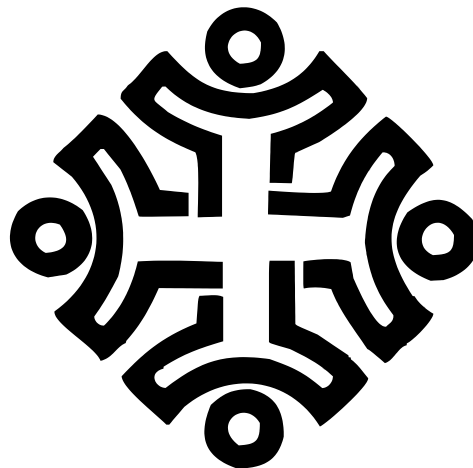


Sunday Celebration of Word
and Communion – Sample
and Guidelines



Artwork by Dorothy Woodward rsj

Sunday Celebration
of
Word & Communion



Catholic Parish of

.....

Sunday Celebration of Word & Communion

Outline of the Rite

INTRODUCTORY RITES

- Gathering of the Community
- Introductory Remarks
- Gathering Song
- Sign of the Cross
- Liturgical Greeting
- Opening Rite (***Litany in Praise of God's Mercy***)
- Glory to God
- Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

- Procession of the Word of God (*to suitable music*)
- First Reading
- Psalm
- Second Reading
- Gospel Acclamation ⇔ GOSPEL
- Reflection (Homily)
- Profession of Faith
- General Intercessions

- Proclamation of Praise

COMMUNION RITE

- Lord's Prayer
- Sign of Peace
- Invitation to Communion
- Communion
- Prayer after Communion

CONCLUDING RITE

- Announcements
- Blessing
- Dismissal

Sunday Celebration of Word & Communion

The Liturgy of Word & Communion is led by a TEAM of people drawn from the Assembly. There will be: a 'Leader' (who is not the Presider)

a Presider

a Reflectionist

Ministers of the Word

Ministers of Communion (Bread only)

Ministers of Music

with the Assembly ...

NOTE: If the community is very small, the Leader/Presider/Reflectionist may be the same person. The Lectionary is waiting on a table just inside the entrance of the Church. One of the Readers will process the Scriptures to the Ambo a bit later just before the Liturgy of the Word begins (see Liturgy of the Word). This places the emphasis on the Word of God which is the focus of this Liturgy.

Introductory Rites

Welcome

The Leader begins as usual with a welcome and brief introduction to today's liturgy. The welcome will include something of the following:

Introduction:

Leader:

*We gather on the Lord's Day (the Sunday ofSeason ...)
to celebrate God's love and care for us.*

Without our priest we are unable to celebrate the Eucharist. Nevertheless, we join together to be nourished by God's Word and to share Communion from the Eucharist which was celebrated (eg: in our community last Saturday/Sunday)

We quieten our hearts now as we prepare for what we are about to do ... PAUSE a few seconds ...

*Let us STAND and raise our hearts and voices as we sing:
... (Gathering Song) ... See Note below.*

Gathering Song: *(a song of praise: the first act of worship of the gathered community)*

NOTE: There is no need of a formal procession of the ministers – they simply come forward from the assembly when it is time for them to offer their ministry. The PROCESSION today is focused on the entrance of the WORD which happens a little later in this particular Liturgy. The CROSS may be placed already in its stand and (during Eastertide) the Paschal candle is lit. The song needs to be chosen carefully so that the text does not speak of the action of Eucharist because today's liturgy is NOT a Mass.

After the song, the Presider steps out from his / her place in the Assembly. S/he does not use the ordained Presider's chair which is left empty as a symbol of the incompleteness of the community today.

Sign of the Cross & Liturgical Greeting

Presider: We begin our celebration in the name of the Father,
and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

*After making the Sign of the Cross, the Presider says **one** of the following ritual greetings:*

A)

Presider: Grace and peace to you from God our Father
and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God forever.

All: *Blessed be God forever!*

B)

Presider: Sisters and brothers,
God invites us to hear the Word
and to share in the body of Christ.
Let us bless God's goodness.
Blessed be God forever.

All: *Blessed be God forever!*

C)

Presider: May the God whom we glorify with one heart and voice
enable us, through the Spirit,
to live in harmony as followers of Christ Jesus.
Blessed be God forever.

All: *Blessed be God forever!*

D)

Presider: Christ be with us, Christ within us,
Christ behind us, Christ before us,
Christ beside us, now and always.
Blessed be God forever.

All: *Blessed be God forever!*

Litany in Praise of God's Mercy

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

The Leader now reads one of the options for the Litany or Penitential Act from the Sunday Mass Book OR the following may be said:

Leader: 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 bring together the scattered flock of God.
Lord have mercy.

All: *Lord have mercy.*

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

All: *Amen.*

Presider: Let us sing in praise of God's glory:

All sing: *Glory to God ...*

Opening Prayer:

Presider: Let us pray ... *PAUSE FOR SILENT PRAYER*
(Opening Prayer from the Sunday Mass – see the Roman Missal)

NOTE: It is helpful to paste the Opening Prayer (Collect) into the space below so as not to have to handle more than one folder/book at a time.

The Opening Prayer always ends with the following:

We ask this prayer through 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.*

- *MUSICIANS, WAIT BEFORE STARTING THE SONG, UNTIL THE PRESIDER HAS 'CUED' YOU IN WITH THE FOLLOWING INVITATION.*

Presider: Let us remain standing
to welcome the Word of God into our midst.

A suitable song may now be sung as the Lectionary is processed to the Ambo from the door of the Church. For example:

- **Sing Praises to the Lord** (*Christopher Walker – AOV1*) but NOT IN LENT
- **Praise to You, O Christ** (*Bernadette Farrell – AOV1*)
- **Christ, Be Our Light** (*Bernadette Farrell – AOV2*)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lectionary is carried to the ambo in a solemn procession while the assembly sings an appropriate song/refrain. On reaching the ambo, the Reader holds up the book for all to see and then places it (closed) on the lectern.

- *READERS, WAIT BEFORE STARTING TO READ UNTIL THE PRESIDER HAS 'CUED' YOU IN WITH THESE WORDS:*

Presider: May the Word of God always be heard in this place,
as it unfolds the mystery of Christ before us ...

The assembly is now seated to hear the Word of God.

Reader 1: *1st Reading of the Sunday as in the Lectionary*

Psalm: *It is ideal to sing the Psalm (or even just the Antiphon with spoken verses)*

Reader 2: *2nd Reading of the Sunday as in the Lectionary*

Gospel Acclamation: *Omitted if not sung (the assembly stands as usual)*

Reflectionist: *GOSPEL of the Sunday as in the Lectionary*

*REFLECTION on the Scriptures – see Appendix ...
(the assembly is seated for the Reflection)*

Profession of Faith

Presider: In union with the whole Church, let us stand to profess our faith:

All: I believe ...

General Intercessions

Presider: 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 ...
Then the Presider finishes by saying:*

Presider: 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

It is ideal for the Assembly to SING the acclamation each time (as 'cued' by the Presider). Some examples of Acclamations would be the Refrain only of any of the following songs:

- **Let All the Peoples** (Christopher Willcock – AOV2)
- **Glory and Praise to our God** (Dan Schutte – AOV1)
- **All the Earth** (Lucien Deiss – AOV1)
- **All the Ends of the Earth** (Bob Dufford – AOV1)
- **All you Works of God** (Marty Haugen – AOV1)
- **Sing to the Lord** (Owen Alstott – AOV1)
- **Let Heaven Rejoice** (Bob Dufford – AOV1)

The Presider leads the Proclamation of Praise from an appropriate place OTHER THAN the altar or the ambo.

Proclamation of Praise

(Samples of these beautiful Proclamations of Praise may be found on LabOra (Liturgy Brisbane).

There are other Samples in "Sunday Celebrations of the Word and Hours", Canadian Conference of

Catholic Bishops, 1995. The Presider prays the Prayer aloud interspersed with the singing of ONE of the above Refrains by the assembly).

COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer *(the assembly remains standing)*

The Presider introduces the Lord's Prayer in ONE of the following ways:

- A) Let us pray with confidence to the Father
in the words our Saviour gave us: ***Our Father ...***
- B) Jesus taught us to call God our Father,
and so we have the courage to say: ***Our Father ...***
- C) With trust in the God of all goodness,
we pray as Jesus taught us, saying: ***Our Father ...***

"Deliver us, Lord ..." is not said.

The Presider 'cues' us in with the doxology as follows: "For the kingdom ..."

Sign of Peace

Introduced in ONE of the following ways, or in similar words:

- A) Let us seal our prayer with a sign of unity and reconciliation
as we offer one another a sign of peace.
- B) In the love of Christ,
let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Invitation to Communion *(the assembly are still standing)*

The Communion Ministers and the Presider move to the altar at the end of the Sign of Peace. The Ministers stand together either behind or in front of the altar.

Pyxes (for those who are sick) have been filled before the Liturgy began and have already been placed in the tabernacle or on the small table with the ciborium.

The Communion Minister brings only the ciborium from the tabernacle (or from the small table near the altar) and places it on the altar. S/he places 2 plates/bowls either side of the ciborium. Then, the Presider, standing either beside or in front of the altar, takes a host, and raises it slightly over the ciborium saying:

Presider: This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.

All: *Lord, I am not worthy to enter under your roof
but only say the word and I shall be healed.*

Communion *(the assembly kneels or sits as usual)*

After this prayer, the Presider gives the host to the 1st Communion Minister, then gives a host to the other Communion Minister(s), and then takes a host him/herself. All the Ministers wait to consume their hosts at the same time as the Presider.

The Presider simply takes a step back while the Communion Minister (Bread 1) moves in to fill the plates/bowls.

Once the bowls are filled, the Communion Ministers move out to distribute the hosts to the assembly while the Presider takes the empty ciborium back to the small table and returns with the pyxes which s/he places on the altar. The Presider then sits down in his/her place.

The assembly sings as they move in procession to receive communion.
A period of silence is observed after Communion.

Closing Prayer

Presider: Let us pray ... *PAUSE for silent prayer (the assembly remain seated)*

God of blessings,
in this Liturgy you have strengthened our hearts.
Inspire us to go forward from today,
with renewed energy for the Gospel,
to serve you in our brothers and sisters.
Grant this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: *Amen.*

Announcements *Announcements are never made from the Ambo.*

CONCLUDING RITE

Sending forth of Communion Ministers

After the announcements are made, the Presider may call the Communion Ministers to come forward, sending them from this assembly to take communion to any of the members who are sick, saying:

..... (and),
take the body of the Lord to our sick brothers and sisters.
Read the Scriptures with them, pray with them,
and give them our best wishes.

Blessing

Presider: Let us stand and ask for God's blessing ...

May the God of hope fill us with every joy in believing. ***Amen.***
May the peace of Christ abound in our hearts. ***Amen.***
May the Holy Spirit enrich us with gifts for service. ***Amen.***
And may almighty God bless us, in the name of the Father + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

Presider: Nourished by God's Word,
Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: ***Thanks be to God.***

Final Song: *The Presider waits and sings most of the Final Song with the assembly. Then, s/he leaves, following the Cross to the front door of the worship space so that s/he can be present to the assembly as they leave ...*

The Final Song may be a song that supports the Scriptures of the Day or the Liturgical Season during which this liturgy is celebrated.

APPENDIX

The following link contains helpful information about *Lay Leadership of the Assembly's Prayer* for the times when it is not possible for the community to celebrate Eucharist.

<https://liturgybrisbane.net.au/doctypes/lay-leaders-of-liturgy/>

The following link is for the card used by the Leader to lead such liturgies. Cards are available for purchase through Liturgy Brisbane.

<http://liturgybrisbane.net.au/store/publications/liturgical-rites/sunday-celebration-of-the-word-and-communion.html>

REFLECTIONS ON THE SUNDAY SCRIPTURES

Sunday Reflections for Cycles A, B and C may be found through these links:

http://www.mercyworld.org/news_centre/view_article.cfm?id=1358 (Sr Veronica Lawson rsm)

<http://johnmckinnon.org> (Fr John McKinnon)

<http://www.theemmauseries.com/reflections.html> (Fr John Thornhill sm)

REFLECTIONS ON THE DAILY SCRIPTURES

Weekday Reflections for Cycles I and II may be found through these links:

<http://sacredspace.ie> (Open 'More Sacred Space' and navigate to 'Living Space') (Irish Jesuits)

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/reflections/index.cfm>

(Daily Reflections Videos on Youtube – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

<http://goodnews.ie/calendar.php> (Dominican Fathers, Ireland)

<http://www.pray.com.au/daily-prayer/> (Madonna Online Magazine)

NOTE: If this Liturgy is held on a Weekday, the Gloria and the Creed are omitted. The Readings will be taken from Cycle I or II for Weekdays.

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