



## Celebrating a Liturgy of the Word with Family 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Easter, Mother's Day

Preparation – allow some time to prepare

- Read through the outline beforehand
- Arrange seating and set a prayer focus in the centre. You need a plate of stones nearby, one for every person in the family. See the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.
- Use you in-house musician if you have one. The psalm can be sung to the tune of Amazing Grace. Mo Maria at the end, a video at the start and after the Gospel.
- Share the reader role. Encourage your readers to practice beforehand and pause for commas and full-stops. Don't correct children as they are reading or during the Liturgy.

**READER:** Let's Sing. **SONG:** I am the Way ©Paul McIntyre <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-MMwyqgFos>

**SIGN OF THE CROSS:** In name of the Father... **OR Ki te ingoa...** *Extend a warm welcome anyone else with you.* Today is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter. Jesus says, don't let your hearts be troubled, but instead, trust me – I am the Way. It is also mother's Day. Mothers are always giving; they give their time, they give food, they give hugs, they give words of direction and understanding. Let's take a moment now to say 'thank-you' to your mother, and to all Mum's. *(A time of saying thank you.)*

**Reader:** We pray now, remembering God's mercy pours down on us like the rain that renews the earth.

Do not let your hearts be troubled; Lord have mercy	<b>(All)</b> Lord have mercy
Believe in God, believe also in me; Christ have mercy	<b>(All)</b> Christ have mercy
I go to prepare a place for you; Lord have mercy	<b>(All)</b> Lord have mercy

**READER:** Jesus said, 'I am The Way'. As we pray this litany together, we can think about what Jesus meant by those words.

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**READER:** The Way gave bread to the hungry

**READER:** The Way touched the unclean leper.

**READER:** The Way healed a man born blind.

**READER:** The Way forgave a woman condemned.

**READER:** The Way ate in the houses of sinners.

**READER:** The Way washed the feet of his friends.

**READER:** The Way preached a Gospel of love.

**READER:** The Way said, 'do not be troubled.'

**READER:** The Way said, 'I will take you to myself.'

**READER:** The Way said, 'I am in the Father, the Father is in me.'

*Pause for a time to reflect on these words – notice which words touch you more strongly.*

**COLLECT:** Let's bring to our minds all we want to pray for. *(Allow silence, 1 minute)*

Loving God, may Jesus' life death and resurrection be alive in us, so that our lives become full of love just as Jesus' life was. We pray this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. **All: Amen.**

**First Reading: Acts 6:1-7 (International Children's Bible)**

**READER 1:** A reading from the book of Acts.

More and more people were becoming followers of Jesus. But during this same time, the Greek-speaking followers had an argument with the other Jewish followers. The Greek-speaking Jews said that their widows were not getting their share of the food that was given out every day.

**READER 2:** The 12 apostles called the whole group of followers together. They said, "It is not right for us to stop our work of teaching God's word in order to serve tables.

**READER 1:** So, brothers, choose seven of your own men. They must be men who are good. They must be full of wisdom and full of the Spirit. We will put them in charge of this work. Then we can use all our time to pray and to teach the word of God."

**READER 2:** The whole group liked the idea. So they chose these seven men: Stephen (a man with great faith and full of the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas (a man from Antioch who had become a Jew).

**READER 1:** Then they put these men before the apostles. The apostles prayed and laid their hands on the men.

**READER 2:** The word of God was reaching more and more people. The group of followers in Jerusalem became larger and larger. A great number of the Jewish priests believed and obeyed.

**READER 1:** The Word of the Lord

**All:** Thanks be to God.

*Follow the reading with silence.*

**READER 1:** Can we describe in our own words, the situation that happened in that reading?

**PSALM: Psalm 33:1-2,4-5,18-19 (These words can be sung to the tune, Amazing Grace)**

**READER:** We can sing the Psalm together

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Ring out your-- joy to God just people,<br>For praise is-- right for-- you<br>Give thanks to-- God upon the harp<br>Sing praise with a ten stringed lute. | 2. The Word of-- God is true and right,<br>And all God's-- works are-- trusted.<br>For how the-- Lord loves justice and right,<br>And fills the-- earth with love. |
| 3. The Lord looks-- on those who fear God,<br>To rescue-- them from dy—ing, Keep them a—live in famine,  |  |

**1 Peter 2:20-15 International Children's Bible. Have a pile of stones or pebbles nearby.**

**READER:** A reading from the book of 1 Peter

The Lord Jesus is the 'stone' that lives. The people of the world did not want this stone. But he was the stone God chose. To God he was worth much. So come to him.

**Person A: Take the largest stone, pass it around, then put it on the table.**

**READER:** You also are like living stones. Let yourselves be used to build a spiritual temple – to be holy priests who offer spiritual sacrifices to God. He will accept those sacrifices through Jesus Christ.

**Person A: Give everyone a stone to hold.**

**READER:** The Scripture says: 'I will put a stone in the ground in Jerusalem. Everything will be built on this important and precious rock. Anyone who trusts in him will never be disappointed.' (Isaiah 28:16).

**Person A: Lift up the largest stone, show it to everyone, then put it down again on the table.**

**READER:** This stone is worth much to you who believe. But to the people who do not believe, he is 'the stone that the builders did not want. It has become the cornerstone.' (Psalm 118:22)

**Person A: Gently take everyone's stone and arrange on the table so that the largest stone is in the corner of 2 intersecting lines.**

**READER:** To people who do not believe, he is 'a stone that causes people to stumble. It is a rock that makes them fall.' (Isaiah 8:14) They stumble because they do not obey what God says. This is what God planned to happen to them.

But you are chosen people. You are the King's priests. You are a holy nation. You are a nation that belongs to God alone. God chose you to tell about the wonderful things he has done. He called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

**Person A: Place a candle (or several candles) in the midst of the stones.**

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

**SHARING** - a silence follows the reading. Then discuss; this question might help  
What does this reading make me think about? (*No answer is wrong.*)

**ALL: Sing the Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia, Alleluia give thanks to the risen Lord,*

*Alleluia, Alleluia give praise to his name.*

*Spread the good news over all the earth, Jesus has died and is risen. Alleluia ...*

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Reading John 14:1-12 International Children's Bible

**READER 1:** The Gospel of the Lord

**ALL:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

**READER 1:** Jesus said, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. And trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house. I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you. After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back. Then I will take you to be with me so that you may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.

**READER 2:** Thomas said to Jesus, "Lord, we don't know where you are going. So how can we know the way?"

**READER 1:** Jesus answered, "I am the way. And I am the truth and the life. The only way to the Father is through me. If you really knew me, then you would know my Father, too. But now you do know him, and you have seen him."

**READER 2:** Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father. That is all we need."

**READER 1:** Jesus answered, "I have been with you a long time now. Do you still not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father. So why do you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?"

**READER 2:** The words I say to you don't come from me. The Father lives in me, and he is doing his own work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or believe because of the miracles I have done.

**READER 1:** I tell you the truth. He who believes in me will do the same things that I do. He will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father.

**READER 2:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL:** Thanks be to God.

Follow the reading with 1 minute of silence.

**READER 1:** Discuss: What important message do I hear in this Gospel today? (4-5 minutes)

Sing along with this video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgmgIkTNOmc>

**READER 2:** Thank you for sharing your thoughts. Let's say the Apostle's Creed together.

**ALL:** 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. **All Amen.**

**Prayer of the Faithful:** we have been told today, that we are the King's priests. It is the job of the King's priests to pray for the whole world. So let's pray.

**Reader: For the Church** – that Jesus' words, 'I am in the Father and the Father is in me,' helps us think about the mystery that God lives in each of us.

**Silence:** **Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia. Let us rejoice!

**For leaders of nations** – that they will be people of goodness, and lead their countries in ways that are good.

**Silence:** **Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia. Let us rejoice!

**For people who are finding lockdown hard** – that they will understand their actions are important and they are helping build a community that is good and safe for everyone.

**Silence:** **Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia. Let us rejoice!

**For countries with large populations of very poor people** – that different countries leaders will protect the poor and vulnerable people, especially where people don't have good health services.

**Silence:** **Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia. Let us rejoice!

**For people who are depressed or anxious** – that they will learn, not to let their hearts be troubled, but trust in the goodness and providence of God.

**Silence:** **Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia. Let us rejoice!

**For all who grieve the death of someone they love** – that grief will be changed into acceptance, hope and fullness of life.

**Silence:** **Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia. Let us rejoice!

**For mothers** - that as they guide their children to value what is good, mothers will be blessed with a rich sense of participation in the meaning and fullness of life.

**Silence:**

**Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen!

**All:** Alleluia. Let us rejoice!

**READER:** And now let us pray together as Jesus taught us: Choose Māori or English  
*Māori at this link <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/liturgy/mass-readings-in-te-reo/> Words are on the screen.*

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

#### **COLLECTION:**

**READER:** Something that Christian people do is support people who need help. There are lots of people who need help. Can we could talk about who needs help and what we could do to help them.

#### **Some ideas to think about**

- **Your Parish:** your parish and presbytery still have operating costs.
- **The Caring Foundation Covid-19 appeal** to donate, click [here](#)
- **Catholic Social Services Auckland** to donate, click [here](#)
- **The Catholic aid agency Caritas** to support their work, click [here](#)
- **St Vincent de Paul** contact your parish or click [here](#)
- **Pacific Islands cyclone Harold**

**READER:** Thank you for participating in today's liturgy of the word. Do not let your hearts be troubled – do not be afraid. Trust in God. Go in peace now to love Jesus and do many good things.

**ALL:** Thanks be to God

**READER:** *Let's sing.*

**SONG:** Mo Maria <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FyzEDDRbZIs>

**OR:** I am the Resurrection by John Michael Talbot. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJtZaUHn\\_Mo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJtZaUHn_Mo)

#### **Songs for Mother's Day**

Ave Maria (by Michal Lorenc) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66zUY8UZn4M>

Ave Maria (by Bach – Gounod) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyGOQoXyWTA>

Ave Maria (by Schubert) sung by Pavarotti <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpYGgtrMTYs>

A Mother's Love <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3V4PM1oL7Xs>

Happy mother's Day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQ-h6WCVm6Q&list=RDSC2l5skGzYU&index=3>

My Mum is a superstar <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bntv78HY7z4&list=RDSC2l5skGzYU&index=2>