

*For all who are hungry or sad, lonely or sick today.*

*For the people who live in our road.*

*Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening, in the silence of our hearts, let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.*



### **Concluding Prayer**

The concluding prayer is a general expression of trust in God's goodness. It should be short and simple, be addressed to God (the Father) and be made through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*A Loving God,  
we ask you to listen to these prayers  
which we bring to you today  
in the name of Jesus the Lord.  
Amen.*

*B Father,  
may your love be with us always  
and bring peace and joy to our families.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*C God of tender love,  
you always hear our prayers  
we ask you to grant us what we need  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **Returning to our families**

Leader: We have heard God's Word to us today. We now go back to our families and the rest of the community for the next part of our Mass.

## *CELEBRATING LITURGIES OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN*





## **A model**

1. Children gather with their families in church for the introductory rites of the Mass.
2. After the opening prayer a leader for the children's Liturgy of the Word is called forward.
3. A book of the scriptures is presented to the leader and an invitation is given to other leaders and children in the assembly (for example, children between the ages of 5-8) to process with the leader to the place where their Liturgy of the Word will be celebrated.
4. All process to a nearby, prepared place. (This could be accompanied by a sung refrain by all the assembly or instrumental music...)
5. When the children have gathered the leader introduces the scripture of the day. (A child or leader might light a candle.)
6. Before the gospel is proclaimed an acclamation is sung.
7. The scriptures are explored through reflection, discussion and other appropriate activity.
8. There is a time of intercession (prayer of the faithful) for the Church, the world, those in need and the local community.
9. All return to the main body of the church for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. (A system is necessary to inform the group when to return to the church.)

## **Examples of dismissals:**

*Receive this book of readings  
and proclaim God's word faithfully  
to the children entrusted to your care.*

**or**

*My dear children,  
you will now go to hear God's word,  
to praise God in song,  
and to reflect on the wonderful things  
God has done for us.  
We will await your return  
so that together we may celebrate the Eucharist.*

## **A note on the Prayer of the Faithful:**

All liturgy is prayer and it is right that a Liturgy of the Word with children should end with a time of intercession. The prayer may arise from the children's reflection but it is always concerned with the needs of the whole Church and the world. It is important to remember that the petitions are invitations to pray, not the prayers themselves. So a short phrase that invites the children to pray is better than a long or detailed list of concerns. This model of intercession is easily learned by children.

## **Introduction**

*A We know that God loves us, so let us pray for ourselves and for others.*

*B We are God's family, filled with the Holy Spirit, together let us pray.*

*C Jesus has told us to ask God for what we need, so as God's children we pray.*

## **Pattern of prayer:**

It is sufficient to 1) **state the intention**, 2) **pray in silence** and 3) **respond together**, for instance: *Lord, in your mercy; Hear our prayer*

*For all God's family, that we may share the Good News with everyone.*

*For God's beautiful world that we look after it with loving care.*