national bulletin on Liturgy
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Editorial commentary in the bulletin is the responsibility of the editor.

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Echoes of Liturgy
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Illustration page 154 by Nora Brown.
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If you've noticed that the inside of this issue looks rather different, you're right! "Echoes of Liturgy" are model prayer celebrations for occasions when a full celebration is not possible. They are "echoes" of liturgy because those who were invited to prepare them were asked to do so using the bits and patterns of our official worship. In this way our prayer outside liturgy will truly be in harmony with it.

The models presented address parish leadership team meetings, parish council meetings, liturgy committee meetings, finance council meetings, sacrament preparation team meetings, school staff and PTA meetings, ministry training sessions/workshops/rehearsals, bible-study/faith-sharing group gatherings, and choir practices. Readers will notice that they are quite adaptable for other groups and situations.

The celebrations are presented according to the liturgical seasons: Ordinary Time, Advent, Lent and Easter. There is also a Christmas season prayer celebration for the parish leadership team, who would probably be the only group that meets during that time.

The celebrations vary in the degree of their "liturgical-ness". Some are recognizable liturgies of the word; some are highly abbreviated celebrations of the hours; some are simply centred on the Sunday readings. All are communal prayer, not simply inspiration or meditation.

Most of the contributors sent pastoral notes to accompany the outlines and I have condensed them as follows:

- The outlines presented are for the use of the leader of prayer only; they are not meant to be duplicated and distributed. Generally speaking, all responses are patterned and well known (or easily committed to memory), so paper worship aids should not be needed by the participants.
- Make use of a variety of ministries as recommended.
- Make sure those who will be exercising a ministry know in advance and have the materials needed to prepare.
- Have copies of Catholic Book of Worship III—enough for everyone present—available.
- Groups without a skilled leader of song should choose very familiar songs. No birthday or New Year's Eve party goes without the appropriate song for lack of a "qualified" singer; neither should a Christian prayer celebration.
- Use the "Environment" suggestions to whatever extent is possible under your particular circumstances.
- Read the "Liturgical Notes" in Sunday Celebration of the Word and Hours and "Notes on the Formation of Leaders of Prayer" in Canadian Studies in Liturgy #6.

As has been our custom for a year now, music suggestions for the upcoming liturgical season are offered here in Bulletin #170. Also especially for musicians, Kenneth Pearce has provided some guidance on the use of Marian hymns in celebrations of the eucharist.

Be sure to take a look at the book reviews in this issue; there is a rich feast offered there.

In addition, if you missed the note about the implementation of the Institutio Generalis Missalis Romani on the CCCB website, be sure to read the hard copy located at the end of this issue of the Bulletin. 

1 Presented only in the Ordinary Time section, this outline includes seasonal adaptations for some prayers, readings and hymns.
2 Presented only in the Ordinary Time section, this outline includes seasonal adaptations for some prayers and readings.
Ordinary Time Prayer for Parish Council Meetings

prepared by Cornelius O'Mahony

Environment
Ideally, the prayer takes place in a space that allows for movement and in an unhurried and reflective manner. A suitable candle is lit and the lectionary is on a stand or small table. When all are assembled and after a period of silence the leader invites all to stand and pray.

Ministers
leader of prayer, song leader, readers: one for the word of God, one for the intentions of the intercessions

Sign of the Cross
All stand.
Leader: In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

Call to Prayer
Leader: With one heart and one mind
let us bless the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life.
All: Bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Hymn
Choose one of:
CBW III #447 “A Living Faith”
CBW III #532 “For the Fruit of All Creation”
or any familiar hymn of praise

To adapt for the seasons:
Advent: CBW III #310 “O Come, Divine Messiah!” or any familiar Advent hymn
Lent: CBW III #435 “Lift High the Cross”
Easter: CBW III #394 “The Light of Christ” or any familiar Easter hymn

Reading
Choose one of
2 Timothy 2.8–12 (Sunday Lectionary p. 765)
Ephesians 4.1–6 (Sunday Lectionary p. 615)
All sit for the reading and reflection.

To adapt for the seasons:
Advent: Isaiah 11.1–10 or use Sunday Lectionary, p. 9.
Lent: Jeremiah 31.31–34 or use Sunday Lectionary, p. 178.

Reflection  A period of silence is observed.
Ordinary Time Prayer for Parish Council Meetings

Intercessions

_All stand._

(These may be spoken or one of the settings for the intercessions in CBWIII 14-J or K may be used)

Leader: Gathered together in Christ as brothers and sisters
let us call to mind God's many blessings
as we make our prayers for the church and the world:

Reader: For the Church, symbol of God's love for all humanity,
and for all who share the life of the Trinity in baptism and eucharist.
We pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

All repeat this response after each invocation.

Reader: For the leaders of Christ's priestly people,
and for all ministers who preach the message of salvation.
We pray.

For this community, called to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection in the
eucharist and for the witness of this community to our society.
We pray.

For the work of salvation begun in the paschal mystery
and continued by the Spirit in the lives of all believers,
and for the zeal to labour for the welfare of all people.
We pray.

For young people, models of enthusiasm for what is right and just,
for those who are disillusioned and for those who search for truth.
We pray.

For those who suffer in any way,
for the sick and lonely,
and for the faithful departed.
We pray.

Lord's Prayer

_The leader invites all to say the Lord's Prayer._

Concluding Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

_O God,
you inspire the hearts of the faithful with a single longing._

Grant that your people may love what you command
and desire what you promise,
so that, amid the uncertain things of this world,
our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found.

_We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,_
_who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,_
_God for ever and ever._

All: Amen.
To adapt for the seasons:

Lent: Lord Our God,
in every age you call a people to hear your word
and to do your will.
Renew us in these Lenten days:
washed clean of sin, sealed with the Spirit,
and sustained by your living bread,
may we remain true to our calling,
and, with the elect, serve you alone.
Grant this through Christ, our liberator from sin,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

Advent: Almighty God,
Strengthen the resolve of your faithful people
to prepare for the coming of your Christ
by works of justice and mercy,
so that when we go forth to meet him
he may call us to sit at his right hand
and possess the kingdom of heaven.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

Easter: We behold your glory, O God,
in the love shown by your Son,
lifted up on the cross and exalted high.
Increase our love for one another,
that both in name and in truth
we may be disciples of the Risen Lord Jesus,
and so reflect in our lives
the glory that is yours.
Grant this through Jesus Christ,
the firstborn from the dead,
who lives and reigns with you now and always
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

Blessing
At the + all sign themselves with the sign of the cross.
Leader: May the God of hope fill us with every joy in believing.
May the peace of Christ abound in our hearts.
May the Holy Spirit enrich us with his gifts now and for ever.
All: Amen.
Ordinary Time Prayer for a School Staff/PTA Meeting

Ordinary Time Prayer
for a School Staff/PTA Meeting

prepared by Christian McConnell

Environment
Several unlit candles are placed on a table or around the room, with one central candle already lit ahead of time. Participants may also hold unlit tapers.

Ministers
leader of prayer, cantor/song leader, reader, assistant to light the candles

Hymn
Standing, all sing the hymn while the candles are lit.
CBW III #14-G or CBW III #669 “O Radiant Light, O Sun Divine”
The above text can also be sung to any LM tune. Some suggestions:
  CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM (CBW III #307)
  JESU DULCIS MEMORIA (CBW III #434)
  OLD 100TH (CBW III #450 and #578)

Other possible hymns:
  CBW #661 “Day Is Done”
  CBW #477 “God of Day and God of Darkness”
  CBW #663 “Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory”

Evening Thanksgiving
CBW III (Choir Edition) #14-E or Sunday Celebration of the Word and Hours, p. 292 or 322-330.

Evening Psalm and Psalm Prayer
Choose one version of Psalm 141:
CBW III #14-H “O let my prayer rise before you, like incense in your sight.”
CBW III #670 “Be Gracious, O Lord”
CBW III #671 “My Prayer Rises Like Incense”
CBW III #672 “My Prayers Rise Like Incense”
CBW III #673 “Like Burning Incense, Lord”
All sit. Incense may be burned during the singing of this psalm.
After a period of silence, the prayer leader may say the psalm prayer from Sunday Celebration of the Word and Hours, p. 295 or 343. Stand for the psalm prayer.

Reading  Wisdom 7.7-14
All sit. A substantial silence follows the reading.

To adapt for the seasons:
Advent: Matthew 19.13-15*
Lent: Deuteronomy 6.4-9
*All stand for readings from the gospels.
**Intercessions**

_Choose one of:_

CBW III #14-J or CBW III #266–275 using the text of CBW III #14-J.

_All stand._

**Lord’s Prayer**

_The prayer leader invites all to pray the our Father in these or similar words:_

Let us now pray to God our Father in the words Christ gave us.

**Collect**

_Leader:_ Creator of all things, 
with Wisdom at your side 
you fashioned the world in wonder, 
and you redeemed us 
by sending forth your Wisdom as one of us.

Inspire our discernment, 
direct our plans, 
and bring all your children to the knowledge of you. 
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

_All:_ Amen.

**To adapt for the seasons:**

**Advent:**

God of light and wisdom, 
your Word scattered the darkness at the 
dawn of creation, 
and in these last days 
you have sent your Word among us 
in the flesh, 
to be the dawn of the new creation.

Enlighten our hearts and minds, 
that we may be heralds of your reign. 
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Lent:**

God, our Pillar of Fire, 
you led your people through sea and 
through desert, 
to a new hope of freedom.

Be with us in our discussions, 
and guide us in following your will. 
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Easter:**

God of life and wonder, 
Your Son burst forth from the tomb 
radiant in glory, 
conquering death, 
and pouring out your Spirit upon the earth.

Enkindle in us the fire of your love, 
make us faithful stewards of the light 
of your truth, 
so that when he returns in glory, 
the whole earth may resound with your praise. 
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Sign of Peace**

_At the conclusion, the prayer leader invites all to share a sign of peace._ 

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*Volume 35 • Number 170 • 137*
Ordinary Time Prayer for Ministry Training Session, Workshop, Rehearsal

prepared by James Richards

Ministers
leader of prayer, cantor/song leader, readers: one for the word of God, one for the intentions of the intercessions

Sign of the Cross and Greeting
All stand.
Leader: In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

Leader: Blessed be the Lord Jesus Christ,
who loves us and gives himself to us.
Now he lives in us
and we live in him by faith.
Blessed be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
All: Blessed be God for ever.

Hymn
CBW III #632 “Wondrous is Your Name”
CBW III #476 “Come and Journey with A Savior”
CBW III #545 “Sing Out, Earth and Skies!”
CBW III #691 “Lord, You Give the Great Commission”
or any familiar hymn of praise

Opening Prayer
Leader: Blessed are you Lord God of all creation,
for you care for us with steadfast love
and guide us always with your Holy Spirit.
By that same Spirit,
you invite us to be ministers of (name ministries present)
in N. parish (or community).

Help us to know ever more clearly, O God
that all ministry is hospitality
and that the work we do may assist every member of our faith community
to show the welcoming love of Jesus.

Strengthen us, O gracious God, now and always,
that we may bear witness to your love
and exercise this ministry
with care for your people and in praise of your Holy Name.
Blessed are you Lord God for ever and ever.
All: Amen.

Reading
Choose one of the following:
Sirach 2.1–1 (Weekday Lectionary p. 193)
Ordinary Time Prayer for Ministry Training Session, Workshop, Rehearsal

2 Timothy 4.1-8 (Weekday Lectionary p. 367)
Romans 12.3-13 (Weekday Lectionary p. 797)
All sit.

Responsorial Psalm  CBW III #105
"Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.” (Ps. 67)

Reflection

Intercessions
All stand.
Reader: For all God’s holy people, called to proclaim God’s saving love to the world, we pray ...
For the ministers of the Church in their various tasks in building God’s reign, we pray ...
For those who dedicate their lives in the quest for justice and peace in our world, we pray ...
For all who suffer in our community, for the sick, the lonely and all who call out for God’s healing presence, we pray ...
For all of us, called to the ministry of (name ministries present), called to care for the people of our parish community, we pray ...
For any other need for which you wish to pray at this time, we pray ...

The Lord’s Prayer

Blessing
Leader: May the God of new life bless us with the gifts of peace and love as we perform this ministry to which we have been called by our community of faith, in the name of the Father, + and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

Hymn
CBW III #520 “Here I Am, Lord” or any familiar hymn of praise

Other Collect Prayers

For Readers
Leader: Heavenly Father, send the Spirit of your Son into the hearts of your people.
Bless those who read your word in public, and bless those who hear it.
Lead us to eternal light by the paths of the Lord Jesus.
All glory and praise are yours Father, now and always and for ever.
All: Amen.

For Ministers of Communion
Leader: Lord our God, teach us to cherish in our hearts the paschal mystery of your Son by which you have redeemed the world.
Watch over the gifts of grace your love has given to us and bring them to fulfillment in the glory of heaven.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

The prayers in the “Ministries” section of the Book of Blessings (pp. 79-93) may also be used.
Ordinary Time Prayer for the Parish Leadership Team

Ordinary Time Prayer for the Parish Leadership Team

prepared by Bernadette Gasslein

Context
Evening prayer in a war-torn world: World events often colour the prayer of parish staffs, pastoral councils and other groups. Prayer for peace is particularly important and apt today, as our world grapples anew with the violence, terrorism and destruction that are only too prevalent. This celebration is inspired by evening prayer, the office of readings and the Pope's meeting in Assisi with leaders of the world's religions.

A candle is lit on the table around which staff/pastoral council members are gathered. Lights are dimmed in the room.

Ministers
leader of prayer, a cantor/song leader and two readers

Invitation to prayer
All stand.
Leader: God, + come to our assistance.
All: Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever
Amen. Alleluia.

Psalm CBW III #15 “Lord, let us see your kindness, and give to us your saving help.”
(Ps. 85)

A period of silent prayer follows; then the leader prays the psalm prayer.

Psalm Prayer
Leader: Blessed are you, God of all peoples,
who came among us in Jesus your son,
embracing the world with the peace
that is found only in you.

Strengthen us that we may
shatter the gloom of injustice and violence
with lives of justice and mercy.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.
Ordinary Time Prayer for the Parish Leadership Team

Reading from Scripture  2 Corinthians 5.20–6.2
All sit for the readings and for the period of silent reflection that follows each reading.

Reading from Christian Writings
A reading from Pope John Paul II's Message for World Day of Peace, 2002

Prayer for peace is not an afterthought to the work of peace.
It is of the very essence of building the peace of order, justice, and freedom.
To pray for peace is to open the human heart
to the inroads of God's power to renew all things.
With the life-giving force of his grace, God can create openings for peace
where only obstacles and closures are apparent;
he can strengthen and enlarge the solidarity of the human family
in spite of our endless history of division and conflict.
To pray for peace is to pray for justice,
for a right-ordering of relations within and among nations and peoples.
It is to pray for freedom, especially for the religious freedom
that is a basic human and civil right of every individual.
To pray for peace is to seek God's forgiveness,
and to implore the courage to forgive those who have trespassed against us.

Gospel Canticle  CBW III #14-1 or another well-known setting (#678, #675)

Lord's Prayer
Leader: Gathering our praise and prayer into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us ...

Closing Prayer
Choose either A or B.

A
Leader: And now, let us join together in the prayer of St. Francis:
All: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,
Where there is injury, pardon,
Where there is doubt, faith,
Where there is despair, hope,
Where there is darkness, light,
And where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may seek not so much
To be consoled, as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
In forgiving that we obtain forgiveness
And in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Ordinary Time Prayer for a Bible Study/Faith Sharing Group

B

Leader: Yours, O'God, is the vineyard and its harvest.
      Yours the kingdom of justice and peace.
      You call your people to tend its growth.

      Bless the work entrusted to our hands
      that we may offer you an abundance of just works,
      a rich harvest of peace.

      We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son
      Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
      God for ever and ever.

Sign of Peace
Leader: And now, as children of the one God whose name is peace,
      let us offer each other a sign of peace.  

Ordinary Time Prayer
for the Sacrament Preparation Team

prepared by Mona Rumboldt

Environment
Place chairs in a circle and a large piece of green cloth on the floor in the centre, gathered, pulled
and tucked to give a raised, textured look. Place a cross in the centre and a bible and candle on
either side along with a bowl or basket in such a way that the inside is visible. Have quiet
instrumental music playing as people gather and turn it off as the prayer time is about to begin.

Ministers
leader of prayer, cantor/song leader, reader

Sign of the Cross and Greeting
All stand.
Leader: In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.
The leader of prayer invites the people to remind themselves of God's presence.

Hymn
Choose one of:
CBW III # 475 “God Whose Glory Reigns Eternal”
CBW III # 476 “Come and Journey With a Savior”
CBW III # 471 “Blest Are the Pure of Heart”

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Ordinary Time Prayer for the Sacrament Preparation Team

Opening Prayer
Leader: We bless you, God of heaven and earth
for revealing to us the mysteries of your kingdom.

Help us to follow you
with pure hearts that seek only to serve you and your people generously,
without counting the cost.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.
(Or use the Alternative Opening Prayer of the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, Sunday Celebration of the Word and Hours.)

Gospel Acclamation
Use the liveliest setting of the “Alleluia” that is well-known to the group.
All stand.

Gospel Matthew 9.36–10.8 (Sunday Lectionary, p. 489.)

Reflection
All sit.
A period of silent reflection may follow the reading, or a member of the committee may share a reflection on the reading. The reflection might follow this strategy: Take the basket/bowl from the centre and hold it so that the lack of contents is visible. It is a symbol of the lack of self-centredness and all its aspects that would be the mantle of anyone who takes on the mission of Jesus Christ. What positive aspects of mission should fill that basket/bowl?

Closing Prayer
All stand.
Leader: Let us pray.
Gracious God, in this time of prayer
we have been reminded of how we are called
to serve you and your people.

Strengthen us in our efforts to remain faithful
to your purpose for our lives.
We ask this through Christ, your Son.

All: Amen.

Sign of Peace
Leader: Let us offer one another a sign of the peace of Christ. ☺
Ordinary Time Prayer for a Bible Study/Faith Sharing Group

prepared by Sheila Finnerty

Context
This form of celebration is intrinsically heavily musical. If singing is not possible, a liturgy of the word should be used. Though it would not normally be done within a parish celebration, for the purpose of this group, the bible study/faith update activity may be incorporated within morning or evening prayer. The group should use the same celebration throughout Ordinary Time, to allow it to become familiar and engrained.

Environment
green cloth, a large, lit candle (for evening prayer begin with the candle unlit, then light it during the Invitation to Prayer), an enthroned bible, a free standing cross, plants and flowers; for evening prayer only: a pot of lighted incense

Ministers
leader of prayer, cantor/song leader, reader

Invocation to Prayer
Morning: CBW III #13-C  Evening: CBW III #14-A, B, C, or D
All stand.

Hymn
Morning: CBW III #13-C  Evening: CBW III #14-G

Psalm
All sit.
At first do only the one psalm. As comfort level rises, you may add one or two more if time allows.
Morning: CBW III #13-D “Your Love Is Finer Than Life” (Ps. 63)
Evening: CBW III #14-H “O Let My Prayer Rise Before You” (Ps. 141)

Psalm Prayer
A period of silent prayer follows (at the beginning 30 seconds increasing to one minute gradually); then the leader prays the psalm prayer. (See CBW III Choir Edition #13-D and #14-H for psalm prayers.)

Reading
Proclaim the scripture or part of the scripture you will study and reflect on.
If you are a faith update group, choose the scripture suitable for your gathering.

Reflection
Be sure to provide for a significant reflective silence after the proclamation.

Gospel Canticle
Morning: CBW III #13-E  Evening: CBW III #14-I

Intercessions
Morning: CBW III #13-F, G, or H  Evening: CBW III #14-J or K
or spontaneous spoken

Lord’s Prayer
Blessing and Sign Of Peace
Morning: CBW III #13-I  Evening: CBW III #14-M

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Ordinary Time Prayer for a Choir Practice

prepared by Lois Greene

Environment
On the floor place a candle representative of the light of faith for the journey, a pair of sandals, a walking stick, and/or a globe.

Ministers
leader of prayer, song leader, reader, instrumentalist

Greeting
All stand.
Leader dramatically proclaims the text of CBW III #547 “All Praise to God.”

Reading  Matthew 9.36–38  (or use beginning of Sunday Lectionary, p. 489.)
All sit.
A period of silence follows the reading.

Shared Reflection
A period of shared reflection follows the reading. The initial considerations might begin with:
• Our call to holiness is for the most part lived out in “ordinariness.”
• We are called to meet the call of the Gospel where, when, and how, we find ourselves.

Hymn
All stand.
CBW III #547 “All Praise to God”
or any familiar hymn of praise

Concluding Prayer
Leader: All loving God,
we thank you for the joys of creation,
for the freedom to love and recreate,
for your Holy Spirit, who births our hopes and dreams.

We ask you to continue to challenge us
to delight in your gifts and in one another,
as together we seek you in the ordinary times of our lives.

This we ask through Jesus, who sets us free,
and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

All: Amen. ¶
Advent Prayer for the Liturgy Committee

Advent Prayer for the Liturgy Committee
prepared by Cristina Ronzio

Environment
An advent wreath may be placed in a prominent position in the prayer space or incense may be used.

Ministers
leader of prayer, song leader, reader

Invitation to Prayer
The leader of prayer invites all present to gather for prayer in these or similar words:
Leader: The day of the Lord is coming! Let us pray, that we might be ready for that day.
All stand.

Hymn
Choose one of:
CBW III #310 “O Come, Divine Messiah!”
CBW III #317 “Prepare the Way”
CBW III #302 “Arise, Your Light Is Come!”
or any familiar Advent hymn

Sign of the Cross and Greeting
Leader: In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.
Leader: Blessed be Jesus Christ
who was, who is, and who is to come.
Bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
All: Blessed be God for ever.

Opening Prayer
Leader: Let us pray.
A period of silent prayer follows; then the leader prays either A or B aloud.

A
Rend the heavens and come down,
O God of all the ages!
Rouse us from sleep,
deliver us from our heedless ways,
and form us into a watchful people,
that, at the advent of your Son,
he may find us doing what is right
mindful of all you command.
Advent Prayer for the Liturgy Committee

Grant this through him whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near:
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.
All: Amen.

Leader: God of all times and places,
you sent your Son as one like us
to bring light to the world.
As we anticipate his coming
may we continually strive to do what is right
so that at the coming of your Son
we may have a share in your kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.
All: Amen.

Reading  Isaiah 64.1–8  (Sunday Lectionary, p. 20.)
All sit for the reading and period of silent reflection that follows.

Responsorial Psalm  CBW III #26
“Let the Lord enter. He is the king of glory.” (Ps. 24)

Reflection
A period of silent reflection may follow the reading, or a member of the committee may share a reflection on the reading. The reflection might consider:
• the ways in which we anticipate the comings of Christ individually and as a community,
• how we allow God to fashion us, as a potter fashions clay,
• the meaning of waiting in Advent.

Intercessions  CBW III #14-J

Lord's Prayer
Leader invites everyone to join in saying the Lord's Prayer.

Blessing and Sign of Peace
Leader:  May God, the source of every good,
bless us and give success to our work,
so that we may be prepared for Christ's coming
+ and praise God's name now and for ever.
All: Amen.

Leader:  Prepare a way for the Lord, let us share peace in the name of Christ.
Advent Prayer for Ministry Training Session, Workshop, Rehearsal

prepared by James Richards

Environment
On a stand or table in front of (or in the midst of) the gathered members, a bible or lectionary is placed. A lit candle or Advent wreath is nearby. Other possible items may be: a carafe of wine and a large loaf of unleavened bread, especially if those present are ministers of communion.

Ministers
leader of prayer, cantor/song leader, readers: one for the word of God, one for the intentions of the intercessions

Sign of the Cross and Greeting
All stand.
Leader: In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.
Leader: Blessed be God,
whom we glorify with one heart and voice,
who enables us, through the Spirit,
to live in harmony as followers of Christ Jesus.
Blessed be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
All: Blessed be God for ever.

Hymn
Choose one of:
CBW III #300 "Come, O Long Expected Jesus"
CBW III #309 "Listen, My People"
or any familiar Advent hymn

Opening Prayer
Leader: Blessed are you Lord God of all creation
for you have called us out of darkness into your marvellous light.
Through the power of your Holy Spirit,
you invite us to be ministers of (name ministries present)
in N. parish (or community).

Help us to know ever more clearly, O God,
that all ministry is hospitality
and that the work we do may assist every member of our faith community
to show the welcoming love of Jesus.

Strengthen us, O gracious God, now and always,
with the power of that same Spirit

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Advent Prayer for Ministry Training Session, Workshop, Rehearsal

so that we may carry out this ministry
with care for your people
and in praise of your Holy Name.
Blessed are you Lord God for ever and ever.
All: Amen.

Reading
Choose one of the following:
Isaiah 35.1–10 (longer)  (Weekday Lectionary 181 p. 16)
Isaiah 35.1–4 (shorter)  (Weekday Lectionary 181 p. 16)
Luke 1.26–38  (Weekday Lectionary 196 p. 51)
All sit for the reading.

Responsorial Psalm  CBW III #16
“To you, 0 Lord, I lift my soul, to you I lift my soul” (Ps. 25)

Reflection

Intercessions
All stand.
Reader: For all God’s holy people as we journey through this season of hope, we pray ...
All: Lord, hear our prayer
All repeat this response after each petition.

For those who minister in the Church, we pray ...
For those who feel separated from the community of faith, we pray ...
For all who are in need of clothing and shelter at this time, we pray ...
For all of us, called to serve God’s people in the ministry of (name ministries present), we pray ...
For any other need for which you wish to pray at this time … , we pray ...

The Lord’s Prayer

Blessing
Leader: May the God of steadfast love and mercy
bless us in this ministry
to which we have been called by our community of faith
in the name of the Father, + and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

Closing Hymn
CBW III #310 “O Come, Divine Messiah!”
or any familiar Advent hymn ®
Advent Prayer for the Finance Council

Advent Prayer
for the Finance Council

prepared by Lucille Lang

Environment
Three large purple candles of different heights (recycled from last year's wreath) are placed on a purple cloth in the centre of the boardroom table, or on a small prayer table nearby. A bible is also on the table.

Ministers
leader of prayer, cantor/song leader, readers: one for the word of God, one for the litany invocations

Introduction
All stand.
Leader: Let's take a moment to put everything aside, physically and mentally...
Let's become aware of God's presence in this room, in each one of us...
After a period of silence a member of the council, using a taper, lights the three candles.

Invitation to Prayer
Leader: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
All: A light no darkness can extinguish.
All make the sign of the cross.

Hymn
Choose one of:
CBW III #300 "Come, O Long Expected Jesus"
CBW III #315 "The Advent of Our God"
or any familiar Advent hymn

Opening Prayer
Choose either A or B.

A
Leader: God of majesty and power,
amid the clamour of our violence
your Word of truth resounds;
upon a world made dark by sin
the Sun of Justice casts his dawning rays.

Keep your household watchful
and aware of the hour in which we live.

Hasten the advent of that day
when the sounds of war will be for ever stilled,
the darkness of evil scattered,  
and all your children gathered into one.  

We ask this through him whose coming is certain,  
whose day draws near:  
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.  

All: Amen.

B
Leader: Almighty and eternal God,  
make us worthy to serve you.  

We have been called to provide  
our community with wise financial council.  
Give us the patience and strength of your prophets  
to do this work.  

We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
your son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  

All: Amen.

Reading James 5.7-10 (Sunday Lectionary, p. 14.)  
All sit. A period of silence follows the reading.

Litany
All stand.
Reader: Let us praise Jesus Christ  
who is the light of the world and the life of believers:  

All: Come, Lord Jesus.  

Great light to those who dwell in darkness. R.  
Saving light, overcoming the darkness of sin. R.  
Radiant light, giving light to the world. R.  
Dawning light for the nations of the world. R.  
Eternal light of goodness, justice and truth. R.  
Healing light, opening the eyes of the blind. R.  
Faithful light, guiding pilgrim people. R.  
Consoling light for those who sorrow and grieve. R.  
Guiding light for those who seek to serve your people. R.

Lord's Prayer
Leader: We pray to our Father, using the words that Jesus taught us. Our Father...

Hymn
CBW III #310 “O Come, Divine Messiah!”  
or any familiar Advent hymn
Advent Prayer for a Bible Study/Faith Sharing Group

Context
This prayer is intended to frame the group's scheduled activity of bible study or faith sharing. The readings of the day or of the preceding or following Sunday are an excellent stimulus for the group's sharing or study activity.

Environment
Prepare the environment to reflect the season of Advent. An unlit Advent wreath and matches are recommended. Slips of paper, each containing one of the blessings should be prepared and distributed.

 Ministers
leader of prayer, reader, song leader/cantor, an assistant to light the candle

Call to Praise and Sign of the Cross
All stand.
Leader: As we enter this space and gather for our bible study session, let us welcome each other.
Allow sufficient time for those who have not greeted one another to do so.

The leader of prayer invites all present to pray using these or similar words:
   It is (the beginning of) Advent;
   in the silence of our hearts
   let us remember
   and stand before our experience of Advents past.
   What one word or image emerges for you? Take a moment in silence.

After a period of silence the leader continues:
Leader: Holding the words and images within our hearts or those spoken, we light the Advent candle.

One member of the group lights the Advent candle(s).
Leader: Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.
Leader: Let us take a moment in silent prayer before the lighted wreath.

Opening Song
All stand.
Weeks 1 & 2 choose one of:
CBW III #309 “Listen, My People”
CBW III #314 “God of All People”
CBW III #304 “Awake, Awake: Fling off the Night”
Advent Prayer for a Bible Study/Faith Sharing Group

Weeks 3 & 4 choose one of:
CBW III #312 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
CBW III #310 "O Come, Divine Messiah!"

Psalm
Choose one of:
CBW III #16 "To you, O Lord, I lift my soul" (Ps. 25)
CBW III #26 "Let the Lord enter. He is the king of glory." (Ps. 24)
All sit for the psalm.

Prayer
Choose A or B:

A
Leader: Gracious God,
your eternal Word took flesh on our earth
when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan.

Lift our minds in watchful hope
to hear the voice which announces his glory,
and open our minds to receive the Spirit
who prepares us for his coming.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

B
Loving God,
our hearts desire the warmth of your love
and our minds are searching for the light of your eternal Word.
Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour
and give us the strength to grow in love,
that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence
and welcoming the light of his truth.
We ask this through Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.
All: Amen.

Scheduled Activity
Concluding Prayer
Leader: Lord Jesus we have listened to and heard your Word,
open our hearts to pray for the world.
Advent Prayer for a Bible Study/Faith Sharing Group

Litany of Blessing
All stand. Each person speaks one blessing prayer, beginning with the leader.

- God of love and compassion, bless the world with light and peace.
- Bless the violent with gentle hearts.
- Bless the Church with courage and understanding.
- Bless this country with a spirit of generosity.
- Bless our catechumens who seek your love.
- Bless the poor with compassion and mercy.
- Bless the sick with healing and comfort.
- Bless the dead with eternal life.
- Bless those who mourn with hope and promise.

Other blessings may be added...
And all those we bless in our hearts... (moment of silence)

Lord's Prayer
Leader: Gracious God,
you have come to us in your Word
and through each other.
Help us realize your intention for us
as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us: Our Father ...

Dismissal
Leader: As we extinguish the advent candle(s) in this place,
may the light of Christ continue in our hearts.

One member of the group extinguishes the Advent candle(s).
Send us forth with the strength to live your Word,
We ask this through Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn
Sing the refrain of the opening hymn.
Advent Prayer for the Sacrament Preparation Team

prepared by Mona Rumboldt

Environment
Place the chairs in a circle, a purple cloth on the floor in the centre (gathered, pulled and tucked to have it raised in many places and to give it a textured appearance and a round shape) with the cross and bible at the centre. Place enough vigil lights to make a circle among the raised sections of the cloth. Light candles, lower room lights if possible, play quiet music.

Ministers
leader of prayer, cantor/song leader, reader

Sign of the Cross and Greeting
All stand.
Leader: In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

Hymn
Choose one of:
CBW III #305 “Be Light for Our Eyes”
CBW III #505 “Disciple’s Song”
or any familiar Advent hymn

Opening Prayer
Leader: God of every life, every heart,
we enter into your presence filled with hope
that we will receive every grace for the task of serving your people.

Move us to a deep awareness of our dependence on you
in our efforts to bring Jesus to the world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.
All: Amen.

Reading  Isaiah 61.1–2, 10–11  (Sunday Lectionary, p. 27.)
All sit.

Gospel Canticle  CBW III #24
“My soul rejoices in my God” (Luke 1)
All stand.
Advent Prayer for a Choir Practice

Closing Prayer
Leader: Let us pray.

Gracious God,
as we move from this holy space into another,
bless our efforts to be faithful to what we have seen and heard.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

Advent Prayer
for a Choir Practice
prepared by Lois Greene

Environment
Prepare a small table with purple cloth and a dish of seeds.

Ministers
leader of prayer, song leader, reader, instrumentalist

Greeting
All stand.

Leader: Mary, woman of the promise
model for our lives, morning star of justice, seed, woman of compassion.
When our hearts are torn by sorrow,
indeed she can teach us how to love again.

Hymn
CBW III #465 “Mary, Woman of the Promise”
v. 1 all, v. 2 women, v. 3 men, v. 4 cantor only, v. 5 all
or any familiar Advent hymn

Reading  Isaiah 7.10–14  (Sunday Lectionary, p. 798.)
All sit. A period of silence follows the reading.

Shared Reflection
A period of shared reflection follows the reading. The initial considerations might consider:
• Advent as the season when we honour Mary’s role in our redemption
• images of Mary as model for our lives in the 21st century
  - morning star of justice,
  - humble home for treasured seed
  - woman of compassion
Concluding Prayer

**All stand.**

Leader: Creator God, we praise and thank you for calling Mary to be an instrument in fulfilling your promise of salvation.

May we be people of compassion to one another and to our parish community as we seek to bring your Word more fully to birth in us during this season of Advent.

We ask this through Jesus your Son, Emmanuel, God with us, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: You are invited to take a seed(s) from the dish to remind you of this evening's prayer as you continue your reflection during the week.

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**Christmas Prayer for the Parish Leadership Team**

prepared by Bernadette Gasslein

**Context**

Morning prayer, early January, week after Epiphany: The week between Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord is often the first time that a staff or parish team gets together formally after the busy Christmas season.

**Invitation to Prayer**

**All stand.** All make the sign of the cross on their lips as the prayer begins.

Leader: Lord, † open our lips.

All: And we shall proclaim your praise.

Leader: Glory to God in the highest.

All: And peace to God's people on earth.

**Psalm** CBW III #37

"Lord, ev'ry nation on earth will adore you" (Ps. 72) (sung or spoken)

A period of silent prayer follows; then the leader prays the psalm prayer.
Christmas Prayer for the Parish Leadership Team

Psalm Prayer
Leader: Lord God of the nations,
   we have seen the star of your glory
   rising in splendour.
The radiance of your incarnate Word
pierces the darkness that covers the earth
and signals the dawn of peace and justice.
Make radiant the light of your people
with that same brightness,
and beckon all the nations to walk as one in your light.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
in the splendour of eternal light,
God for ever and ever.

Reading 1 John 4.19–5.1
All sit for the reading and for the period of silent reflection that follows.

Gospel Canticle CBW III #13-E or #660
All stand.

Intercessions CBW III #13-H (sung or spoken)

Lord’s Prayer
Leader: Gathering our praise and prayer into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us …

Closing Prayer
Leader: God of all peoples,
   all glory is yours in Jesus, your Son
   who came among us as one like us in all things but sin.

   Give us who follow him a share in his glory
   that the power of your love at work in our lives
   may shine out brightly
   for all whom we meet this day.
   We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Blessing and Sign of Peace
All make a full sign of the cross as the blessing is invoked.

Leader: May the Lord almighty order our days and our deeds in his peace.
All: Amen.

Leader: Let us share a sign of Christ’s peace with each other. [\[\] ]
Lent Prayer for a Choir Practice

prepared by Lois Greene

Environment
a table covered with a burlap cloth, a bowl of water and pictures of immigrants, refugees or homeless persons

Ministers
leader of prayer, song leader, reader, instrumentalist

Greeting
All stand.
Leader: Lent, transformation, change, penance.
Water, cleansing, nurturing, necessity of life for all, gift of God.

Gospel
John 4.5–14  (or beginning of Sunday Lectionary, p. 123–4.)
All stand for the reading of the gospel; then sit for the period of silence that follows.

Shared Reflection
All sit.
A period of shared reflection follow the reading. The initial considerations might begin with:
• We are all victims and perpetrators of prejudice at one time or another.
• Lent is a time when we are called to transformation and penance.
• Society's expectations of the Samaritan woman in a predominantly Jewish environment, of Jesus' followers on him as a Jewish male interacting with a woman: What would be a comparable situation today?

Concluding Prayer
All stand.
Leader: Loving God,
we bring before you the prejudices which affect our lives,
particularly those of which we are a part.
We ask your healing and forgiveness
for ourselves and for our world
as we pray for transformation during this season of Lent.

This we ask in the name of Jesus, our healer and guide,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.
All: Amen.

Hymn and Ritual Action
CBW III #363 “Healer of Our Every Ill”
All stand.
Leader invites those present to walk to the bowl of water and use the water as they pray for each other's healing/transformation and for the healing of our broken world.
Lent Prayer for the Liturgy Committee

prepared by Cristina Ronzio

Environment
A simple wooden cross may be placed prominently in the worship space. It may be accented by a purple cloth.

Ministers
leader of prayer, song leader, reader

Invitation to Prayer
All stand.
The leader of prayer invites all present to a moment of silence using these or similar words:
Leader: Let us call to mind the presence of our merciful God.
A period of silence follows.

Gathering Song
Choose one of:
CBW III #352 “Again We Keep This Solemn Fast”  CBW III #370 “Salvator Mundi”
CBW III #371 “O Sun of Justice, Fill Our Hearts”
or any familiar Lent hymn

Sign of the Cross and Greeting
Leader: In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.
Leader: Blessed be Christ Jesus,
who bore our sins in his body on the cross,
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
Bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
All: Blessed be God for ever.

Opening Prayer
Leader: Let us pray.
A period of silent prayer follows; then the leader prays either A or B aloud.

A
Father,
through our observance of Lent,
help us to understand the meaning
of your Son’s death and resurrection,
and teach us to reflect it in our lives.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

B
Merciful and ever-loving God
you give us life through your Son's death and resurrection
turn our hearts towards you this Lenten season
that we may do your will.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Reading  Ephesians 2.4–10  (Sunday Lectionary, p. 175–6.)
A period of silence follows the reading.

Responsorial Psalm  CBW III #56
"With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption." (Ps. 130)

Reflection
A period of silent reflection may follow the reading, or a member of the committee may share a reflection on the reading. The reflection might consider:
• Lent as the season of preparation for Easter when we renew our baptismal promises,
• how we are invited in Lent to return to the Lord with all our hearts (Joel 2.12–18).

Intercessions  CBW III #14-J

Lord's Prayer
Leader invites everyone to join in saying the Lord's Prayer.

Blessing and Sign of Peace
Leader: May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil,
+ and bring us to everlasting life.
All: Amen.

Leader: Let us share peace in the name of Christ.  }

... help us to understand the meaning of your Son's death and resurrection
Lent Prayer for Ministry Training Session, Workshop, Rehearsal

prepared by James Richards

Environment
A cross or crucifix may be placed next to the candle and lectionary or bible. A purple cloth may be used to cover the table.

Ministers
leader of prayer, cantor/song leader, readers: one for the word of God, one for the intentions of the intercessions

Sign of the Cross and Greeting
All stand.
Leader: In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

Leader: Blessed be the God of all consolation, who has shown us his great mercy.
    Blessed be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
All: Blessed be God for ever.

Hymn
Choose one of:
CBW III #353 “Take up Your Cross”   CBW III #363 “Healer of Our Every Ill”
or any familiar Lent hymn

Opening Prayer
Leader: Blessed are you Lord God of all creation, for you have shown us mercy and love through the passion of Jesus your Son. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, you invite us to be ministers of (name ministries present) in N. parish (or community).
    Help us to know ever more clearly, O God, that all ministry is hospitality and that the work we do may assist every member of our faith community to show the welcoming love of Jesus.
    Strengthen us, O gracious God, now and always with the power of that same Spirit so that we may carry out this ministry with care for your people and in praise of your Holy Name.
    Blessed are you Lord God for ever and ever.
All: Amen.
Lent Prayer for Ministry Training Session, Workshop, Rehearsal

Reading
Choose one of the following:
Isaiah 58.9b–14  (Weekday Lectionary p. 381)
All sit for the reading.

Responsorial Psalm  CBW III #45
“Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant”
(Ps. 25)

Reflection

Intercessions
All stand.
Reader:  For all God’s holy people during this time of penance and renewal, we pray …
All:     Lord, hear our prayer.
All repeat this response after each petition.

For those called to ministry in the Church, we pray …
For those who bear the cross of Christ through illness and pain, we pray …
For all who suffer through the sins of injustice and hatred, we pray …
For all of us, called to serve God’s people in the ministry of (name ministries present), we pray …
For any other need for which you wish to pray at this time …, we pray …

The Lord’s Prayer

Blessing
Leader:  May our God of mercy and reconciliation bless us in our ministry to which we have been called by our community of faith, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
All:     Amen.

Closing Hymn
CBW III #369 “O Merciful Redeemer”
or any familiar Lent hymn

For those who bear the cross of Christ

Volume 35 • Number 170 • 163
Lent Prayer for the Sacrament Preparation Team

prepared by Mona Rumboldt

Environment
Ask people to bring a container of water from home or fill a large clear jug with clean, clear water. Arrange the chairs in a circle. Place on the floor a large piece of purple cloth gathered, pulled and tucked in many places to give it a raised and textured effect and a rounded shape or you might form it in a cross shape. A cross, the bible (opened to the reading), and the candle are in the centre. Place the bowl towards the outer edge. Soft, reflective instrumental music is playing in the background.

Ministers
leader of prayer, cantor/song leader, reader

Sign of the Cross and Greeting
The leader invites the people to be seated in the circle. (If they have brought water they bring it with them to their place.) Light the candle.
All stand.
Leader: In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.
The leader of prayer then invites the people to reflect on areas of life where God's mercy may be needed.

Hymn
Choose one of:
CBW III #658 “God, My God, You I Crave” CBW III #233 “Lord, Have Mercy”
or any familiar Lent hymn

Opening Prayer
Leader: Let us pray.

God of life, we thirst.
Our life’s journey causes us to pause
and ask for refreshment, renewal, cleansing and peace.

Hear our prayer and answer our needs.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.
(Or use the Opening Prayer of the Second Sunday of Lent, Year A, Sunday Celebration of the Word and Hours.)

Ritual Action and Song
Water is now poured into the bowl (in a manner that it can be heard), either by one person or by all who brought it from home.
All sing refrain of CBW III #237 “Music For the Sprinkling Rite,” as water is being poured, repeating as needed.
Gospel Acclamation
Use a well-known setting of the Lenten acclamation. See CBW III #259–265.

Gospel  John 4.4–15

Reflection
All sit.
A period of silent reflection may follow the reading, or a member of the committee may share a reflection on the reading. The reflection might consider:

- The places in our life's journey where we experience tiredness.
- The life experience that leaves us most thirsty.
- The people we allow to quench our thirst.
- The kind of refreshment, renewal, cleansing, and forgiving needed in our own lives and the quality of that which we offer to others.

Closing Prayer
All stand.
Leader invites everyone to raise their hands in blessing over the water and then choose a form of blessing themselves with it as the refrain of CBW III # 237 is sung again.
People move away from prayer space as they bless themselves.

Leader: Almighty God,
in the sacred signs of our faith,
you renew the wonders of creation and redemption.

We give you thanks for this water
and we pray that all who have been born again in baptism
may be heralds of the paschal mystery,
forever renewed in your Church.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

... we pray that all who have been born again in baptism
may be heralds of the paschal mystery
Lent Prayer for the Parish Leadership Team

prepared by Bernadette Gasslein

Context
Pastoral ministers often find themselves overwhelmed today by the varied and conflicting needs of the people in their communities. They may meet with a couple preparing for marriage, visit a person who has just been informed of a terminal illness, intervene in a family crisis, attend a ministerial meeting and help a colleague in distress—all in the space of a 9–5 day; and that doesn't address what happens in the evening meetings, or on emergency calls during the night. And there are all the people who ask for their prayers, too.

This prayer service is modelled after the General Intercessions in the Good Friday liturgy. It provides an opportunity for the staff to pray together for the people to whom they minister.

Environment
Place a small, simple cross on the table.

Ministers
leader of prayer, readers: one for the scripture reading and one or two others for the intentions of the intercessory prayers

Opening Hymn
Choose one of:
CBW III #368 “O Cross of Christ”
CBW III #373 “Tree of Life”
CBW III #363 “Healer of Our Every Ill”

Sign of the Cross and Greeting
Leader: In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.
Leader: Grace and peace be with you.
All: And also with you.
Leader: (in these or similar words)

My friends,
every day people entrust themselves and their lives to our care and our prayer.
Many of their situations stretch our competence and our hope.

Let us take this time of prayer together to bring them before our God, knowing that God's wisdom is wiser than human folly,
that God's weakness is stronger than human strength,
and that in Jesus, we have a mediator who knows our deepest needs.
**Reading**  Hebrews 4.14–16; 5.7  (Sunday Lectionary, p. 252)
All sit. A period of silent reflection follows.

**Intercessions**
Leader:  Let us now pray …

Reader:  For all those who work in ministry with us; for those who are troubled or struggling; for those who are lonely; for those who have lost hope or faith.
We pray to the Lord.
All:  Lord, have mercy.
(If you wish to sing this response, the setting at CBW III #14-K is very appropriate.)

Leader:  God of all mercy,
you chose frail men and women like us
to be leaders in your community.
Look with compassion on our sisters and brothers who are struggling,
renew their courage and hope,
and restore their energy.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All:  Amen.

Reader:  For all those we deal with who are victims of violence;
victims of domestic and sexual abuse,
children who are on the street;
people involved in the sex trade;
refugees whose past haunts them in nightmares.
We pray to the Lord.
All:  Lord, have mercy.

Leader:  You transformed the cross of your Son, O God,
from instrument of violence to tree of life.
Pour out your transforming Spirit on these people today,
that they may be healed of their wounds,
and find new ways of living in peace and tranquility.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All:  Amen.
Lent Prayer for the Parish Leadership Team

Reader: For those who are sick: in nursing homes, in extended care facilities; in homes, and hospitals;
for those who have just received a diagnosis of a terminal or life-changing illness;
for those who are emotionally or mentally ill.
We pray to the Lord.
All: Lord have mercy.

Leader: God of tender compassion,
your Son Jesus walked among us,
healing the sick of all kinds of afflictions.
Hear this prayer for our people who are ill:
bring them wholeness and draw them into your healing love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

Reader: For couples who are preparing for marriage;
for those couples whose marriages are in trouble;
for couples who can no longer find a path to reconciliation;
for couples who are facing financial or emotional difficulties.
We pray to the Lord.
All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: God of the covenant,
you love us faithfully
and ask us to love each other as you have loved us.
Be with these couples as they struggle to live their covenant love
and pour out on them the grace and wisdom that they need.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

Reader: For those who seek meaning in their lives;
for those who thirst for the living God;
for those who are looking for meaningful conversation
about real happiness and fulfillment.
We pray to the Lord.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God of life, your Son Jesus engaged the Samaritan woman
in a conversation that changed her life.
Give us listening ears
welcoming hearts,
and words of wisdom to share with the people who seek your face.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.
Reader: For those whose phone calls we have not yet returned; for those whom we hesitate to welcome; for those who are hesitant to approach us; for those whose needs we cannot meet, and for those whom we have overlooked.
We pray to the Lord.
All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: God of time and eternity, you have given us day and night with its time for work and its time for rest. Help us to know our limitations, to acknowledge them humbly and to do our best in the time we have. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

Reader: For our family and friends whose love and support sustain our ministry and our sanity; for those we have neglected or made to bear the brunt of our fatigue or frustration.
We pray to the Lord.
All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: God of the tender kindness, you blessed human hearts with the joy of friendship, for you know that it not good for us to be alone. Sustain our friends in your joy and peace, and let our friendship continue to deepen as a sign of your presence in our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

Lord's Prayer
Leader: And now let us gather our prayer and praise into one, using the word that Jesus gave us:
Our Father …
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours …

Concluding Rite
Leader: Let us bless the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.
Easter Season Prayer for the Liturgy Committee

prepared by Cristina Ronzio

Environment
The paschal candle, a clear glass vessel containing baptismal water blessed at the Easter Vigil and a pot of spring flowers (hyacinth, tulip, Easter lily) could be placed at a central point in the worship space. If the prayer takes place in the parish worship space, all may gather around the font.

Ministers
leader of prayer, song leader, reader

Invitation to Prayer
All stand.
The leader of prayer invites all present to a moment of silence using these or similar words:
Leader: Christ is risen! Let us give praise to God.

Gathering Song
Choose one of:
CBW III #389 “Jesus Christ Is Ris’n Today”
CBW III #398 “We Know That Christ Is Raised”
CBW III #405 “Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us” (use tune NETTLETON #583)
or any familiar Easter hymn

Sign of the Cross and Greeting
Leader: Let us recall our baptism, using this blessed water as we sign ourselves in the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

Or, if there is no font or bowl of baptismal water present:
Leader: In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

Opening Prayer
Leader: Let us pray.
A period of silent prayer follows; then the leader prays either A or B aloud.

A

God of mercy,
you wash away our sins in water,
you give us new birth in the Spirit,
and redeem us in the blood of Christ.

As we celebrate Christ’s resurrection
increase our awareness of these blessings,
and renew your gift of life within us.
Easter Season Prayer for the Liturgy Committee

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

B

All-powerful God, through the resurrection of Christ you give us the promise of eternal life.

May we proclaim your presence in the world and be built into a spiritual house.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Reading 1 Peter 2.4–9 (Sunday Lectionary, p. 318–9.)

A period of silence follows the reading.

Responsorial Psalm CBW III #105

“Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.” (Ps. 67)

Reflection

A period of silent reflection may follow the reading, or a member of the committee may share a reflection on the reading. The reflection might consider:

• what it means to be “a living stone,”
• how we live as a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people.

Profession of Faith

All stand.

The leader of prayer leads the Profession of Faith, using the “Baptismal Profession of Faith” inside the front cover of CBW III. If baptismal water is not used at the beginning for the sign of the cross it may be used here to sprinkle the committee members.

Intercessions CBW III #14-J

Lord’s Prayer

Leader invites everyone to join in saying the Lord’s Prayer.

Blessing and Sign of Peace

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, + and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us share the peace of the risen Christ. ☺
Easter Season Prayer for Ministry Training Session, Workshop, Rehearsal

prepared by James Richards

Environment
During this season, the paschal candle is used and a bowl of water is present. Each person present has a taper.

Ministers
leader of prayer, cantor/song leader, readers: one for the word of God, one for the intentions of the intercessions

Sign of the Cross and Greeting
All stand.
Leader: In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.
Leader: Blessed be God our Father,
who has made us heirs with Christ,
so that we may be glorified with him.
Blessed be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
All: Blessed be God for ever.

Hymn
Choose one of:
CBW III #383 “Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord”
CBW III #393 “Something Which is Known”
or any familiar Easter hymn

Opening Prayer
Leader: Blessed are you Lord God of all creation,
for you have called us to a new and more abundant life
through the death and resurrection of Jesus your Son.
By the gift of your Holy Spirit,
you invite us to be ministers of (name ministries present) in N. parish (or community).

Help us to know ever more clearly, O God,
that all ministry is hospitality
and that the work we do may assist every member of our faith community
to show the welcoming love of Jesus.
Strengthen us, O gracious God, now and always with the power of that same Spirit so that we may carry out this ministry with care for your people and in praise of your Holy Name. Blessed are you Lord God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

**Reading**

Choose one of the following:
Acts 12.24–13.5a (Weekday Lectionary p. 548)
All sit for the reading.

**Responsorial Psalm** CBW III #100

"Lord, let your love be upon us as we place all our trust in you" (Ps. 33)

**Reflection**

**Ritual Gesture**

All stand.
Leader: I invite you to come forward to mark yourselves with this blessed water and light a candle, indicating your desire to carry out your ministry in fulfillment of your baptismal call.

All present perform this ritual and keep the tapers lit until the closing hymn.

**Intercessions**

For all God's holy people, as we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death, we pray …
For the ministers of God's people strengthened by the Spirit to proclaim the message of new life, we pray …
For those who have yet to experience the power of the resurrection in their lives, we pray …
For all who are ill in our community and for those who care for them, we pray …
For all of us, called to serve God's people in the ministry of (name ministries present), we pray …
For any other need that you wish to pray for at this time …, we pray …

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Blessing**

Leader: May the God of new life bless us with the gifts of peace and love as we perform this ministry to which we have been called by our community of faith in the name of the Father, + and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

**Hymn**

Choose one of:
CBW III #394 "The Light of Christ" CBW III #549-B "Celtic Alleluia"
or any familiar Easter hymn
Easter Season Prayer for the Sacrament Preparation Team

Environment
Arrange chairs in a circle. Place cloths on the floor: one large piece of gold (or yellow) and a piece of white to make a small centre in the yellow one. Gather, pull and tuck the yellow one in many places to give a raised, textured look and place the smaller white cloth in the centre and do the same. Place flowers in the centre of the white cloth. Have a candle, cross, bible (or lectionary), and a loaf of bread in a place on a cloth-covered table far enough away to allow for a procession. Have music playing as people enter.

Ministers
leader of prayer, cantor/song leader, cross bearer, candle bearer, bread bearer, and book bearer, and readers: one for the word of God, one for the intentions of the intercessions

Procession And Song
Turn off music as the prayer is about to begin and allow for a moment of silence. All stand. Choose one of:
CBW III #404 “O Sons and Daughters”
CBW III #393 “Something Which is Known”

The candle bearer leads, then the cross, the bread and then the book bearers and finally the leader of prayer. The objects are placed so that the candle is just behind the flowers and the other things are in a circle around it.

Opening Prayer
Leader: Let us pray to our God.

O God,
you nourish us with word and sacrament
as we journey through life.

We praise you for the wonders you work in our midst.
Keep us faithful followers of your son Jesus,
who lives and reigns with you for ever.

All: Amen.

(Or use the Alternative Opening Prayer for an afternoon or evening celebration of Easter Sunday, Sunday Celebration of the Word and Hours.)
Gospel Acclamation
Use the Alleluia refrain of CBW III #404 “O Sons and Daughters.”

All stand.
The Paschal candle, light of Christ, stands beside the Word at this time so reader and candle bearer move to the place of reading together.
All make a cross on the forehead, lips and heart.
The acclamation is repeated at the end of the reading.

Reflection
All sit. A period of silent reflection may follow the reading, or a member of the committee may share a reflection on the reading. The reflection might consider:
- Things that we have to share about the experience of the Easter sacraments.
- The “burnings” that our hearts experience.
- The nourishment we need to continue the journey.
- The places we recognize Jesus as we break the bread of life with others.

Intercessions
Prayers for the Church and the world are always part of our intercessory prayer. These prayers should be composed according to current need.
All stand.

Lord’s Prayer
Leader invites everyone to join in saying the Lord’s Prayer.

Sign of Peace
Leader invites everyone to share a sign of peace.

Closing Hymn CBW III # 393 “Something Which is Known”
Easter Season Prayer for a Bible Study/Faith Sharing Group

prepared by Sheila Finnerty

Context
This celebration is recommended for groups meeting in midday. The scripture passage proclaimed is the one chosen for study and reflection.

Environment
Prepare the environment to reflect the season of Easter, predominantly white or gold accented with bright colours, e.g. yellow, mint green, light fascia etc. Use a plain cross, a large bowl of water, a large candle that echoes the paschal candle.

Ministers
leader of prayer, cantor/song leader, assistant to light candle, readers: one for the word of God and one for the invocations of the litany/intercessions in the concluding rite

Invitation to Prayer
Leader: My dear sisters and brothers,
we have been gathered in joy and gratitude on this Easter day.
May the lighting of this candle remind us of Christ's continued presence among us.
A minister lights the candle.
After a suitable period of time the leader continues, pausing after each line.

Leader: Take a moment to recall the Triduum:
Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday Evening Prayer,
especially the Easter Vigil.

Remember the blessing of the fire,
the procession with the lighted candles,
the proclamation of the word,
the blessing of the water,
the baptism,
the community renewing its baptismal promises,
the eating and drinking,
the sending.

Take a moment to be in touch with the event.
Easter Season Prayer for a Bible Study/Faith Sharing Group

**Hymn**
Leader: With thanksgiving in our hearts we proclaim in song...
*The first line of the hymn is spoken, then everyone sings the hymn, e.g. Jesus Christ Is Ris'n Today #389.*
CBW III #383 "Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord"
CBW III #399 "Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise"
CBW III #570 "Laudate, Omnes Gentes"
CBW III #592 "This Is the Day the Lord Has Made"
CBW III #576 "You Are the Voice"
CBW III #394 "The Light of Christ"
CBW III #14-E Evening Thanksgiving

**Opening Prayer**
Leader: Let us pray.

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
Creator of all things,
you have forgiven us of our sins
and have called us to be witnesses of your overflowing love.

Our hearts now renewed,
help us to listen to your word
and be your voice in the world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.
Or use the psalm prayer following CBW III #14-H.

**Psalm** CBW III# 90
"This is the day that the Lord has made" (Ps. 118)
If necessary, the verses may be spoken by the song leader and the response sung by the participants.
CBW III #99 Psalm 100 "We are his people, the flock of the Lord"
CBW III #102 Psalm 145 "I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God"
Easter Season Prayer for a Bible Study/Faith Sharing Group

Psalm Prayer
leader: Let us pray...

Choose A or B:

A
Loving God,
by the Easter mystery
you touch our lives with ultimate graciousness;
by baptism
you have called us by name
to be your people.
Move our hearts to respond to your word anew.
We ask this through Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.
All: Amen.

B
God of mercy,
we no longer look for Jesus among the dead
but among the living.
Increase in our minds and hearts
the risen life we share with Christ.
Help us to grow as your people,
teach us how to love and serve the world.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

Reading
Scheduled Activity
Concluding Rite
Choose A or B.

A
Litany of Thanksgiving (Book of Blessings, CCCB, p. 264)

B
Intercessions
Leader: Let us pray for all the people in the world.

For all the baptized
We pray to the Lord.
All: Lord, have mercy.
All repeat this response after each petition.
Easter Season Prayer for a Bible Study/Faith Sharing Group

For all the people of this community. R.
For governments of countries, we pray to the Lord. R.
For civic and religious leaders, we pray to the Lord. R.
For family and friends, we pray to the Lord. R.
For peace and harmony, we pray to the Lord. R.
For all who work for the good of others, we pray to the Lord. R.
For all who suffer pain and loss, we pray to the Lord. R.
For the neophytes,
the women, men and children baptized this Easter,
we pray to the Lord. R.

The following and any other intercessions may be added.
In our times for work and recreation, we pray to the Lord. R.
In all seasons by day and by night, we pray to the Lord. R.
For the unspoken yearnings within our hearts, we pray to the Lord. R.

Leader: Gracious God,
listen to our prayers for the people of the world.
Bless us and guide our actions,
and be with us at all times,
for we place ourselves in your hands
now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Lord's Prayer
Leader invites everyone to join in saying the Lord's Prayer.

Blessing
Leader: May the Lord bless us with peace. Alleluia, Alleluia!
All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!
Easter Season Prayer for a Choir Practice

prepared by Lois Greene

Environment

table with the paschal candle and enough tapers for all, other lit candles, a brightly coloured plant or fresh flowers on a white cloth

Ministers

leader of prayer, song leader, reader, instrumentalist

Greeting

All stand.
Leader: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
All: A light no darkness can extinguish.

Reading 1 Peter 1.3-9 (Sunday Lectionary, p. 307.)
All sit.
A period of silence follows the reading.

Shared Reflection

A period of shared reflection follows the reading. The initial considerations might consider:
Faith is gift of God, light for the walk in the dark. God is faithful, acting in our lives. We may or may not feel God's presence.

Hymn and Ritual Action

All stand.
Leader: We rejoice in the fact that the risen Jesus is our "light," our "power and presence."
May we live out of this light, be "light for the blind" and "food for the hungry" in our ministry.
May we also see earth "with new eyes" and thus deepen our awareness of the call to care for our planet.
Leader then invites those present to light our tapers from the paschal candle while the hymn is sung: CBW III #591 "God Is Alive!"

Concluding Prayer

All stand.
Leader: Gracious God, who raised Jesus from the dead we sing in gratitude for the gift of his presence among us.
May our lives show forth the strength of our faith.
May we be ever grateful for this gift.
May love be our calling as we seek to right the tragic injustice to earth and to earth's peoples.
This we ask through Christ our risen saviour for ever and ever.
All: Amen.
About the Contributors

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Are Marian Hymns Suitable at Eucharist?

Kenneth Pearce

The Relationship of Song and Action
The beginning of the answer to this question lies in recognizing that sacred song is integral to sacred action. Music is not something added to celebration, but is part of its dynamic. This is true first of all of chants intimately connected with eucharist—the acclamations and responsive psalm. It is also true of hymns. The entrance and communion songs are actually substitutes for given ritual texts (they are still printed in the sacramentary)—the entrance and communion antiphons. Songs during the preparation of the gifts and at the end of the celebration share the sense of the ritual moment.

Primacy of the Lord’s Day
When the celebration is actually a Marian feast, hymns that reflect Mary’s role in salvation history are certainly acceptable. However, when the feast falls on a Sunday the sense of the Lord’s Day must remain uppermost, as the Canadian Liturgical Calendar (the “Ordo”) inevitably points out. The resurrection of the Lord as cause for the Sunday assembly must never be lost. Marian hymns will help to fill out the context of the celebration, especially when they reflect the title of the feast. Thus “Hail, Holy Queen, Enthroned Above” (CBW III #457) becomes an appropriate entrance song for the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, August 15 and “Highly Favored One” (CBW III #459) for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, December 8. “The God Whom Earth and Sea and Sky” (CBW III #464) would work for either day.

During Advent and Christmas, Mary already figures prominently in the songs of the season. Such hymns often reflect the larger context of the incarnation. This was especially true of some of the mediaeval carols, which inevitably and sometimes quite graphically mentioned the future cross and resurrection of the infant. This sense is reflected in “Advent Antiphon” (CBW III #301) and “The Angel Gabriel” (CBW III #316). Although found in the selection of Marian songs, “Holy Mary, Full of Grace” (CBW III #461) and “I Sing a Maid” (CBW III #462) would be good choices for these seasons.

The matter really concerns the use of Marian hymns at celebrations during the rest of the year: Lent-Easter and Ordinary Time. Some parishes have created a sort of “tradition” of a Marian hymn at every eucharist; the question becomes not only whether this is good liturgical practice but also how this should happen at all.

The choice of a Marian hymn must support, not stand apart from or compromise the other liturgical elements. The hymn must not seem an intrusion—something imposed on the celebration. To be specific, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) indicates that after communion (that is, after the communion song, which is not omitted), a psalm, canticle of praise

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or hymn may be sung (GIRM, current no. 56; new no. 88). This is often taken as justification for the choir to begin a “meditation song” during the communion silence—which is then further extended into a possible moment for a Marian anthem. However, the Instruction is clear that this is a song “by the entire congregation” (you can almost see the rubric “while standing”), a song of praise for the gift of eucharist. (A parallel would be the original Book of Common Prayer placement of the “Glory to God” here.) The choice of song and the manner of its execution are clearly defined, even limited, by the Instruction. Thus, the singing of “Ave Maria,” by choir or soloist, and even the choice of any Marian song (with the possible exception of the Magnificat, since it is placed here when evening prayer is joined with mass) is simply not permitted by the liturgical moment.

During the fifty days of Easter any hymn choice must reflect the time and not simply stand on its own; it cannot ignore the Easter season. May and October may be traditional Marian months, but in terms of private devotion, not liturgical element. These months do not provide any proper justification for the inclusion of a Marian hymn. Neither does the fact of an immediately past or upcoming Marian feast. The Sunday after August 15, for example, does not invite the singing of a Marian hymn simply because it follows the Assumption.

It is thus quite impossible to accommodate or justify the singing of a Marian hymn during the communion procession. The only case to be made is the Magnificat: it is given in the Sacramentary as the communion antiphon on certain feasts (for example, August 15). But again, this choice must respect the general context of Sunday; in other words, it is not an alternate communion song but a selection on certain defined days.

During the preparation of the gifts on a Marian feast, the song could reflect the day (as the Roman Graduale provides); but this is not a suitable moment on every occasion. (Remember that what is inappropriate for a song by the assembly is also inappropriate for choir or cantor.) This also applies in the choice of the entrance song.

**Toward an Answer**

What of those communities that truly desire the inclusion of a Marian hymn on a regular basis at liturgies? Perhaps the best time for a Marian hymn, especially if this is to be done on a regular basis, is at the conclusion of the celebration. Here the song can reflect the Marian Anthem that closes the daily office at night prayer.

But there are some parameters!

Use of a version of the Regina Caeli (CBW #460 “Be Joyful, Mary, Heav’ly Queen”) throughout Easter reflects and actually sustains the season. Other songs should be chosen to do the same: the “Salve Regina” (CBW III #469) or equivalent for Ordinary Time. The sense of a “tradition” would be supported, perhaps even justified, when this concluding song is chosen (and repeated) seasonally or monthly. The liturgy of the hours recommends only a few songs; traditionally, it had only four to cover the entire year.

Marian hymns at eucharist must never be a matter of anyone’s private devotion, even that of the presider (GIRM no. 352) or pastor. Their choice must always be integrated into the celebration. They are a reflection of the assembly’s celebration of the Lord’s paschal mystery. [1]
MUSIC FOR THE SUNDAY ASSEMBLY:
Year B: Advent and Christmas Seasons

Advent is only four Sundays long; this does not allow much time either for boredom with repeated songs or for the learning of new ones. Often it is wise to repeat at least one song on each of the Sundays of the season as a way of uniting the season musically. In an assembly of reluctant, insecure or inexperienced singers, it is unwise to vary the music to any great extent.

Several pieces have been suggested for the same moment in the liturgy. If this is the year to introduce a new Advent song, use this listing as an aid for selecting one that will best serve your community; then begin teaching it well in advance of the season.

In general, the entrance hymns suggested are truly processional expressing the joyful nature of Advent waiting and preparation. Less rhythmically strong pieces are assigned to the procession for the presentation of the gifts. Generally speaking, the suggested hymns are in harmony with the whole season rather than only one day's readings.

The communion processional hymn is an integral element of the communion procession. It is more important that the piece selected be in harmony with the action of the liturgy (see GIRM 56i) than with the season.

The sung recessional is, of course, completely optional, however, most parishes have embraced the practice. The recessions suggested here are lively, rhythmically strong, and express the energy of the community sent from eucharist to mission in a world often overwhelmed by the spirit of the consumer society in these days preceding December 25.

Holy Family, Epiphany, Mary the Mother of God, and the Baptism of the Lord do not require more than one hymn focussed on the specific feast, especially if the community is not familiar enough with these songs to sing them with energy.

Introductory Rites
• Advent Wreath
  The use of the Advent wreath in the church is entirely optional. It should never become the focal point of the celebration, nor should the rites surrounding it dominate or overshadow the gathering rites or the celebration of God's word. On the First Sunday of Advent, one candle may be lit prior to the celebration. Following the greeting, the wreath may be simply blessed, and penitential rite be celebrated as usual. On subsequent Sundays, the appropriate number of candles is lit prior to the celebration and the introductory rites take place as usual. There is no need for any music connected with the Advent wreath; use of such music would certainly distort the introductory rites of the mass.
  • Advent 230 or 232  Lord, Have Mercy - Litany
  • Christmas Season 239 or 245  Gloria

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Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

The Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling with water may be used during celebrations on this day. One of the following may accompany the sprinkling:

- 236 May This Water Keep Us Aware
- 237 You Will Draw Water Joyfully

Seasonal Psalms

Where singing the proper psalm of each Sunday would be discouraging for the assembly or overly taxing to the ability of the cantor, a seasonal psalm refrain may be used with the verses proper to the day.

- Advent 15, 16, and 23
- Christmas Season 29A, 29B

Processional Songs

Communion

- 608 Now in This Banquet (note optional refrain especially for Advent)
- 597 Bread of Life
- 611 Take and Eat

Other Processionals

1st, 2nd and 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 303 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn Entrance
- 315 The Advent of Our God (TUNE: FESTAL SONG, 302) Entrance
- *304 Awake, Awake: Fling off the Night Entrance
- 341 Arise and Shine Entrance
- *302 Arise, Your Light Is Come! Entrance
- 308 Every Valley Entrance
- *307 Creator of the Stars of Night Presentation of Gifts
- 309 Listen, My People Presentation of Gifts
- *318 The King Shall Come Presentation of Gifts
- 314 God of All People Presentation of Gifts
- 305 Be Light for Our Eyes Recessional
- 317 Prepare the Way Recessional
- 433 The Voice of God Recessional
- 345 City of God Recessional
- 557 Let Heaven Rejoice Recessional

4th Sunday of Advent

- 464 The God Whom Earth and Sea and Sky Entrance
- 575 Tell Out, My Soul Recessional

Christmas and Holy Family

- 346 In the Darkness Shines the Splendour Entrance
- 303 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn Entrance
- 346 In the Darkness Shines the Splendour Entrance
- 320 Angels We Have Heard on High Entrance
### Music for the Sunday Assembly • Year B: Advent and Christmas Seasons

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Brief Book Reviews

Murray Kroetsch

- Liturgical Celebrations on Weekdays, Liturgical Commission, Diocese of London, (London, ON: Liturgical Commission, 2001); 34 pp., $6.00

This brief document was written in response to questions regarding the type of celebration that is appropriate on weekdays when, because of the absence of a priest, the eucharist cannot be celebrated. A clear systematic presentation on the integrity of the eucharistic action is offered as a rationale for discouraging weekday “communion services” when a community is unable to celebrate the eucharist due to the absence of a priest. Alternatives are recommended. This document offers a balanced reflection on an important contemporary issue in many parish communities. Highly recommended.

- The Liturgy of the Hours, Liturgical Commission, Diocese of London, (London, ON: Liturgical Commission, 2001); 16 pp., $5.00

This small booklet has been prepared as a companion to Liturgical Celebrations on Weekdays. It contains a concise overview of the history, theology and structure of the Liturgy of the Hours. The commission sets forth the liturgy of the hours as a fitting form of prayer for communities that are unable to celebrate the eucharist on weekdays due to the absence of a priest. This background paper is designed for liturgical committees as they introduce the Liturgy of the Hours. An excellent resource.

- Morning Prayer & Evening Prayer, Liturgical Commission, Diocese of London, (London, ON: Liturgical Commission, 2001); 16 pp., $3.00 each

The Liturgical Commission of the Diocese of London has prepared both a leader’s edition and assembly edition of morning prayer for parish use. A complete model for each of the seasons of Advent, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time is included in both editions. A similar set of books has been prepared as a resource for parishes who wish to celebrate evening prayer. Due to copyright restrictions, these resources are only available for study use outside the Diocese of London. Nevertheless, they provide good models for imitation by other communities who may wish to publish similar resources to encourage more frequent celebrations of the liturgy of the hours.


This small booklet provides an excellent foundational treatment of biblical fundamentalism. The author discusses the foundations of biblical fundamentalism and outlines the fundamentalist approach to scripture and the Catholic approach to scripture. He offers a thoughtful and balanced evaluation of biblical fundamentalism and proposes an approach that Catholics can take in responding to questions raised by biblical fundamentalists. This informative book will be

Murray Kroetsch is a presbyter of the Diocese of Hamilton, where he is the director of liturgy. He provided these reviews just before leaving for a study sabbatical in Rome.
Brief Book Reviews

useful for catechists, preachers and anyone engaged in ecumenical dialogue.

Basket, Basin, Plate and Cup, edited by David Philippart, (Chicago, IL: Liturgy Training Publications, 2001); 122 pp., $17.00 US.

Anyone interested in knowing about the historical development and current use of liturgical vessels or the Church's current legislation regarding the crafting of dignified vessels for worship will find this book quite informative. Anyone who delights in wonderful works of art will delight in the coloured photos of contemporary liturgical vessels that grace the pages of this book. The several artists whose work is represented in this small volume and their respective commentaries invite the reader to consider the dignity of liturgical vessels in a new and exciting way. Recommended.

The Spirit of Worship: The Liturgical Tradition, by Susan J. White, (Maryknoll: New York: Orbis Books, 1999); 159 pp., $13.00 US.

The author of this work begins with an excellent essay on the nature of liturgical spirituality and then explores the significance of this spirituality in terms of Christian identity and vocation, communal life and living responsibly in the present moment. Susan White also discusses the connection between a liturgical spirituality and negotiating sickness, dying and death. Written from an ecumenical perspective, this book offers one of the most helpful discussions on liturgical spirituality to date. Highly recommended.


The author of this book surveys the history of confirmation and first reception of the eucharist by examining the age of the candidate and sequence of the rites during the first two Christian millennia. This brief and clearly written book provides the reader with an excellent mini-course in the history and theology of initiation sacraments. Together with the accompanying CD-ROM which provides further references and source material, this book should be required reading for all people engaged in the work of Christian initiation, whether with adults or with children. Highly recommended.

The Three Days: A Liturgical Guide, by Lawrence J. Johnson, (Washington, DC: Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, 2001); 189 pp., $15.00 US.

Readers who have used the FDLC study of the mass, entitled The Mystery of Faith, will welcome this latest publication on the Easter Triduum. Like the previous publication, this work guides the reader through every ritual moment of the great three days of the Easter celebration providing succinct historical background, thoughtful reflections and discussion questions. The author has included all the official liturgical texts and directives relative to each moment of the Triduum. One of the excellent features of this book is the extensive bibliography that accompanies each chapter.

This work is recommended for liturgy committees and all who are engaged in the preparation of the Easter Triduum.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation, by David M. Coffey, (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2001); 189 pp., $19.95 US.

In this scholarly work, the author offers a systematic and detailed overview of the nature of sin and the Church's ministry of reconciliation. He then discusses in depth the elements of the sacrament of reconciliation and the rites of reconciliation that emerged following Vatican II. Of particular interest is Coffey's treatment of the relationship between the sacraments of baptism, eucharist and reconciliation,
his careful evaluation of our present rites for reconciliation and his brief, but insightful observations regarding the pastoral future of this sacrament. Recommended as a foundational text for the ongoing study of the Church's ministry of reconciliation.

- The Promise of Obedience: A Ritual History, by Leon F. Strieder, (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2001); 155 pp., $19.95 US.

In his doctoral dissertation, Leon Strieder examines the historical and textual evolution of the promise of obedience in the rites of ordination and its significance for both the ordained minister and the community he is called to serve. In particular, the author discusses the new formulation of this promise which the 1990 second typical edition of the ordination rites provides for presbyters and deacons. He raises critical questions regarding the impact of this change in the ritual text. This work will be of special interest to those engaged in the formation of clergy and those responsible for overseeing the translation of the second typical edition.

- Guide for Sacristans, by Christina Neff, (Chicago, IL: Liturgy Training Publications, 2001); 57 pp., $5.00 US.

This is the latest volume in the Basics of Ministry Series from LTP. The author begins with reflections on the ministry and spirituality of the sacristan and explores the responsibilities of the sacristan in view of the many other liturgical ministers with whom the sacristan must work. The final section of this small book provides a helpful overview of the seasons of the liturgical year and what is required of the sacristan in preparing celebrations during these times. This book provides a much needed overview of the ministry of the sacristan and will be invaluable in parishes where this ministry is being established or developed more fully. Recommended.

- An Everyday Book of Hours, by William G. Storey, (Chicago, IL: Liturgy Training Publications, 2001); 296 pp., $15.00 US.

William Storey has compiled a four-week cycle of morning and evening prayer for popular use. Based on the liturgy of the hours, but using texts and translations of the scriptures from a variety of sources, the author provides a simple format for daily prayer. It appears that this adapted form of the liturgy of the hours has been compiled to introduce people into the liturgical rhythm of prayer in a very accessible way. It is recommended for ecumenical gatherings and for small groups wishing to pray in common.

- The Passover Celebration: A Haggadah for the Seder, prepared by Rabbi Leon Klenicki and Myra Cohen Klenicki, (Chicago, IL: Liturgy Training Publications, 2001); 62 pp., $4.95 US.

This is a revision of the 1980 edition of LTP's very useful participation book for occasions when Christians are invited to join with members of the Jewish community to celebrate the Passover Seder. The new layout, artwork, glossary and pronunciation guide are appealing. A helpful list of related materials is contained at the conclusion of the book. Also available is a 50-minute cassette or CD that contains the songs and Hebrew words used in this book. All in all, this resource is practical and highly recommended for use by those who want to learn more about the Passover Seder and for those who have the opportunity to celebrate this Jewish ritual meal.

- A Prayer Book for Remembering Women, compiled by J. Frank Henderson, (Chicago, IL: Liturgy Training Publications, 2001); 186 pp., $15.00 US.

The four thematic orders of morning and evening prayer in this collection are designed for personal or communal use and are especially appropriate for ecumenical use. Though similar in form to
Brief Book Reviews

the liturgy of the hours, the texts and
hymns for each model highlight the faith
of the women of scripture. Each model
focuses on a particular theme: anointing
women, women evangelists and apostles,
Holy Wisdom, the Creator and creation.
The texts for morning and evening
thanksgiving and the litanies of praise and
intercessions found in this resource will be
useful in a variety of prayerful settings.
Recommended as a valuable resource for
personal and communal prayer.

- Teaching Kids the Basics of Liturgy, by
  Robert D. Duggan, (Allen, TX: Resources
  for Christian Living, 2000); 112 pp., $6.95
  US.

This little volume is a gem! The author
provides a guide for parents, teachers and
catechists to assist them in forming
children in the spirit of the liturgy today.
In the first chapter Duggan offers a guided
tour of the church and points out how the
space in which we celebrate can give
shape to our faith. In the second chapter,
he explores the liturgical year and
connects the annual seasons and feasts to
the rhythms of daily life. Finally, in the last
chapter, the author identifies thirteen
areas of "ritual competency" that children
(and adults) need in order to participate
fully, consciously and actively in the
liturgy. This book is highly recommended
and should be required reading for every
Catholic parent and catechist.

Western Conference for Liturgy

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More information is available from the respective diocesan
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Phone: 306-753-2063
E-mail: dtumback@sk.sympatico.ca
The following note has been issued by the President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Most Reverend Jacques Berthelet, C.S.V., following the approval of the Permanent Council of the Conference at its meeting of 20-21 March 2002.

1. The Latin text of the third typical edition of the Missale Romanum has been approved and published and is to be applied when the Eucharist is celebrated in Latin. The necessary translations into English and French of the Missal and its Institutio generalis or “General Instruction” will now need to be made, followed by the approval of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the recognitio of the Holy See. With respect to the implementation of this new edition of the Roman Missal in Canada, the directives of the diocesan bishop are to be followed, taking into account as appropriate the following points.

2. At their September 2001 Plenary Assembly, the Bishops of Canada agreed to request an indult from the Holy See concerning the general practice of preparing and purifying the sacred vessels at Communion when ordinary ministers or instituted acolytes are lacking. While awaiting the response of the Apostolic See, it is recommended that diocesan bishops advise their parishes to continue their present practice.

3. The new General Instruction requires that the Episcopal Conference of each country make adaptations on various matters concerning the celebration of the Eucharist, and also permits a number of additional adaptations. The adaptations being considered by the Bishops of Canada concern musical texts, musical styles, melodies and instruments; Communion under both kinds; Masses on days of prayer for particular intentions; vesture of lay ministers; art and environment—all, furnishings and vessels; and acclamations in the Eucharistic Prayer. While awaiting the approval of these particular adaptations and their recognitio by the Apostolic See, it is recommended that diocesan bishops advise their parishes to continue their present practice.

4. As allowed in the new General Instruction, the Bishops of Canada will also propose appropriate postures for the Eucharistic Prayer and Communion Rite. While awaiting the approval of these particular adaptations and their recognitio by the Apostolic See, it is recommended that diocesan bishops advise their parishes to continue their present practice.

5. The new General Instruction asks the Conference of Bishops to determine an appropriate sign of reverence when Communion is received standing. The Bishops of Canada are considering what this appropriate sign of reverence should be. While awaiting the approval of this particular adaptation and its recognitio by the Apostolic See, it is recommended that diocesan bishops advise their parishes to continue their present practice.
6. Should questions arise on the correct and appropriate implementation of individual norms in the new edition of the Roman Missal, pastors and faithful are to refer these to their bishop. As the Second Vatican Council decreed, "The bishop is to be considered the high priest of his flock. In a certain sense it is from him that the faithful who are under his care derive and maintain their life in Christ" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, no. 41).

26 March 2002

+ Jacques Berthelet, C.S.V.
Bishop of Saint-Jean-Longueuil
President, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

Director, Communications Service
Tel.: (613) 241-9461
Fax: (613) 241-8117
kokesch@cccb.ca

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**Nationwide Networking**

Every now and then, the National Liturgy Office becomes aware of materials dealing with liturgical topics, which have been developed by various dioceses across the country. In an effort to raise awareness of the existence of these materials we plan to announce their availability in the National Bulletin on Liturgy.

If you have any such materials that you would like to make available please send us:
- the name of the resource
- a brief description if its contents
- price, if any
- contact information for those who wish to place an order by phone, fax, and/or e-mail

Once we receive your announcement we will announce its availability.

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- For most of our people who are not accomplished musicians or singers, the cassettes are a major asset.
- They help me to pray.
- I find it very helpful to hear other choirs singing and their interpretation of the music, compared to our own.
- Cassettes make learning time less than half.
- The music cassettes give our choir an idea of the tempo, mood, etc. of the music. It helps us decide which new songs we are going to work on.
- Generally speaking, our small parishes do not have professional musicians, so having a cassette means learning new hymns is a wonderful and pleasant challenge.
- The cassettes offer great selections for liturgical seasons and help set tempos.
- They have helped me to get to know the melodies before we began to practise them, and also to choose the ones most applicable to the readings for each Sunday or other feasts, etc.
- They are helpful for prayer times, alone or in groups.
- The quality of the cassettes is excellent.
- In preparing the liturgy, I listen to the cassettes, especially for the responsorial psalms.
- They are clear, technically sound, and easy to follow.
- The cassettes help to get the correct timing and speed that the hymns should be sung at. Helpful to hear how to interpret the hymns, i.e., organ settings, guitar or piano accompaniment.

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