

TRANSITUS SERVICE IN ONE'S OWN HOME

The Transitus of St. Francis
(Francis passing from this life into eternal life.)

Saint Francis died just after sunset on October 3. He recited Psalm 142 and, during the closing verse, he died. This event is solemnly recalled each year by Franciscans to honor their holy Father's entrance into joy. You are invited to commemorate this night by participating in the prayer service. The following observance may be done in the privacy of your own home or with others in your home.

[Light two candles and have a relic or image of St. Francis available as well as a crucifix, preferably a San Damiano Crucifix.]

[Begin with Evening Prayer I from the *Liturgy of the Hours*. If you do not have the *Liturgy of the Hours* or do not know how to pray it, pray instead the Fourth and Fifth Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, *The Crucifixion of Jesus* and *The Death of Jesus on the Cross*.]

[Then read the following excerpt from Francis' *Testament*. (Francis gave it to his brothers in 1226 shortly before he died.)]

The Testament of Saint Francis

And I worked with my hands, and I still desire to work; and I earnestly desire all brothers to give themselves to honest work. Let those who do not know how to work learn, not for desire to receive wages, but for example and to avoid idleness. And when we are not paid for our work, let us have recourse to the table of the Lord, begging alms from door to door. The Lord revealed a greeting to me that we should say: "May the Lord give you peace." [*The Testament*, verses 20 – 23; *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents* (Vol. 1: *The Saint*), Editors: Regis Armstrong, O.F.M. Cap.; J.A. Wayne Hellmann, O.F.M. Conv.; and William J. Short, O.F.M., 1999]

[Pause for a few moments of silent reflection.]

[Venerate (kiss or touch) the Relic or image of St. Francis.]

Hymn (*All Creatures of Our God and King*) [The hymn may be sung or recited.]

All creatures of our God and King,

Lift up your voice and with us sing

Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,

Thou silver moon with softer gleam:

O praise him, O praise him,

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing winds that are so strong,

Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,

O praise him, Alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,

Ye lights of evening, find a voice:

O praise him, O praise him,

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!



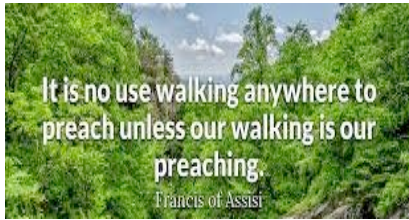
[After the hymn, the following Antiphon is said.]

Antiphon: Alleluia, Alleluia, Francis, poor and humble, enters heaven rich and is welcomed with celestial hymns. Alleluia.

[Then recite Psalm 142.]

Psalm 142:

**With all my voice I cry to the Lord,
with all my voice I entreat the Lord.
I pour out my trouble before him;
I tell him all my distress
while my spirit faints within me.
But you, O Lord, know my path.**



**On the way where I shall walk
they have hidden a snare to entrap me.
Look on my right and see:
there is no one who takes my part.
I have no means of escape,
not one who cares for my soul.**

**I cry to you, O Lord.
I have said: "You are my refuge
all I have in the land of the living."
Listen, then, to my cry
for I am in the depths of distress.**

**Rescue me from those who pursue me
for they are stronger than I.
Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise your name.
Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness to 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.**

[Repeat the Antiphon.]

Antiphon: Alleluia, Alleluia, Francis, poor and humble, enters heaven rich and is welcomed with celestial hymns. Alleluia.

[Extinguish the candles to signify the death of Saint Francis.]

Then, having in mind St. Francis' devotion to the wounds of our Lord, and looking at the figure of the Crucified, with arms outstretched, say five times the prayer of Our Lord: **Our Father . . .**

[After the 5 *Our Fathers*, pray the following prayer.]

O God, you granted our blessed Father Francis the reward of everlasting joy: grant that we, who celebrate the memory of his death, may at last come to the same eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

[End *The Transitus Service* with the following blessing.]

May the Lord + bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

[Author unknown, adapted by Deacon Dave & Thérèse Ream, O.F.S., February 19, 2018]

