



The Catholic Archdiocese of
Canberra and Goulburn

Sunday Celebration of the Word and Communion - Christmas

INTRODUCTORY RITE

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

[Welcome one another.

The leader of prayer (L) moves from the front pews to the presiding place.

The priest's chair is empty.

The readers and ministers with candles and incense wait at the entrance.

The community or assembly (A) is gathered]

GATHERING SONG

Stand

L and A: Make the SIGN OF THE CROSS

LITURGICAL GREETING (Alternative greetings p. 18-31)

L: Blessed be Christ, made visible in the flesh,
seen by angels,
and proclaimed among the nations.
Bless the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit.

A: Blessed be God forever.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS (p. 206)

L: Today, we, the people of God,
gather to hear and respond to God's word,
to return praise and thanks,
[and to share Christ's sacrament.]
We look forward to that day
when we will once more celebrate the Eucharist,
as Christ commanded us to do in his memory.
Our community makes its worship
in union with the Church throughout the world,
with N. our Pope, N. our bishop,
our pastor, Father N., who is unable to be with us,
and with our brothers and sisters in neighbouring

parishes

who keep holy this day

in the celebration of the Lord's sacrifice and supper.

OPENING RITE (Christmas, p. 19)

L: With all the voices of heaven,
let us sing praise and honour and glory to God

(Sing or say the Gloria).

**A: Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

(Christmas p. 20-31 Sunday Celebration of the Word and Hours or the Opening Prayer of the day. e.g.)

L: Let us pray.

Eternal God,
every year you gladden our hearts
by renewing our hope of redemption;
grant that we who accept your Son as our Redeemer
may face him with confidence when he comes as our
judge,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

A: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

PROCESSION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Process in to sung acclamation.

(The reader/s (R) with Lectionary held aloft, move from the entrance down the aisle, accompanied by ministers with lighted candles. The Lectionary is placed on the ambo and incensed.)

INVITATION

L: May the Word of God always be heard in this place,
as it unfolds the mystery of Christ before us,
and achieves our salvation within the church. Sit

FIRST READING

The First Reading of the Sunday from the Lectionary

R: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God. *Followed by silent reflection*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *(sung if possible)*

The Responsorial Psalm of the Sunday from the Lectionary

SECOND READING

The Second Reading of the Sunday from the Lectionary

R: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God. *Followed by silent reflection*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(sung if possible)* Stand
The Gospel Acclamation of the Sunday from the Lectionary

Alleluia, alleluia...
Alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Gospel of the Sunday from the Lectionary

R: A reading from the holy Gospel according to
(e.g., Mark)

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. Sit

SHARED REFLECTION on the Readings followed by silence.

PROFESSION OF FAITH (alternative format p. 337) Stand

L: Brothers and sisters, let us profess the faith of the
Church we received on the day of our baptism.

**A: I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the
dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

L: 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

A reader announces the intentions in the usual way.

R: Lord hear us.

A: Lord, hear our prayer.

L: God of love, hear the prayers of your people
and grant us today what we ask of you in faith.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE

L Let us praise the Lord.
(Brief pause)

Left hand side: We praise you, O God,
we acclaim you as Lord;
all creation worships you,
the Father everlasting.
To you, most holy and glorious God,
we voice our praise and sing/say:
**All nations and people,
sing, praise and bless the Lord. Alleluia!**

Right hand side: To you, all angels, all the powers of heaven,
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
We join in their hymn
as we voice our praise and sing/say:
**All nations and people,
sing, praise and bless the Lord. Alleluia!**

Left hand side: The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:
Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all praise,
the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.
Our own voices praise you as we sing/say:
**All nations and people,
sing, praise and bless the Lord. Alleluia!**

Right hand side: You, Christ, are the king of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.
When you took our flesh to set us free
you humbly chose the Virgin's womb.
You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all
believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come to be our judge.
Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.
Through you, our Lord and Saviour,
to the God of all glory,
we voice our praise and sing/say:
**All nations and people,
sing, praise and bless the Lord. Alleluia!**

SIGN OF PEACE

L: In the name of Christ, let us offer each other a sign of
peace.
[The leader of prayer returns to the body of the
Church.]
[The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EM)
prepares for Communion.]

COMMUNION RITE

Kneel

BRINGING OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT TO THE ALTAR
[by Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.]

THE LORD'S PRAYER Stand

EM: With trust in our Father in heaven,
we pray as Jesus taught us, saying/singing

A: **Our Father...**
...now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION Kneel

EM: Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

A: **Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

*The distribution of Communion takes place in the usual
way.*

REPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

PERIOD OF SILENCE Sit

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Stand

EM: Let us pray. (Christmas p. 260)
(Silent prayer)

Lord our God,
we celebrate with joy the birth of our Redeemer.
Grant that through worthy and holy lives
we may be welcomed into his glorious company
for ever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A: **Amen.**

[The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion returns to his/her place.]

[The leader of prayer returns to the sanctuary.]

CONCLUDING RITE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sit

COLLECTION

BLESSING (p. 249-250)

Stand

L: God, the Father of mercies, has sent his Son into the world.

Through the Holy Spirit, who will teach us all truth, may he make us messengers of the Gospel
(make the Sign of the Cross)
and witnesses of his love to the world
now and forever

A: Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Let us go in peace, glorifying the Lord by our life.

A: Thanks be to God.

Considerations for music

“The Church’s liturgy moves within the cycle and rhythm of the liturgical seasons that celebrate the many facets of the mystery of Christ and salvation through the course of the liturgical year. The use of the Lectionary with the Sunday scriptures unites each Sunday assembly with the Church universal” *Pastoral Handbook for the Dioceses of Australia: Sunday Celebration of the Word, Sunday Celebration of the Hours*, p. 28. This cycle and rhythm of liturgical seasons should also be reflected in the musical selections for a Celebration of the Word.

“The hymn chosen for communion should speak of the meaning of the act of communion, and not adoration. The communicant is in union with Christ, and with the whole body of Christ. The hymn’s text should reflect the ritual action or speak of unity and service. Texts should not give the impression that the eucharistic celebration has taken place at *this* celebration.” *Pastoral Handbook*, p. 30.

As with selecting music for Mass, priority should be given to those parts of the liturgy that by their nature are sung e.g. Responsorial Psalm, Gloria (when appropriate), the Gospel Acclamation, and the Acclamations during the Proclamation of Praise. Then consideration should move to the Processional songs (Entrance, Word and Communion) and the verses of the Proclamation of Praise, followed by music for other parts of the liturgy.

For more information about musical selection see our document on *Music in the Liturgy* and p. xxxix-xlii in *Sunday Celebration of the Word and Hours*.

Acknowledgement

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Other Useful Resources:

Archdiocese of Brisbane. *Lay Leaders of Liturgy with Sample Rites for Sundays, Weekdays and Funerals*. Brisbane: The Liturgical Commission, 2004.

Chase, A. *Remaining Faithful: Sundays without the Eucharist*. Brisbane: The Liturgical Commission, 2004.

National Liturgical Commission. *Pastoral Handbook for the Dioceses of Australia: Sunday Celebration of the Word, Sunday Celebration of the Hours*. Brisbane: The Liturgical Commission, 2004.

