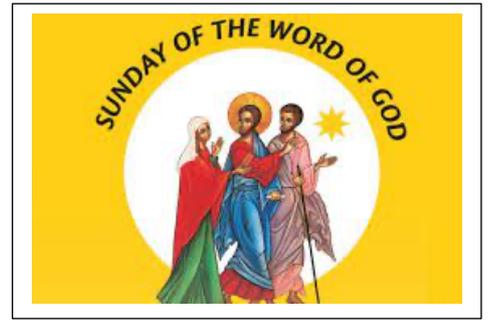


Diocese of Northampton – Liturgy Commission

# 22 January 2023

## Sunday of the Word of God



## ENTHRONMENT of the GOSPEL at SUNDAY MASS

*From: Sunday of the Word of God: Liturgical-Pastoral Resources 2022*

*Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelisation [now the Dicastery for Evangelisation]*

*The booklet can be found at [cbcew.org.uk/Sunday of the Word of God](http://cbcew.org.uk/Sunday_of_the_Word_of_God).*

*It provides many helpful resources for celebrating the Sunday in the parish, in the family and personally.*

*Since the text provided reflects 2022, Lectionary Year C [Luke] it has been revised to reflect 2023 Lectionary Year A [Matthew].*

### Welcoming the Word of God in the Community

A *Rite for Enthronement of the Word of God* is proposed, which may be more appropriate, especially in light of the changing epidemiological situation caused by the pandemic. However, at the discretion of the local bishop and the parish priest, other elements may be introduced that emphasise the importance of the Word of God in the celebrating community in conformity, of course, with the liturgical directives in force regarding the celebration of the sacraments and, above all, of the Holy Eucharist.

It should be kept in mind, however, that the *Rite of Enthronement* given here is a proposal, and should not be applied rigidly to the liturgy being celebrated, without taking into account the particular needs that may be present in a parish or diocesan community.

It is desirable that the *Rite of Enthronement* take place at least once and during the *Sunday of the Word of God's* most important or solemn Eucharistic celebration.

Next to the altar, or at the ambo, or in another expressly prepared place (a chapel), arrange a place visible to the entire assembly, elevated and decorated, where the Sacred Text can be placed.

The Holy Mass begins as usual – a solemn procession with the thurible, the boat, the cross and the candles, carrying the Book of the Gospels according to the local liturgical custom, should be encouraged, if possible.

## PENITENTIAL ACT

*After the initial greeting the Rite of Enthronement is introduced with these or similar words:*

Jesus begins his preaching with this message “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.” In this way, Jesus reminds us that the Word of God is dynamic. It is not a book that, once read, is closed and placed on a shelf; rather it is a living presence capable of transforming and sanctifying our lives. Opening the Bible means personally encountering God who turns to each one of us, personally, and reveals himself and makes known his presence in our lives.

Today the Church celebrates the *Sunday of the Word of God*: let us open ourselves to the presence of God who, through his Word, wishes to reveal himself to us and dwell in the midst of our lives. So that we may welcome his presence during this celebration, let us now ask for the forgiveness of our sins.

*This is followed by the penitential act, which could be as follows:*

C. The Lord Jesus, who invites us to the table of the Word and of the Eucharist, calls us to conversion;  
let us acknowledge that we are sinners and confidently invoke God’s mercy.

C. Lord Jesus, you are the Word of God made flesh, *Kyrie eleison*.

R. *Kyrie eleison*.

C. Lord Jesus, you bring light to the people who walk in darkness, *Christe eleison*.

R. *Christe eleison*.

C. Lord Jesus, you free our lives from sin, *Kyrie eleison*.

R. *Kyrie eleison*.

C. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. R. Amen.

*The Gloria is sung and then the Liturgy of the Word begins as usual.*

## ENTHRONEMENT

*For the proclamation of the Gospel, the Book of the Gospels is carried in procession from the altar to the ambo, where it is incensed. At the end of the Gospel reading, the minister, after kissing the Sacred Text, takes it to the throne in procession, where it is placed, opened and incensed.*

*A commentator explains the gesture in these or similar words:*

The book containing the Word of God is solemnly carried and placed on the throne. It is a symbolic gesture. Through it, we not only exalt the Sacred Scripture in the midst of this praying community of ours, but also manifest our willingness to place it first in our lives. Thus, the Word of God becomes the beacon of our existence that illuminates our decisions and inspires our actions according to God’s will. The homily and the Holy Mass follow as usual.

## UNIVERSAL PRAYER or PRAYER of the FAITHFUL

*The following Prayer of the Faithful could be used, modifying it according to the needs of the local community:*

C. Brothers and sisters, in Jesus Christ  
the Holy Scriptures are fulfilled and our lives find their completeness.  
Let us present our intentions to God the Father, so that we may fully live out his Word.

L. Let us pray together and say the response: *May your Word be fulfilled in us, O Father!*

1. "The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light."  
May the Holy Father, bishops, priests, and deacons courageously support  
all those who live in situations of spiritual and material slavery. We pray to the Lord...

2. Jesus turns to the first disciples and says to them "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men and women".  
May all the baptised, guided by the Holy Spirit, become heralds of the Good News  
to the people they encounter in their daily lives, especially those most in need.  
We pray to the Lord...

3. "Jesus went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues".  
May lectors, catechists and those who spread the Word of God in communities  
share faith, hope and love with all those who are lonely, desperate, sick  
and crushed by the burden of life.  
We pray to the Lord...

4. "Jesus went round proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom".  
May each of us open our hearts to the divine presence that enlightens us  
through his Word and guides us to the springs of eternal life. We pray to the Lord...

C. We thank you, O Father, for your Son whom you sent among us.  
Grant that with the grace of the Holy Spirit we may welcome him into our hearts,  
you who live and reign forever and ever.  
R. Amen.

### FINAL BLESSING

#### PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

*The celebration may be concluded with the following blessing:*

C. May God bless you with every heavenly blessing,  
make you pure and holy in his sight;  
may he pour out upon you the riches of his glory,  
instruct you with the words of truth,  
enlighten you with the Gospel of salvation, and make you glad in fraternal charity.  
R. Amen.

C. And may the blessing of almighty God,  
Father and Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, descend upon you and remain with you forever.  
R. Amen.