

Celebration of the Word (for home or classroom use)

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

To prepare our hearts to listen to the Word of God and open ourselves to His saving message let us acknowledge our sins and ask for His forgiveness as we pray:

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Then optionally you can include the following:

All: I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done,
and in what I have failed to do;
through my fault, through my fault, *Strike your breast each time you say "fault".*
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God. Amen.

All sit.

Listen to the proclamation of the Sunday Readings. You can find them on the [USCCB website here](http://USCCB.org).

The formula for the first and second readings is as follows:

Lector: A reading from the book of _____.

(reading)

The word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

The psalm response is read once by the lector, and then repeated with everyone.

Gospel Acclamation (all stand):

Alleluia, alleluia. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

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Lector: A reading from the holy Gospel according to _____.

R: Glory to you, O Lord. *(make a small sign of the cross on your forehead, lips, and chest)*

(proclaim Gospel reading)

The Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All sit.

You may want to have a brief reflection on the readings, or a short discussion of what each family/class member heard during the readings. This can be as long or as short as you desire for your family/class.

Optional: Pray the Apostles' or Nicene Creed. (standing)

Leader: Let us now offer our prayers of petition.

All stand.

Reader leads the prayers of petition using the formula after each one:

We pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Let us now pray the prayer Jesus taught us.

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Leader: Now we will pray our Spiritual Communion:

Sit or kneel.

All: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You are already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

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

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Tips for Celebrating the Word within the family or class:

- Talk about what you will be doing ahead of time. Prepare your family or class so everyone knows what is happening. Go over the appropriate responses and postures.
- Choose who will be the Leader and Lectors ahead of time.
- Allow the lectors to practice the readings aloud prior to the celebration.
- Write the prayers of petition similar to Mass:
 - Prayer for the Church and her leaders.
 - Prayer for the community and its leaders.
 - Prayer for those in need/poor/unemployed, etc.
 - Prayer for the sick.
 - Prayer for the dead.
 - Prayer in the hearts of those present (either aloud or in silence).
- In order to help the children connect to the Mass and remember that the Gospel is proclaimed by the deacon or priest at Mass, the Gospel should be proclaimed by the father, or the oldest male in the household. In the classroom, if there is a male catechist, he should proclaim the Gospel, if not, then a female catechist can do it.
- Set up a sacred space in your home or classroom to gather around to celebrate the Word together.
 - Include a crucifix, candle, Bible, current liturgical color, flowers, or other sacred objects that may focus the minds and hearts of the participants.
 - Avoid objects that may be distracting rather than focal points. Too many things can be distracting, simple might be better than ornate. You decide what is best for your situation and the personalities of those worshipping together.

Options:

- Include the Gloria after the Confiteor.
- Add an opening and closing hymn.
- Sing the psalm response and/or the Gospel Acclamation.
- If celebrating in the home in lieu of watching a Mass through media, conclude the Celebration of the Word with a meal...as the first Christians did. Continue the discussion of the readings at your meal and throughout the week to help everyone incorporate the Gospel in your lives.

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