

LITURGY OF THE WORD TO REMEMBER THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

NOVEMBER 2020



In preparation for the celebration, the participants might write the names of their deceased relatives and friends on a special piece of paper or in a special book and place them in a basket as part of the centre of the prayer space.

Before beginning the Liturgy of the Word prepare a prayer space and place a *candle; cross; bible; special intentions; bowl of water* symbolising our Baptism together with a *purple cloth, autumn leaves* or a *plant* in the space.

Introduction

Opening Song:

*Be Not Afraid
Here I Am Lord
Christ Be Near At Either Hand
Ag Críost An Síol
Any other well known suitable Hymn*

Greeting - Leader:

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

Leader: Your word, O God, is a lamp for our steps and a light for our path.
(Pause. The candle shall be lit at this stage)

Words of Introduction:

We remember and pray for our Faithful Departed in our special November Liturgy of the Word. We remember with great love and affection our family members who have died this year and in particular those who have died from Covid-19.

Leader:

My brothers and sisters, as we enter God's presence to open our hearts to his Word, may we comfort one another, finding light in time of darkness and faith in time of doubt.

.....Silent Prayer.....

Leader: Have mercy on us, Lord.

All: **For we have sinned against you.**

Leader: Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

All: **And grant us your salvation.**

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

All: **Amen.**

Opening Prayer - Leader:

Let us pray.

O God,

in whom mercy and forgiveness belong,
hear our prayers on behalf of our relatives and friends
whom you have called out of this world.

Because they put their help and trust in you,
we commend them to your heavenly care
and that they come to enjoy your eternal reward.

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. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading:

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Romans 14:7-12

Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. We shall all have to stand before the judgement seat of God; as scripture says: By my life – it is the Lord who speaks – every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall praise God. It is to God, therefore, that each of us must give an account of himself.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 22: The Lord Is My Shepherd

Psalm 41: Like The Deer That Yearns For Running Streams

Psalm 24: To You, O Lord, I Lift Up My Soul

Any other well known suitable Psalm



Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Alleluia

Composer: Fintan O'Carroll

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Come, you whom my Father has blessed,
says the Lord;
take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you
since the foundation of the world.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Gospel:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:1-12

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ



Pause for Reflection: In Thanksgiving for People and Their Places

A People Place:
If this is not a place where tears are understood,
Where do I go to cry?
If this is not a place where my spirit can take wing,
Where do I go to fly?
If this is not a place where my questions can be asked,
Where do I go to seek?
If this is not a place where my feelings can be heard,
Where do I go to speak?
If this is not a place where my feelings can be heard,
Where do I go to speak?
If this is not a place where you'll accept me as I am,
Where can I go to be?
If this is not a place where I can try to learn and grow,
Where can I just be me?

William J Crocker



Prayers of Intercession:

Introduction

Leader: *With faith and the comfort of God's holy word, let us pray for all the faithful departed; that they may be found worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Participants:

- 1 That all, to whom the promise of eternal life was given at baptism, may be brought to the fulfilment of that promise in the company of the angels and saints. (*pause*)
Lord, hear us.
- 2 That our departed sisters and brothers in our families and in our parishes may be granted everlasting peace and rest. (*pause*)
Lord, hear us.
- 3 That those who have died through acts of violence and war may find a place of justice and peace in God's kingdom. (*pause*)
Lord, hear us.
- 4 That all in need may be grace with peace, justice and compassion; for all who bear the burden of poverty and homelessness, of loss of work, for the sick and all who are distressed in any way. (*pause*)
Lord, hear us.
- 5 That those who have died alone, unwanted and unmourned may be welcomed by the heavenly community. (*pause*)
Lord, hear us.
- 6 That all who have suffered the loss of loved ones and for all who mourn, may be sustained by God's grace and receive the consolation of those who surround them (*pause*)
Lord, hear us.
- 7 That we may continue in a spirit of solidarity and courage to face together the dangers of these times and as we remember all who suffer through Covid-19. (*pause*)
Lord, hear us.
- 8 That all who have died in the past year, including all who died from Covid-19, may, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. (*pause*)
Lord, hear us.

Concluding Rite

Lord's Prayer:

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



Our Father who art in heaven.....

Concluding Prayer:

God of all consolation,
in Your unending love and mercy for us
You turn the darkness of death
into the dawn of new life.
Show compassion to Your people in their sorrow
as we commend to You our loved ones.

Be our refuge and our strength
to lift us from the darkness of our grief
to the peace and light of Your presence.

Strengthen the bonds of our family
and our community.
Confirm us in faith, in hope, and in love,
so that we may bear Your peace to one another
and one day stand together with all the saints
who praise Your saving help.
We ask this, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

All: Amen.

Leader: The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
All: **Amen.**

Dismissal:

Leader: Go in the peace of Christ
All: **Thanks be to God.**

*We entrust our loved ones to Your Mercy, O God.
You loved them greatly in this life: now that they are freed from all its cares,
give them happiness and peace forever.*



Concluding Song of Choice or *Glenstal Beatitudes*

(Adapt as Necessary)



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