

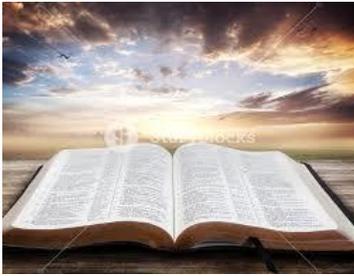
LITURGY OF THE WORD IN THE CLASSROOM

BEGINNING OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

SEPTEMBER 2020



Before beginning the Liturgy of the Word prepare a prayer space in the classroom and place a *candle, bible, copy of Grow in Love, or other class religion text-book* together with autumn leaves or a plant in the space.



Introduction

 **Opening Song:**

*The Cloud's Veil
Here I Am Lord
This is the Day
Christ Be Our Light or
Any other well know 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.



Words of Introduction

The opening of the school year 2020-21 is unique in that the situation we find ourselves with the Covid-19 virus has never struck our lives before. It has changed our lives over the past six months like never before. To help us settle back to our school life with strength and courage, let us put our faith and trust in the Lord for a safe and fruitful year.

Penitential Act - Leader:

My brothers and sisters, let us own up to our sins, that we may receive God's Word with faith.

.....**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.
Show us favour, O Lord
as we gather to celebrate our new school year,
and shower upon us the gifts of your grace,
that, eager in faith, in hope, and in love,
we may always be watchful in keeping your Word.
Give us the courage to walk together with our friends, companions
and the new companions who have joined us.
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 Philippians 4:6-9

The God of peace will be with you.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus, Fill your minds with everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm:

Hiding Place

Psalm 62

Psalm 36

Any other well know Psalm



Gospel Acclamation: *Celtic Alleluia*

Composer: Fintan O'Carroll

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

I chose you from the world

to out and bear fruit,

fruit that will last,

says the Lord.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Gospel:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

5:13-16

You are the light of the world.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot.

'You are the light of the world, a city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of all people, so that, seeing your works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ

A Student's Creed:



Today, this new day, I am a successful student. Overnight my mind and body have produced thousands of new cells to give me the greatest advantages possible. I am born anew, revitalised, and full of energy. God holds me in the palm of His hand. He knows me and I am safe with Him.

I am rare and valuable, unique in all the universe. I am made in the image and likeness of God. I am nature's greatest miracle in action. I have unlimited potential. I believe in my abilities, attitudes, and goals. I am worthy of greatness because I am the most important person in my world.

Today I push myself to new limits, I use my skills and knowledge every day. I begin the day with a success and end it with a success. My goals are being reached every day and I seek them eagerly. I seek to become the person God wants me to be.

I act positively and happily, fully accepting myself and others. I seek to see Christ in all those around me. I live to the fullest by experiencing life without limits. I embrace life. I approach each class, each book, and each assignment with enthusiasm, happiness and joy. I thirst for knowledge.

I am a positive and successful student. I know each step I must take to continue to be that way. I am clear on my goals and see myself reaching them. I now realise my infinite potential, thus, my burden lightens, I smile and laugh. I have become the greatest student in the world.



Prayer of the Faithful:



Introduction

Leader: To our Lord, our strength and our companion, we pray:

Students:

- 1 We pray for the whole Church community. May we become instruments of God, which we have been called to be. *(pause)*
Lord hear us.
- 2 We pray for the members of our School community. May we always promote the value of equality and human dignity as we work together every day. *(pause)*
Lord hear us.
- 3 We pray for our families. That our faith in God the Father continues to be nourished by our grandparents, parents, sisters and brothers. *(pause)*
Lord hear us.
- 4 We pray for ourselves at the beginning of the new school year. That the love of God will always be at the centre of whatever we do. *(pause)*
Lord Hear Us.
- 5 We pray for a spirit of solidarity and courage as we continue to face together the dangers of these times and remember all who suffer through Covid-19. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us.
- 6 We pray 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, for those who mourn the loss of loved ones. *(pause)*
Lord, hear us.
- 7 We pray for all who have died this year. May they know the joy of new life at the heavenly table of the Lord. *(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:

Be with us Lord God as we begin this new school year in a new normal.
May our classrooms be places of hospitality,
compassion, excitement, blessings and joy.
May our minds and hearts be filled with knowledge of you,
our world and all that will help us grow in faith.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Closing Verse:

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.



Concluding Song of Choice.

(Adapt as Necessary)



Prepared by the National Centre for Liturgy, Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare

