

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, MUMBLES

HOME PRAYER SERVICE FOR SUNDAYS

Fourth Sunday of Eastertide, 25 April 2021

This home prayer service can be used by a single person (sole participant) or by family members at home. Where there are two or more persons, a family member leads the prayer service (including reading the reflection). Where possible, the participant(s) should have the prayer service around a table with a lighted candle, a crucifix and a Bible (or missal).

ENTRANCE SONG (OR ANTIPHON)

An opening song may be sung or the following antiphon is recited. All stand.

**The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
alleluia.**

We begin with the sign of the Cross:

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of
the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

A leader or the sole participant says:

**O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.**

Response: Blessed be God for ever.

INTRODUCTION

Where there are two or more persons in the house, the leader introduces the celebration in these or similar words:

**Christ, the Good Shepherd, went before us through
suffering and death, so that we could follow in
safety and be with him in his heavenly kingdom.**

PENITENTIAL ACT

The sole participant or leader introduces the penitential act saying:

**Let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare
ourselves for this celebration.**

A brief pause for silence follows.

**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.**

*The sole participant or the leader says:
May almighty God have mercy on us,*

**forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.**

Response: Amen.

COLLECT

The sole participant or leader says the Collect Prayer:

**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.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.**

Response: Amen.

READINGS

After each reading a brief silence is observed. It is desirable to take all the readings with the responsorial psalm, all of which are available in the Sunday Missal. Where all readings of the Sunday cannot be taken, the Gospel (printed below) is read. The one who reads the Gospel, if not a priest or deacon, does not say "The Lord be with you" but begins with "A reading from the holy Gospel according to...".

First Reading:	Acts 4:8-12
Responsorial Psalm:	Psalm 117(118)
Second Reading:	1 John 3:1-2
Gospel Acclamation:	Jn 10:1-14
Gospel:	John 10:11-18

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd:
the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for
his sheep.

The hired man, since he is not the shepherd
and the sheep do not belong to him,
abandons the sheep and runs away
as soon as he sees a wolf coming,
and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;
this is because he is only a hired man
and has no concern for the sheep.

'I am the good shepherd;
I know my own
and my own know me,
just as the Father knows me
and I know the Father;
and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have
that are not of this fold,
and these I have to lead as well.
They too will listen to my voice,
and there will be only one flock,
and one shepherd.
'The Father loves me,
because I lay down my life
in order to take it up again.
No one takes it from me;
I lay it down of my own free will,
and as it is in my power to lay it down,
so it is in my power to take it up again;
and this is the command I have been given by my
Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION

The sole participant or leader reads a homily prepared by the priest; or may give a short reflection on the scripture readings of the day. The reflection is followed by a period of silence.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The creed is said:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I 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. Amen.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

The General Intercessions are said:

Leader: Jesus is that good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. Let us pray to the Father, remembering the selfless love of his beloved Son.

Reader: Let us pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, that he may continue to be a shepherd who guides us into the ways of righteousness. Lord, in your mercy
Response: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray for the unity of all Christians, that there may only be one flock and one shepherd. Lord, in your mercy
Response: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Let us pray for those who live in loneliness, that they may find friendship and happiness in the community of the Church. Lord, in your mercy
Response: Hear our prayer

Reader: Let us pray that those who are sick with the coronavirus may regain their health through quality medical care and may those who have died from the virus find eternal rest with God. Lord, in your mercy
Response: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray for our sick and housebound parishioners, that they may be strengthened through the power of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy
Response: Hear our prayer.

Reader: In thanksgiving to the Lord, we pray for parishioners who mark their birthdays this week: Elias Jones, Mary Hughes. May the Lord bless and keep them. Lord, in your mercy
Response: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray to our Father in the words Our Saviour taught us: **Our Father, who art in heaven...**

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

After a brief period of silence, the Prayer of Spiritual Communion is said by all.

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy 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.

A song of thanksgiving may be sung after the prayer of spiritual communion.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

The sole participant or leader says the concluding prayer:

May your healing work, O Lord, free us, we pray, from doing evil and lead us to what is right. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The sole participant or leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the Sign of the Cross while saying the following:

May almighty God bless us, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.