



ASCENSION OF THE LORD

FAMILY PRAYERS on 24 May 2020

INTRODUCTION

Just as Jesus sent his Apostles and other disciples to make disciples, our family, the domestic Church, is called to bear witness to the life of discipleship. That act of witnessing can take many forms. First and foremost our family should call people to discipleship by the example of our love for one another. That example is only the beginning; our love must extend beyond the family, reaching out to others and to the world.

Together with your family, identify one or more ways in which your family lives the life of Christian discipleship. Thank God for the

blessing of the opportunity to be able to show God's love. Then, after reading together today's readings, especially Gospel, Matthew 28:16-20, discuss what Jesus sends his disciples to do. Work together to identify one or more ways in which your family would like to do a better job bearing witness to the life of discipleship. Choose one of those ways and work together to make it happen. Pray as a family for the grace to be witnesses to the world of the life of discipleship.

To PREPARE: *Small table, covered with white cloth, cross, candles, Bible, pictures of Jesus or Saints, water (Holy Water if you have) for baptismal promises renewal. Choose who is presiding the family celebration, who is reading the readings and intercessions, who is singing.*

Opening Song:

Presider:

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And with your spirit.

Presider:

Dear Members of the Family, let us stand in truth before God and ask him for the forgiveness of our sins, as are starting the celebration of the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, where we also are following him and asking to open the doors of heaven to us through his forgiveness and mercy, as we pray:

P: Jesus, you were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

P: Jesus, you come to call sinners: Christ have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

P: Jesus, you are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

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



Now you can sing/say the hymn: Glory to God in the highest...



Opening Prayer:

Presider:

Let us pray that the Risen Christ may lead us into his glory.

God, our Father, we rejoice at the entrance into glory of your Son Jesus Christ; his ascension is our glory and our hope; help us to follow him in our way to heaven. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

READINGS: **Song/chorus before readings**

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

Jesus is taken up to heaven in the presence of the apostles.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 47:2-3,6-9

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All you peoples, clap your hands,
shout to God with cries of gladness,
For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome,
is the great king over all the earth.

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy;
the LORD, amid trumpet blasts.
Sing praise to God, sing praise;
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

For king of all the earth is God;
sing hymns of praise.
God reigns over the nations,
God sits upon his holy throne.

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

God raised Jesus from the dead and seated him at his right hand.

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA

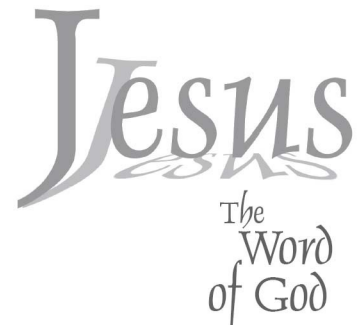
Go, make disciples of all the nations; I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.

Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus charges his disciples to make disciples of all nations and promises to be with them forever.



After the readings, reflect freely together as the family on the Word of God, that you have heard. Which words touched your heart, how it motivated you to do the action, implement it in your life, or your family.

Then:

Jesus asks his Apostles and disciples to make disciples of all nations and promises to be with them forever.

The Presider:

You, as the Family members ask yourselves: What does Jesus tell his disciples to do?

(The answer: to make disciples, to teach, to baptize.)



Discuss in the Family:

- 1. How can you, as the Family Members help others, first in your larger family and community, to become the followers and disciples of Jesus?*
 - 2. How can you, as the Family, help children and adults to learn more about Jesus and the teaching of the Church – discuss together*
 - 3. Ask yourselves: are all members of the family (children, youth and adults) baptised in the Catholic Church. If not, how to help them to prepare for baptism and be baptised?*
- How to help those already baptised to live the good Christian Life?*

After discussions: write down your resolutions and plans that you decided to complete, to guide you in your days to come.

Remembering the Easter Sunday, when the Families renewed the Baptismal Promises, and responding to the Commandment of Jesus in the Gospel today to Baptise those who will believe in him, "in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," now the family will make the renewal of Baptismal Promises, that maybe themselves made or their parents on the Day of Baptism. May the Presider ask the members if they know the date of their Baptism and who was their sponsor.



Profession of Faith & RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

P. Dear **FAMILY MEMBERS**, Christ on the **Cross and in his Resurrection**, won his final victory over the devil. He made pardon available to everyone, and put at our disposal the means to defeat the devil at every temptation. **Each Christian**, throughout his life, must complete in himself the victory of Christ over the devil. When we were baptised, we promised to break with sin altogether, to have nothing to do with it again, to "die to sin" just as a person, who dies, breaks altogether with the world around him. At Baptism we too rose to a new life in Christ, sharing with him his own Holy Spirit. Today, as we rejoice at the Resurrection **and Ascension** of Christ, and share in it through his Holy Spirit in us, let us renew once again what we promised on the day of our Baptism:

P. Are you really determined to break with sin in your life?

All. I am

P. Are you determined to oppose sin in all its forms in the community in which you live?

All. I am.

P. Will you do your best to save your Christian Brothers and Sisters from sin and help them rise when fallen into it?

All. I will.

P. We confess that God created heaven and earth and all that exists. We are grateful to him for having made us his children and enabled us to call him Father. Do you promise to lead a life worthy of a child of God?

All. I promise.

P. We confess that Jesus Christ, out of love for people, came into the world to save us, that was born of the Virgin Mary, that he was crucified, died and was buried thus obtaining forgiveness for our sins. We confess that he rose from the dead giving us a share in his own life. We proclaim that he went up to heaven and sits now at the right hand of the Father, interceding for us. Are you determined to live according to the Gospel he proclaimed, to make Christ your way, truth and life?

All. I am.

P. We believe that the Holy Spirit is both life of the Church and of each one of us. Do you promise to lead a life as one who is the temple of the Holy Spirit?

All. I promise.

P. We confess that Christ left to his Church the power to forgive sins; we are grateful to him for forgiving our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Do you sincerely forgive all those who in any way have offended you?

All. I forgive.

P. We believe that God has prepared for us an everlasting life and joy in heaven; we believe that our mortal bodies will rise again. Will you go on preparing in joyful hope for the coming of Christ at the moment of your death and for final coming at the end of the world?

All. I will.

P. Dear **Family Members**, This is our faith, this is the source of our hope and our joy in life. Strengthened by the Holy Spirit in us, the victory of Christ over the devil will be completed also in us. We shall reign with him; we shall rejoice in the company of our brothers and sisters who have already attained to everlasting life in heaven.

Now, every member comes to the table where the bowl with Holy water or just water is placed, and each person is welcome to sign themselves with the Holy Water, saying: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen, recalling the waters of Baptism and our commitment to life in Christ. While all are sprinkling themselves with holy water, a hymn having reference to baptism is sung.



INTERCESSIONS:

Presider:

Responding to Word of God, let us pray to God, our Father, who calls us to share in the glory of his Son, Jesus Christ.

Reader:

1. For our Holy Father Francis, our Bishop, priests, religious and catechists, that through the fervent prayer and study of the Scriptures they may grow in the knowledge of Jesus, so as to announce him efficaciously to all peoples, Lord, hear us.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

2. For our Christian Community, that we may always remember that the shortest path to heaven is to help others to reach there. Lord, hear us.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

3. For each one of us present here, and for the whole our Family, that we may be encouraged to live as true Christians, remembering of the great reward made ready for us in heaven. Lord, hear us.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

4. For discouraged Christians, because of suffering, sickness or difficulties of life, that they may remember that Jesus is at their side at all times, and turn to him in prayer for strength, healing and new life. Lord, hear us.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

5. For all people, that they may listen to Christ offering them forgiveness of sins, the life in the Spirit and eternal joy in heaven. Lord, hear us.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

6. For all the departed from our family and community, especially who passed away because of Coronavirus pandemic, that Jesus, seating at the right hand of God the Father, will invite them to home in heaven, and console all those who are suffering because of their departure. Lord hear us.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

7. Now anyone can express their petitions and thanksgivings....., Lord, hear us.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Presider:

Father in heaven, we praise you for the glory you bestowed on your Son Jesus; help us to be faithful to the work he has entrusted to us that we may attain the reward he has made ready for us in heaven. Through Christ, our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

An Act of Spiritual Communion by St. Alphonsus Liguori

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 were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



Prayer to stop the Coronavirus

Almighty and Merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation. We come before you asking for a quick control of the Corona Virus currently ravaging our world. Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world. Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families. We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found. We pray for the relevant Governments and Health Authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Gathering these prayers together, as well as those we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray in the words that Jesus taught us. **Our Father...**

Closing Prayer:

P: Grant we pray, Almighty God, that we who believe that your Only Begotten Son, our Redeemer, ascended this day to the heavens, may in spirit dwell already in heavenly kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, Alleluia!
for he whom you were worthy to bear, Alleluia!
has risen as he said, Alleluia!
Pray for us to God, Alleluia!



Blessing:

All: May Almighty God bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen! Alleluia!

Praise the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia

Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia

All are invited to share a sign of Christ's peace.

May the Risen Lord Jesus Christ, Bless you All.

Your in Christ, praying for All of you in daily Holy Mass,

+ Stanisław Dziuba, OSPPE

**AWAITING PENTECOST
in prayer together with the
whole CHURCH**

+ Stanisław Jan Dziuba, OSPPE

Bishop of Catholic Diocese of Umzimkulu [visit: www.umzimkulu.info](http://www.umzimkulu.info)

