



LECALE AREA MISSION PARTNERSHIP

***Spiritual Communion  
when unable to attend  
a Celebration of Holy Communion***

*During this time of crisis, it is a particular challenge for many of us that we are unable to join together for worship – we especially miss sharing together around the Lord’s Table for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This short Order of Service has been prepared for use at home by individuals or families. While we may not be able to share the consecrated elements at the moment, we can celebrate and share our fellowship as members together of the Communion of Saints.*

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*Remember that the word ‘Eucharist’ means thanksgiving, and so as we gather for Spiritual Communion we can still make our ‘Eucharist’ to God for the blessing of his love.*

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*If members of a household are praying together, one person may act as leader and the others as the congregation joining in the sections in bold type. If alone, read all the words aloud. You may want to set out a cross and/or light a candle, have a Bible and Prayer Book to look at and some music to play.*

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*You may want to take one or two minutes in silence at the start of your act of worship.*

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*You may want to pray a Collect from the end of this booklet, or the Collect of the Day.*

*Revelation 3:20*

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

*Psalms 62*

On God alone my soul in stillness waits; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.

*John 15:5*

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

*Spend a few moments praying for the people you know and love, the needs of the world and for an end to this pandemic.*

*The Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

*Act of Penitence*

**I love you, Jesus, my love above all things, and I repent with my whole heart of having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again, grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.**

*Act of Spiritual Reception*

**O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though I am exiled from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us. Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.**

Jesus, as the hem of your garment – touched in faith – healed the woman who could not touch your body, so may the soul of your servant be healed, for though I cannot receive you in the sacrament I can, through this offering of my prayer, receive you in my heart; grant this for Christ's sake. **Amen.**

O Lord and heavenly Father, we your humble servants entirely desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly

beseeching you to grant, that by the merits and death of your Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all your whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. **Amen.**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

*Spend some time in silence at the end of your time of worship.*

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*You may find these additional readings and prayers useful:*

*Psalm 134*

Come bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, you that by night stand in the house of the Lord. Lift up your hands towards the holy place and bless the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion, the Lord who made heaven and earth.

*Hebrews 12:1-2*

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and the sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

*Hebrews 13:20-21*

Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

*Matthew 5:3-12 – The Beatitudes*

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*A prayer in the time of Coronavirus (Written by the Archbishop of Dublin)*

Almighty and All-loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we pray to you through Christ the Healer for those who suffer from the Coronavirus Covid-19 in Ireland and across the world. We pray too for all who reach out to those who mourn the loss of each and every person who has died as a result of contracting the disease. Give wisdom to policymakers, skill to healthcare professionals and researchers, comfort to everyone in distress and a sense of calm to us all in these days of uncertainty and distress. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who showed compassion to the outcast, acceptance to the rejected and love to those to whom no love was shown.

*A prayer for Hospitals and Infirmeries (Book of Common Prayer p146)*

Almighty God, whose blessed Son went about doing good, and healing all manner of sickness; Continue, we beseech thee, this his gracious work among us, especially in the hospitals and infirmeries of our land; cheer, heal, and sanctify the sick; grant to the physicians, surgeons, and nurses wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience; and send down thy blessing on all who labour to relieve suffering and to forward thy purposes of love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*A prayer for Absent Friends (Book of Common Prayer p147 amended)*

O God, who is present in every place; Mercifully hear our prayers for those whom we love, now absent from us; watch over them, we pray, and protect them in all anxiety, danger and temptation; teach us and them to know that you are always near, and that we are one in you for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*A prayer for use in the time of any Common Plague or Sickness*

*(from the 1926 Edition of the Book of Common Prayer)*

O Almighty God, the Lord of life and death, of health and sickness; Have pity upon us miserable sinners, now visited with great sickness and mortality. Withdraw from us this grievous affliction. Sanctify to us, we beseech thee, this thy fatherly correction. Enlarge our charity to relieve those who need our help. Bless the remedies applied to assist them. Give us prudence to see, and vigour to use, those means which thy providence affords, for preventing and alleviating such calamities. And, above all, teach us to know how frail and uncertain our condition is, and so to number our days, that we may seriously apply our hearts to that holy and heavenly wisdom, whilst we live here, which may in the end bring us to life everlasting; through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thine only Son our Lord.

*A prayer for Guidance*

Go before us, Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favour, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy attain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.