**2021 Diocesan Pastoral Congress**

**Morning Praise (**Prayer Template**)**

This service may be adapted. It can be led by a Priest, Deacon or Lay Person.

Invitatory

**Presider O God come to my assistance.**

All Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning, is now,

and will be for ever. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Suggested Hymns: This Day God Gives Me

Faith of Our Fathers

Prayer of Saint Francis / Oración de San Francisco

Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo / We are the Body of Christ

Psalm 33 2-5, 11, 20

Reader The Lord is our help and our shield.

R/. The Lord is our help and our shield.

Reader Give thanks to the LORD on the harp;

on the ten-stringed lyre offer praise.

Sing to him a new song;

skillfully play with joyful chant. **R/.**

Reader For the LORD’s word is upright;

all his works are trustworthy.

He loves justice and right.

The earth is full of the mercy of the LORD. **R/.**

Reader But the plan of the LORD stands forever,

the designs of his heart through all generations.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,

the people chosen as his inheritance. **R/.**

Reader Our soul waits for the LORD,

he is our help and shield.

For in him our hearts rejoice;

in his holy name we trust. **R/.**

All Glory to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning,

is now and will be for ever. Amen.

R/. The Lord is our help and our shield.

Reading Romans 10:9-15

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

For the scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, enriching all who call upon him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news!”

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Reflection on Reading (Optional)

Canticle of Zechariah Luke 1:68-79

*(May be recited or sung)*

**Presider Let us serve the Lord in holiness all the days of our life.**

All Let us serve the Lord in holiness all the days of our life.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;

he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior,

Born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old

that he would save us from our enemies,

from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship him without fear,

holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

to give his people knowledge of salvation

by forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

to shine on those who dwell in darkness

and the shadow of death,

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning, is now,

and will be for ever. Amen.

All Let us serve the Lord in holiness all the days of our life.

Intercessions

R/. *God, of life, hear our prayer.*

**Presider Proclaiming the Good News at work and at home, let us pray that the grace of Jesus Christ will be abundant for us and for all people in need.**

Reader For ordained ministers and church workers, we pray: R/.

Reader For members of parish councils and school boards, we pray: R/.

Reader For volunteer catechists, youth ministers and liturgists, we pray: R/.

Reader For coordinators of social ministries and activities for social justice: R/.

Reader For parents and grandparents, who are the chief catechists of their children: we pray: R/.

Reader For all who serve the Church with love and commitment, we pray: R/.

Reader For those who serve the sick and dying, we pray: R/.

Reader For those who hold the dead before God in prayer, we pray: R/.

The Lord’s Prayer

*In these or similar words*

**Presider With longing for the coming of God’s kingdom,**

**let us offer our prayer to the Father: Our Father . . .**

Blessing

**Presider Lord God,**

**source of all wisdom and knowledge,**

**you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to live among us**

**and to proclaim his message of faith, hope and love to all.**

**As catechists and evangelists, strengthen your people**

**that they may teach by word and witness the truth**

**which comes from you.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

All Amen.

**Presider May almighty God bless you,**

**the Father, and the Son,**✠ **and the Holy Spirit.**

All Amen.

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If a Lay Leader is presiding this blessing is used.

**Leader May the Lord bless us,**

**protect us from all evil**

**and bring us to everlasting life.**

All Amen.