt in him.
But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at Passover.
Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?”

Narrator: They cried out again,

Chorus: “Not this one but Barabbas!”

Narrator: Now Barabbas was a revolutionary.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged.
And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his
head,
and clothed him in a purple cloak,
and they came to him and said,

Chorus: “Hail, King of the Jews!”

Narrator: And they struck him repeatedly.
Once more Pilate went out and said to them,

Speaker: “Look, I am bringing him out to you,
so that you may know that I find no guilt in him.”

Narrator: So Jesus came out,
wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak.
And he said to them,

Speaker: “Behold, the man!”

Narrator: When the chief priests and the guards saw him they cried
out,

Chorus: “Crucify him, crucify him!”

Narrator: Pilate said to them,

Speaker: “Take him yourselves and crucify him.

I find no guilt in him.”

Narrator: The Jews answered,

Chorus: “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.”

Narrator: Now when Pilate heard this statement, he became even more afraid, and went back into the praetorium and said to Jesus,

Speaker: “Where are you from?”

Narrator: Jesus did not answer him. So Pilate said to him,

Speaker: “Do you not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?”

Narrator: Jesus answered him,

Jesus: “You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from above. For this reason the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin.”

Narrator: Consequently, Pilate tried to release him; but the Jews cried out,

Chorus: “If you release him, you are not a Friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.”

Narrator: When Pilate heard these words he brought Jesus out and seated him on the judge’s bench

in the place called Stone Pavement, in Hebrew, Gabbatha.
It was preparation day for Passover, and it was about noon.
And he said to the Jews,

Speaker: “Behold, your king!”

Narrator: They cried out,

Chorus: “Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!”

Narrator: Pilate said to them,

Speaker: “Shall I crucify your king?”

Narrator: The chief priests answered,

Chorus: “We have no king but Caesar.”

Narrator: Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.
So they took Jesus, and, carrying the cross himself,
he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull,
in Hebrew, Golgotha.

There they crucified him, and with him two others,
one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross.
It read,

“Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews.”

Now many of the Jews read this inscription,
because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city;
and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek.
So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate,

Chorus: “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’
but that he said, ‘I am the King of the Jews’.”

Narrator: Pilate answered,

Speaker: “What I have written, I have written.”

Narrator: When the soldiers had crucified Jesus,
they took his clothes and divided them into four shares,
a share for each soldier.

They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless,
woven in one piece from the top down.
So they said to one another,

Chorus: “Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be,”

Narrator: in order that the passage of Scripture might be fulfilled
that says:

*They divided my garments among them,
and for my vesture they cast lots.*

This is what the soldiers did.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother
and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,
and Mary of Magdala.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved
he said to his mother,

Jesus: “Woman, behold, your son.”

Narrator: Then he said to the disciple,

Jesus: “Behold, your mother.”

Narrator: And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.
After this, aware that everything was now finished,
in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled,
Jesus said,

Jesus: “I thirst.”

Narrator: There was a vessel filled with common wine.
So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop
and put it up to his mouth.

When Jesus had taken the wine, he said,

Jesus: “It is finished.”

Narrator: And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

Here, pause for a short time.

Now since it was preparation day,
in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath,
for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one,
the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken
and that they be taken down.

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first
and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus.
But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead,
they did not break his legs,
but one soldier thrust his lance into his side,
and immediately blood and water flowed out.

An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true;
he knows that he is speaking the truth,
so that you also may come to believe.

For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled:

Not a bone of it will be broken.

And again another passage says:

They will look upon him whom they have pierced.

After this, Joseph of Arimathea,
secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews,
asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus.

And Pilate permitted it.
So he came and took his body.
Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night,
also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes
weighing about one hundred pounds.
They took the body of Jesus
and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices,
according to the Jewish burial custom.
Now in the place where he had been crucified there was a garden,
and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried.
So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day;
for the tomb was close by.

The Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

A prepared reflection may be offered. This time could also be a chance for silent meditation on the readings or even a time to allow each person present to share their own response to the readings and the feast.

Solemn Intercessions

These intercessions are directly from the Roman Missal and common to all parish celebrations on Good Friday. They can be adapted and shortened for home use.

I. For Holy Church

Reader: Let us pray, dearly beloved, for the holy Church of God, that our God and Lord be pleased to give her peace, to guard her and to unite her throughout the whole world and grant that, leading our life in tranquility and quiet, we may glorify God the Father almighty.

Leader: Almighty ever-living God,
who in Christ revealed your glory to all the nations,
watch over the works of your mercy,
that your Church, spread throughout all the world,
may persevere with steadfast faith in confessing your name.
Through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

II. For the Pope

Reader: Let us pray also for our most Holy Father Pope Francis,
that our God and Lord,
who chose him for the Order of Bishops,
may keep him safe and unharmed for the Lord's holy Church,
to govern the holy People of God.

Leader: Almighty ever-living God,
by whose decree all things are founded,
look with favor on our prayers
and in your kindness protect the Pope chosen for us,
that, under him, the Christian people,
governed by you their maker,
may grow in merit by reason of their faith.
Through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

III. For all orders and degrees of the faithful

Reader: Let us pray also for our Bishop,
for all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons of the Church
and for the whole of the faithful people.

Leader: Almighty ever-living God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is sanctified and governed,

hear our humble prayer for your ministers,
that, by the gift of your grace,
all may serve you faithfully.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

IV. For catechumens

Reader: Let us pray also for catechumens,
that our God and Lord
may open wide the ears of their inmost hearts
and unlock the gates of his mercy,
that, having received forgiveness of all their sins
through the waters of rebirth,
they, too, may be one with Christ Jesus our Lord.

Leader: Almighty ever-living God,
who make your Church ever fruitful with new offspring,
increase the faith and understanding of our catechumens,
that, reborn in the font of Baptism,
they may be added to the number of your adopted children.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

V. For the unity of Christians

Reader: Let us pray also for all our brothers and sisters
who believe in Christ,
that our God and Lord may be pleased,
as they live the truth,
to gather them together and keep them in his one Church.

Leader: Almighty ever-living God,
who gather what is scattered
and keep together what you have gathered,

look kindly on the flock of your Son,
that those whom one Baptism has consecrated
may be joined together by integrity of faith
and united in the bond of charity.
Through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

VI. For the Jewish people

Reader: Let us pray also for the Jewish people,
to whom the Lord our God spoke first,
that he may grant them to advance in love of his name
and in faithfulness to his covenant.

Leader: Almighty ever-living God,
who bestowed your promises on Abraham and his descendants,
hear graciously the prayers of your Church,
that the people you first made your own
may attain the fullness of redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

VII. For those who do not believe in Christ

Reader: Let us pray also for those who do not believe in Christ,
that, enlightened by the Holy Spirit,
they, too, may enter on the way of salvation.

Leader: Almighty ever-living God,
grant to those who do not confess Christ
that, by walking before you with a sincere heart,
they may find the truth
and that we ourselves, being constant in mutual love
and striving to understand more fully the mystery of your life,
may be made more perfect witnesses to your love in the world.

Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

VIII. For those who do not believe in God

Reader: Let us pray also for those who do not acknowledge God, that, following what is right in sincerity of heart, they may find the way to God himself.

Leader: Almighty ever-living God,
who created all people
to seek you always by desiring you
and, by finding you, come to rest,
grant, we pray,
that, despite every harmful obstacle,
all may recognize the signs of your fatherly love
and the witness of the good works
done by those who believe in you,
and so in gladness confess you,
the one true God and Father of our human race.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

IX. For those in public office

Reader: Let us pray also for those in public office, that our God and Lord may direct their minds and hearts according to his will for the true peace and freedom of all.

Leader: Almighty ever-living God,
in whose hand lies every human heart
and the rights of peoples,
look with favor, we pray,
on those who govern with authority over us,

that throughout the whole world,
the prosperity of peoples,
the assurance of peace,
and freedom of religion
may through your gift be made secure.
Through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

X. For those in tribulation

Reader: Let us pray, dearly beloved,
to God the Father almighty,
that he may cleanse the world of all errors,
banish disease, drive out hunger,
unlock prisons, loosen fetters,
granting to travelers safety, to pilgrims return,
health to the sick, and salvation to the dying.

Leader: Almighty ever-living God,
comfort of mourners, strength of all who toil,
may the prayers of those who cry out in any tribulation
come before you,
that all may rejoice,
because in their hour of need
your mercy was at hand.
Through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

Adoration of the Holy Cross

Consider adapting this element of the celebration for the home. The following may be chanted or recited while processing with a cross from room to room or by simply raising a cross above the head as a sign of exultation. Repeat three times.

Leader: Behold the wood of the Cross,
on which hung the salvation of the world.

All: Come, let us adore.

Conclusion

Leader: Let us pray.

May abundant blessing, O Lord, we pray,
descend upon your people,
who have honored the Death of your Son
in the hope of their resurrection:
may pardon come,
comfort be given,
holy faith increase,
and everlasting redemption be made secure.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Conclude in silence.

Acknowledgements

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Texts compiled by Louis Hotop, SJ

Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil is the first celebration of the Resurrection and traditionally occurs after sunset on Holy Saturday and before sunrise on Easter Sunday. The service celebrates the steady light of Christ that has entered the world. Through the lighting of candles, the exclamation of the Exultet, and meditations on God's faithful love throughout history, we are drawn into the empty tomb and made witnesses of the Risen Lord.

This service has three parts, The Solemn Beginning, The Liturgy of the Word, and the Renewal of Baptismal Promises. At many parishes the beginning of the celebration takes place outside around a fire. From the fire the Paschal Candle is lit and blessed. Depending upon the resources available in the home, it may be best to have a single candle, preferably a larger taper or pillar candle, from which smaller candles may be lit. If these resources are not available, simply invite those gathered to pray with the image of the Light of Christ, a single flame from which all other flames are lit.

The Exultet is an ancient and beautiful hymn that traces all of Salvation History. You may wish to sing or recite the Exultet or you might listen to a recorded version. It is quite beautiful, especially when sung.

For families with small children, this service can be adjusted. You might focus on the Gospel reading and lead your children through a meditation on the light of Christ and pray for that light to enter your home and fill your hearts.

Things you might need: candles, a bowl of water and a leafy branch from outside, a playlist of songs

Songs you might sing or listen to: [Exultet](#), [Give me Jesus](#), [Jesus Christ is Risen Today](#), [Death in His Grave](#), [Set a Fire](#)

The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil

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

Dear brothers and sisters,
on this most sacred night,
in which our Lord Jesus Christ
passed over from death to life,
the Church calls upon her sons and daughters,
scattered throughout the world,
to come together to watch and pray.
If we keep the memorial
of the Lord's paschal solemnity in this way,
listening to his word and celebrating his mysteries,
then we shall have the sure hope
of sharing his triumph over death
and living with him in God.

Pause for a moment of silence

All: May the light of Christ rising in glory
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Exultet

*Invite those gathered to sit with the words as a meditation for prayer
and to light their candle off the center candle during the Exultet.*

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven,
exult, let Angel ministers of God exult,
let the trumpet of salvation
sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!
Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her,
ablaze with light from her eternal King,
let all corners of the earth be glad,

knowing an end to gloom and darkness.
Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice,
arrayed with the lightning of his glory,
let this holy building shake with joy,
filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.

It is truly right and just,
with ardent love of mind and heart
and with devoted service of our voice,
to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father,
and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.

Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father,
and, pouring out his own dear Blood,
wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.

These, then, are the feasts of Passover,
in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb,
whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.

This is the night,
when once you led our forebears, Israel's children,
from slavery in Egypt
and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.

This is the night
that with a pillar of fire
banished the darkness of sin.

This is the night
that even now, throughout the world,
sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices
and from the gloom of sin,
leading them to grace
and joining them to his holy ones.

This is the night,
when Christ broke the prison-bars of death
and rose victorious from the underworld.

Our birth would have been no gain,
had we not been redeemed.
O wonder of your humble care for us!
O love, O charity beyond all telling,
to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!

O truly necessary sin of Adam,
destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!

O happy fault
that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!

O truly blessed night,
worthy alone to know the time and hour
when Christ rose from the underworld!

This is the night
of which it is written:
The night shall be as bright as day,
dazzling is the night for me,
and full of gladness.

The sanctifying power of this night
dispels wickedness, washes faults away,
restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners,
drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty.

On this, your night of grace, O holy Father,
accept this candle, a solemn offering,
the work of bees and of your servants' hands,

an evening sacrifice of praise,
this gift from your most holy Church.

But now we know the praises of this pillar,
which glowing fire ignites for God's honor,
a fire into many flames divided,
yet never dimmed by sharing of its light,
for it is fed by melting wax,
drawn out by mother bees
to build a torch so precious.

O truly blessed night,
when things of heaven are wed to those of earth,
and divine to the human.

Therefore, O Lord,
we pray you that this candle,
hallowed to the honor of your name,
may persevere undimmed,
to overcome the darkness of this night.
Receive it as a pleasing fragrance,
and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.
May this flame be found still burning
by the Morning Star:
the one Morning Star who never sets,
Christ your Son,
who, coming back from death's domain,
has shed his peaceful light on humanity,
and lives and reigns for ever and ever.
All: Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

Nine readings are provided for the vigil. In some parishes all nine readings are read, and in others the readings are reduced. Three readings are included here, but the others may be found by following [this link to the USCCB website](#).

First Reading (Exodus 14:15-15:1)

A reading from the Book of Exodus:

The LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me?
Tell the Israelites to go forward.
And you, lift up your staff and, with hand outstretched over the sea,
split the sea in two,
that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land.
But I will make the Egyptians so obstinate
that they will go in after them.
Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army,
his chariots and charioteers.
The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD,
when I receive glory through Pharaoh
and his chariots and charioteers."

The angel of God, who had been leading Israel's camp,
now moved and went around behind them.
The column of cloud also, leaving the front,
took up its place behind them,
so that it came between the camp of the Egyptians
and that of Israel.
But the cloud now became dark, and thus the night passed
without the rival camps coming any closer together
all night long.
Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea,
and the LORD swept the sea
with a strong east wind throughout the night

and so turned it into dry land.

When the water was thus divided,
the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land,
with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.

The Egyptians followed in pursuit;
all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and charioteers went after them
right into the midst of the sea.

In the night watch just before dawn
the LORD cast through the column of the fiery cloud
upon the Egyptian force a glance that threw it into a panic;
and he so clogged their chariot wheels
that they could hardly drive.

With that the Egyptians sounded the retreat before Israel,
because the LORD was fighting for them against the Egyptians.

Then the LORD told Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea,
that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians,
upon their chariots and their charioteers."

So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea,
and at dawn the sea flowed back to its normal depth.

The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward the sea,
when the LORD hurled them into its midst.

As the water flowed back,
it covered the chariots and the charioteers of Pharaoh's whole army
which had followed the Israelites into the sea.

Not a single one of them escaped.

But the Israelites had marched on dry land
through the midst of the sea,
with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel on that day
from the power of the Egyptians.

When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore
and beheld the great power that the LORD
had shown against the Egyptians,

they feared the LORD and believed in him and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:
I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant;
horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.

The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Exodus 15)

Reader: Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.
All: Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant;
horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.
My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.
He is my God, I praise him;
the God of my father, I extol him.

All: Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

The LORD is a warrior,
LORD is his name!
Pharaoh's chariots and army he hurled into the sea;
the elite of his officers were submerged in the Red Sea.

All: Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

The flood waters covered them,
they sank into the depths like a stone.
Your right hand, O LORD, magnificent in power,
your right hand, O LORD, has shattered the enemy.

All: Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

You brought in the people you redeemed
and planted them on the mountain of your inheritance
the place where you made your seat, O LORD,
the sanctuary, LORD, which your hands established.
The LORD shall reign forever and ever.

All: Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

Collect

Leader: Let us pray.

O God, who make this most sacred night radiant
with the glory of the Lord's Resurrection,
stir up in your Church a spirit of adoption,
so that, renewed in body and mind,
we may render you undivided service.
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.

All: Amen.

Second Reading (Romans 6:3-11)

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his,
we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.
We know that our old self was crucified with him,
so that our sinful body might be done away with,
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.
For a dead person has been absolved from sin.
If, then, we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live with him.
We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;
death no longer has power over him.
As to his death, he died to sin once and for all;
as to his life, he lives for God.
Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin
and living for God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his mercy endures forever.
Let the house of Israel say,
“His mercy endures forever.”

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel (Matthew 28:1-10)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew
All: Glory to you, O Lord.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning,
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.
And behold, there was a great earthquake;
for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven,
approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it.
His appearance was like lightning
and his clothing was white as snow.
The guards were shaken with fear of him
and became like dead men.
Then the angel said to the women in reply,
“Do not be afraid!
I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified.
He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said.
Come and see the place where he lay.
Then go quickly and tell his disciples,
‘He has been raised from the dead,
and he is going before you to Galilee;
there you will see him.’
Behold, I have told you.”
Then they went away quickly from the tomb,
fearful yet overjoyed,
and ran to announce this to his disciples.
And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them.
They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage.
Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid.
Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee,
and there they will see me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

A prepared reflection may be offered. This time could also be a chance for silent meditation on the readings or even a time to allow each person present to share their own response to the readings and the feast.

Blessing of the Water and Renewal of Baptismal Promises

A bowl of water may be used as a physical reminder of Baptism; those gathered may wish to bless themselves and their house after they renew their Baptismal Promises. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, sacramentals, such as water, derive from the baptismal priesthood. In the present context a lay person is able to call God's blessing upon objects and people (CCC 1669).

Invite all to extend hands in blessing over the water.

Leader: Let us pray.

Lord our God,
in your mercy be present to your people
who keep vigil on this most sacred night,
and, for us who recall the wondrous work of our creation
and the still greater work of our redemption,
graciously bless this water.
For you created water to make the fields fruitful
and to refresh and cleanse our bodies.
You also made water the instrument of your mercy:
for through water you freed your people from slavery
and quenched their thirst in the desert;
through water the Prophets proclaimed the new covenant
you were to enter upon with the human race;
and last of all,
through water, which Christ made holy in the Jordan,
you have renewed our corrupted nature
in the bath of regeneration.
Therefore, may this water be for us

a memorial of the Baptism we have received,
and grant that we may share
in the gladness of our brothers and sisters,
who at Easter have received their Baptism.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery
we have been buried with Christ in Baptism,
so that we may walk with him in newness of life.
And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded,
let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism,
by which we once renounced Satan and his works
and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church.
And so I ask you:

Do you renounce sin,
so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you renounce the lure of evil,
so that sin may have no mastery over you?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you renounce Satan,
the author and prince of sin?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered death and was buried,
rose again from the dead
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you 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?

All: I do.

Leader: And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit
and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins,
keep us by his grace,
in Christ Jesus our Lord,
for eternal life.

All: Amen.

All bless themselves with the water. Bless the house or room with the remaining water.

Our Father

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

All: 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:

Leader: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, sustained by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope, the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sign of Peace

Depending on the setting, the sign of peace may be omitted. In a circumstance where physical contact is unwise, a simple and reverent bow may be more appropriate.

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always

All: And with your spirit.

Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

Conclusion

Leader: May Almighty God bless us through today's Easter Solemnity and, in his compassion, defend us from every assault of sin.

All: Amen.

Leader: And may he, who restores us to eternal life in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten, endow us with the prize of immortality.

All: Amen.

Leader: Now that the days of the Lord's Passion
have drawn to a close,
may we who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast
come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit,
to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy.
All: Amen.

Leader: And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit,
come down on us
and remain with us for ever.
All: Amen.

Leader: Go in peace, alleluia, alleluia.
All: Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

Acknowledgements

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Easter Sunday

Christ is Risen! Truly, He is Risen! Alleluia!

Easter Sunday proclaims Christ's Resurrection. It is a joyful celebration of God's enduring love, which has conquered sin and death. Christ became a human being, suffered, died, and rose from the dead. This is the Paschal Mystery and it is what we celebrate today. The message that "Christ is risen" is a message of hope and peace, and so we pray this day for an increase of hope and peace in our world.

As in the other liturgies for the home, this service can be adapted to suit your needs. For homes with small children, you may wish to focus on the Gospel reading and have your children prepare some crafts or drawings. Perhaps they could offer these gifts to other members of the family or place them on the altar. Dyed Easter eggs are also a treat that might interest young and old alike!

For this joyful celebration you may wish to include bells and instruments, especially during the Gloria and the Alleluia. There is a space in the liturgy for feeling so exuberant that you feel a little silly. Embrace it. Ring those bells! Christ is Risen!

Materials you might need: candles, flowers for decoration, crafts made by children, a playlist of music

Music you might sing or listen to: [Jesus Christ is Risen Today](#), [Alleluia Sing to Jesus](#), [You are Love and Love Alone](#), [New Every Morning](#)

Entrance Antiphon

I have risen, and I am with you still. alleluia.

You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia.

Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

Introductory Rites

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

All: Amen.

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And with your Spirit.

Leader: This day we are gathered to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. He has conquered death and brought light into the world. Truly he is risen! We turn to him now in thanksgiving and praise.

Gloria

All: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect

Leader: Let us pray.

O God, who on this day,
through your Only Begotten Son,
have conquered death
and unlocked for us the path to eternity,
grant, we pray, that we who keep
the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection
may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit,
rise up in the light of life.
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.
All: Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading (Acts 10:34, 37-43)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

Peter proceeded to speak and said:
"You know what has happened all over Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism
that John preached,
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth
with the Holy Spirit and power.
He went about doing good
and healing all those oppressed by the devil,
for God was with him.
We are witnesses of all that he did
both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.
They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.
This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible,

not to all the people, but to us,
the witnesses chosen by God in advance,
who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.
He commissioned us to preach to the people
and testify that he is the one appointed by God
as judge of the living and the dead.
To him all the prophets bear witness,
that everyone who believes in him
will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 118)

Reader: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.
All: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his mercy endures forever.
Let the house of Israel say,
"His mercy endures forever."

All: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

"The right hand of the LORD has struck with power;
the right hand of the LORD is exalted.
I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD."

All: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.

All: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 5:6-8)

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

Brothers and sisters:
Do you not know that a little yeast leavens all the dough?
Clear out the old yeast,
so that you may become a fresh batch of dough,
inasmuch as you are unleavened.
For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed.
Therefore, let us celebrate the feast,
not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness,
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed;
let us then feast with joy in the Lord.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel (John 20:1-9)

A reading of the Holy Gospel according to John

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

On the first day of the week,
Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning,
while it was still dark,
and saw the stone removed from the tomb.
So she ran and went to Simon Peter
and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them,
“They have taken the Lord from the tomb,
and we don’t know where they put him.”
So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb.
They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter
and arrived at the tomb first;
he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.
When Simon Peter arrived after him,
he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there,
and the cloth that had covered his head,
not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.
Then the other disciple also went in,
the one who had arrived at the tomb first,
and he saw and believed.
For they did not yet understand the Scripture
that he had to rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

A prepared reflection may be offered. This time could also be a chance for silent meditation on the readings or even a time to allow each person present to share their own response to the readings and the feast.

Prayers of the Faithful

These or similar petitions may be offered.

Leader: Let us place our needs and the needs of the world before God our Father, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection and triumph over death and sin.

Reader: We pray for all who take part in the ministries of the Church. For all ministers of the faith, especially Pope Francis, for all leaders, and families, teachers, and all who dedicate themselves to service and prayer. May the entire family of God bear witness to the joy of the Resurrection.

We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for an end to disease, especially the current virus that is plaguing our world. May the hope of the Resurrection flood the earth, and may all who are tirelessly working to develop a remedy be blessed in their efforts.

We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for the poor, the forgotten, the stranger, the addict, all who have no one to pray for them, the imprisoned, the lonely, the abandoned, and all who are suffering in any way. May the light of the Resurrection touch their hearts and may we be of service to those in most need.

We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for our families. We pray for mothers and fathers and children, for grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, for the families we were born into, and the families we have formed along the way. May those we hold most dear be a source of joy and strength

in these difficult times, and may all of us come to see with greater clarity the one human family of which we are all a part.

We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for the sick, for the dying, and for all who will die this day. May the Lord, the Good Shepherd, grant them comfort, peace, and life eternal.

We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Consider inviting those present to offer their own petitions either in silence or aloud.

Leader: Ever-living God, you have shown us the path of life and, through the resurrection of your Son from the dead, you have granted us the gift of salvation. In joy that is beyond words, we offer you our prayers, and we call down your blessing upon those gathered here and upon the whole world. We ask this through the risen Christ, our Lord, who lives and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Our Father

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

All: 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:

Leader: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, sustained by the help of your mercy, we may

be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope, the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sign of Peace

Depending on the setting, the sign of peace may be omitted. In a circumstance where physical contact is unwise, a simple and reverent bow may be more appropriate.

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always

All: And with your spirit.

Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

Conclusion

Leader: May Almighty God bless us through today's Easter Solemnity and, in his compassion, defend us from every assault of sin.

All: Amen.

Leader: And may he, who restores us to eternal life in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten, endow us with the prize of immortality.

All: Amen.

Leader: Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close, may we who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit, to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy.

All: Amen.

Leader: And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit,
come down on us
and remain with us for ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: Go in peace, alleluia, alleluia.

All: Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

Acknowledgements

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