

Palm Sunday

Celebration of Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem

Palm Sunday

The family gathers near the entryway to the home. If possible, have holy water and palm branches available.

Leader: + In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Dear brothers and sisters,
Since the beginning of Lent until now
we have prepared our hearts by penance and charitable works.
Today, we celebrate as a family today, together with the whole Church
to herald the beginning of the celebration of our Lord's Paschal Mystery,
that is, of his Passion and Resurrection.
For it was to accomplish this mystery
that he entered his own city of Jerusalem.

Therefore, with all faith and devotion,
let us remember and commemorate the Lord's entry
into the city for our salvation,
Following in his footsteps,
so that, being made by his grace partakers of the Cross,
we may have a share also in his Resurrection and his life.

Let us pray.

Increase the faith of those who place their hope in you, O God,
and graciously hear the prayers of those who call to you,
that we, who today hold high these branches
to hail Christ in his triumph,
may bear fruit for you by good works accomplished in him.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Palm Sunday

Leader: Like the crowd who acclaimed Jesus in Jerusalem, let us go forth in peace.

At this time, process through the home, singing hymns and psalms. The procession should end in the family room, where the family would usually gather for prayer.

Some ideas for hymns include

- *Crown Him With Many Crowns*
- *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*
- *What Wondrous Love Is This*

Once the family has completed the procession.

Leader: Almighty and every-living God,
With palms, we welcome your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, as he comes;
with songs and hymns, we run to meet him as we offer him our joyful
worship.

He fulfilled your will by becoming man and giving his life on the cross.
Help us to bear witness to you by following his example of suffering
and make us worthy to share his resurrection.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

First Reading – Year A – Isaiah 50

Reader: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The Lord GOD has given me
a well-trained tongue,
that I might know how to speak to the weary
a word that will rouse them.

Morning after morning
he opens my ear that I may hear;
and I have not rebelled,
have not turned back.

I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;
my face I did not shield
from buffets and spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help,
therefore I am not disgraced;
I have set my face like flint,
knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

The Word of the Lord.

Sing, chant, or recite the psalm as displayed in a hymnal.

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me scoff at me;
they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads:
"He relied on the LORD; let him deliver him,
let him rescue him, if he loves him."

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Indeed, many dogs surround me,
a pack of evildoers closes in upon me;
They have pierced my hands and my feet;
I can count all my bones.

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

They divide my garments among them,
and for my vesture they cast lots.
But you, O LORD, be not far from me;
O my help, hasten to aid me.

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

I will proclaim your name to my brethren;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you:
"You who fear the LORD, praise him;
all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him;
revere him, all you descendants of Israel!"

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Second Reading – Year A – Philippians 2

Reader: A reading from the Book of the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
something to be grasped.
Rather, he emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
coming in human likeness;
and found human in appearance,
he humbled himself,
becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
which is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

The Gospel for today is of Christ's Passion, which we will celebrate together as a family on Good Friday. Instead, we will read the Gospel from the Solemn Procession for Palm Sunday, which would have been read at the beginning of Palm Sunday Mass today.

Gospel - Year A - Matthew 21

Reader: + A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus and the disciples drew near Jerusalem
and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives,
Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them,
“Go into the village opposite you,
and immediately you will find an ass tethered,
and a colt with her.

Untie them and bring them here to me.
And if anyone should say anything to you, reply,
‘The master has need of them.’
Then he will send them at once.”
This happened so that what had been spoken through the prophet
might be fulfilled:

*Say to daughter Zion,
“Behold, your king comes to you,
meek and riding on an ass,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.”*

The disciples went and did as Jesus had ordered them.
They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them,
and he sat upon them.

The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road,
while others cut branches from the trees
and strewed them on the road.

The crowds preceding him and those following
kept crying out and saying:

Palm Sunday

“Hosanna to the Son of David;
blessed is the he who comes in the name of the Lord;
hosanna in the highest.”

And when he entered Jerusalem
the whole city was shaken and asked, “Who is this?”
And the crowds replied,
“This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Profession of Faith and Intercessions

All: I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth...

Leader: As Christ entered Jerusalem, he was greeted as King and Messiah.
Let us adore him, and joyfully praise him:

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Leader: Hosanna to you, Son of David, King of the ages, hosanna to you,
victor over death and the powers of darkness.

All: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Leader: You went up to Jerusalem to suffer and enter into your glory,
Lead your Church into the paschal feast of heaven.

All: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Leader: You made your cross the tree of life.
grant its fruit to those reborn in baptism.

All: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Palm Sunday

Leader: Savior of mankind, you came to save sinners,
bring into your kingdom all who have faith, hope, and love.

All: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Leader: You healed the sick and comforted the afflicted,
send your Spirit to those suffering from the coronavirus, their
caretakers, and those who work with the sick.

All: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Leader: Hearing these prayers and the prayers kept in the silence of our hearts,
we pray in the words Our Savior gave us:

All: Our Father...

Leader: O God, protector of all who hope in you
bless us, your family, and all your people, keep us safe,
defend us, prepare us,
that, free from sin and safe from the enemy,
that we preserve always in your love.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

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

All: Amen.

Acknowledgements

The prayers and readings were taken from or adapted from the following:

- Opening Rite adapted from The Roman Missal, Third Edition, ICEL translation.
- Post-procession prayer adapted from Palm Sunday Morning Prayer Canticle Antiphon and Prayer, Liturgy of the Hours, ICEL translation.
- Readings taken from the NABRE as presented on the USCCB website.
- Intercessions adapted from Palm Sunday Morning Prayer Intercessions, Liturgy of the Hours, ICEL translation.
- Closing prayer adapted from Mass in Time of Pandemic, Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. Decree of 30 March 2020, Prot. N. 156/20.