A SIMPLE LITURGY OF THE WORD CAN BE LED BY A LAY PRESIDER

Gathering song
Opening prayer
Scripture readings
Psalms
Reflection
Song of Reflection
Intercessions
Closing Prayer
Closing Song

Gathering Songs: Select something familiar to your community

God of Day and God of Darkness—Marty Haugen, GIA
A Place Called Home—Michael Joncas, GIA
Welcome—Zelman and Miller

Opening prayer:

1. Merciful God,
   
   We pray for families and individuals who have left or fled their homes,
   seeking safer and better lives.
   
   We lift up to you their hopes, fears and needs,
   that they may be protected on their journeys,
   that their dignity and rights may be honored and upheld,
and that they may be welcomed with open arms
into generous and compassionate communities.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

2. Loving God,

You love and take care of ALL of your children.
You never abandon those in need.

Please grant those who have fled their homelands
warm welcome and acceptance, hope, courage and strength.

Help us all to extend the same kindness and generous mercy
to the entire human family, without distinction or reservation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your son and our Lord, Amen.

Readings: Here are possible readings to include.

1 Corinthians 12: 12-14, 24-26
Hebrews 13: 1-2
Leviticus 19: 33-34
Matthew 25: 35-40
Galatians 5:14

Psalms: Select one or two that make sense with the selected readings

Psalm 33: Let Your Mercy Be on Us/Senor, Que Tu Misericordia—Haugen, GIA
Psalm 34: The Cry of the Poor—Foley, OCP
Psalm 68: You Have Made a Home for the Poor—Rory Cooney, GIA
Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful—Jeanne Cotter, GIA
Psalm 14: Happy the Poor in Spirit—Thomas J. Porter, GIA
Reflection: A reflection could be offered by a lay person or a member of the clergy. It could be a personal story of immigration, or one of a variety of homilies and reflections on the Vatican web site.

Pope Francis statement for the 105th World Day of Migrants and Refugees
Pope Francis statement for the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees
Excerpts from statements of previous popes in past years. The habit of issuing a message each year to draw attention to some of the specific realities and difficulties of people on the move and calling the Church to action was begun by St John Paul II in 1985.

Catholic Social Teachings
Writings of Pope Francis, Pope Benedict XVI, Pope John Paul II

Sung Response: After a time of silent reflection, invite the community to reflect in song.

Hold on to Love—Jesse Manibusen, OCP
What You Have Done for Me—Tony Alonso, GIA
Ubi Caritas—Bob Hurd, GIA
Open My Eyes, Lord—Jess Manibusen, OCP
Who is the Alien—Mary Louise Bringle and Lori True, GIA
God’s Love is Forever—David Haas, GIA

Intercessions: See the suggested model intercessions offered for Mass.

Trilingual intercessions—Michael Hay, WLP
Will You Hold Me in the Light? --Sally Ann Morris/Adam Tice, GIA

The Our Father and Sign of Peace may also be included.

Closing Prayer: Consider printing the selected prayer in the worship aid for all to voice together.
1. **Blessed are you, Lord Jesus Christ.**
   You crossed every border between divinity and humanity
   To make your home with us.
   Help us to welcome you in newcomers, migrants and refugees.

   **Blessed are you, God of all nations.**
   You bless our land richly with goods of creation
   and people made in your image.
   Grant that we will be stewards and peacemakers who live as your children.

   **Blessed are you, Holy Spirit.**
   You work in the hearts of all to bring about harmony and good will.
   Strengthen us in human solidarity and in hope.

   **God of all people, grant us vision**
   To see your presence in our midst,
   Especially in our immigrant sisters and brothers.
   Give us courage to open the door to our neighbors
   and grace to build a society of justice.

   **We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ,**
   Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
   One God, forever and ever. Amen.

2. **Pope Francis: from the Island of Lesbos, April 16, 2016**

   **Merciful God,**
   We pray to you for all the men, women and children
   Who have been forced from their homelands
   Due to persecution, oppression and war.
   We entrust to you all who have made this journey,
Enduring fear, uncertainty and humiliation,
In order to reach a place of safety and hope.
Just as you never abandoned your Son
as he was brought to a safe place by Mary and Joseph,
so now be close to these, your sons and daughters,
through our tenderness and protection.
In caring for them may we seek a world
Where none are forced to leave their home
And where all can live in freedom, dignity and peace.
Merciful God and Father of all,
Wake us from the slumber of indifference.
Open our eyes to their suffering,
And free us from the insensitivity
born of worldly comfort and self-centeredness.
Inspire us, as nations, communities and individuals,
to see that those who come to our shores are our brothers and sisters.
May we share with them the blessings, we have received from your hand,
and recognize that together, as one human family,
we are all migrants, journeying in hope to you, our true home,
where every tear will be wiped away,
where we will be at peace and safe in your embrace.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

3. **Nouwen Network**

God, no one is a stranger to you
and no one is ever far from your loving care.

In Your kindness watch over migrants, refugees and asylum seekers,
those separated from their loved ones,
those who are lost and those who have been exiled from their homes.
Bring them safely to the place they long to be,
and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need.
We ask this through Christ our Lord,
who too was a refugee and migrant,
who travelled to another land,
searching for home. Amen

Closing Songs:
We Are Called—David Haas, GIA
Let Justice Roll Like a River—Marty Haugen, GIA
Christ, Be Our Light—Bernadette Farrell, OCP
Build Us a Table—Lori True, GIA
La Paz de la Tierra/The Peace of the Earth —Iona Community
Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo—Jaime Cortez, OCP