

A Celebration of the Word for Palm Sunday

Sample Prayer Service at Home Without Mass

At an appropriate time, gather together to celebrate Palm Sunday and Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. A simple prayer space can be created for the entire Holy Week, starting today with a candle, crucifix, and/or palms / other plants available (or, children might create palm branches). If there is Holy Water in the home, the family may sign themselves when they gather with it. If the hymn is unfamiliar, you may find it on the internet (example: YouTube), shorten it, or simply move on to the other prayers. A leader should divide up the roles and adjust the service as necessary to make sure everyone is able to participate.

Hymn

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed over the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of love, behold His hands and side,
Those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of Heaven, enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the King to Whom is given the wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns, as thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, for He is King of all.

Introduction

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

All: Amen

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace.
Blessed be God for ever.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Leader: Since Ash Wednesday, we have prepared our hearts and home

through prayer, fasting, and works of charity
for this celebration of Holy Week.

While we cannot be together with our parish family in person,
we unite with the whole Church at the beginning of this Holy Week,
as we walk recall the Paschal Mystery:

the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Let us walk with Jesus in a special way this week

and today remember his entry into the city of Jerusalem.

By following in his footsteps and recalling his great sacrifice,

may we join our hearts to his, and share in his Cross

as we prepare our hearts and homes

for the joy of his Resurrection.

Gospel Reading

Reader: Let us listen to the words of 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:

“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

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Responsorial Psalm [Psalm 22] (said or sung)

Leader Our responsorial psalm is: *My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

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

Leader: 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."

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

Leader: 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.

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

Leader: 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.

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

Leader: 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!"

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

Intercessions

Leader: As we remember the hardships that Jesus endured for us, we remember and are filled with hope because God is with us always, even in sad moments in life. Let us therefore call upon Him who hears all of our needs. Please respond: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Reader: For the Pope, our Bishop, and all leaders of the Church; that they will continue to lead us with wisdom and be inspired by the Holy Spirit. Let us pray to the Lord. R: /

Reader: That all nations of the world will always find ways of seeking peace and care for the lives of their people. Let us pray to the Lord. R: /

Reader: For all those who are suffering from illness. That they will strengthen in their struggle, bring comfort to their family and friends, and keep their caregivers safe. Let us pray to the Lord. R: /

Reader: That we will keep our hearts open to those who are in most need of our prayers during this Holy Week, and spend these days preparing for the hope and joy of Easter. Let us pray to the Lord. R: /

Reader: What else shall we pray for? [Add intentions and prayers.] For all these things, let us pray to the Lord. R: /

Leader: Hear our prayers, Lord our God, and in your love and mercy which we cannot understand, answer them according to your will. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Our Father

Leader: Remember us Lord when you come into your kingdom and teach us to pray as you taught us:

All: Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name;
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Conclusion

Leader: Let us pray.
Almighty, ever-living God,

You have given the human race Jesus Christ our Savior
as a model of humility.
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 in his resurrection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

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

All: Amen.

(All make the Sign of the Cross together.)

Besides the candle, the prayer space can be kept up in the home throughout the Week and changed for the particular days. Spend some additional time as a family in prayer together throughout the day, especially for those who are sick or lonely. Consider finding the Gospel reading in the Bible and praying for

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Edited: Michael Poradek, Diocese of Gary; 2019.