

In your homes on Palm Sunday, at a time convenient for yourself, you are invited to follow this simple form of prayer. First of all, prepare a table with a red cloth, the traditional colour of Palm Sunday, (use purple or white if you don't have red). On the table place a candle(s) and a crucifix (cross) with some greenery (You could cut some small green branches from trees; pussywillows are also traditional Palm Sunday branches). If you have old palms from other years, you may place them as well.

Standing in front of the table (sitting if you prefer) recite the Introit:

HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID, THE KING OF ISRAEL; BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST

Make the Sign of the Cross

Read: Since the beginning of Lent until now we have prepared our hearts by penance and charitable works. Today we gather together to herald with the whole Church the beginning of the celebration of our Lord's Paschal mystery, that is to say, of his passion and resurrection. For it was to accomplish this mystery that he entered in to his own city of Jerusalem. Therefore, with faith and devotion let us commemorate the Lord's entry into the city for our salvation. Let us follow in his footsteps so that, being made by his grace partakers of the Cross, we may have a share also in his resurrection and in his life.

Pick up your greenery and say: Increase the faith of those who place their hope in you, O God, and graciously hear the prayers of those who call on 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 forever and ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew...Glory to you, O Lord

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethpage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, the Lord needs them. And he will send them immediately.

This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion: Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on the colt the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds

were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

**The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

SIT DOWN

If you know the hymn: ALL GLORY, LAUD AND HONOUR, you could sing it now - or - another favourite hymn of praise - or a recorded hymn from one of your CDs.

It would now be appropriate to read the account of our Lord’s Passion using your Bible.

MATTHEW 26:14 - 27:66 - or -

Perhaps you have your missal at home from which you could read the Passion.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

1. For Pope Francis and Archbishop Michael Mulhall, and our priests and deacons, as they fulfill their appointed mission to steer the Church through the stormy seas of this life: Lord, graciously bear us.
2. For our government leaders, and all elected officials, as they daily make decisions affecting millions of lives, especially during the unrelenting pandemic: Lord, graciously hear us.
3. For ourselves, walking the Royal Road to Calvary with our Saviour, that we find in suffering a gateway to eternal life.
4. For those experiencing the pain of isolation and confinement, and the sadness of being deprived of the Holy Mass and Holy Communion, Lord, graciously hear us.
5. For those on the front lines of the battle against the Coronavirus pandemic, doctors, nurses, all health care workers, police officers, emergency responders, and all who continue to serve the population at large, that they be protected, strengthened, renewed in body and spirit: Lord, graciously hear us.
6. For those who are sick, especially those with terminal illnesses, chronic pain, or the serious sufferings which can accompany the Coronavirus, and for (here you may name those whom you know to be sick): Lord, graciously hear us.
7. For the dead, especially those who have recently died, (here you may mention the names of your deceased loved ones): Lord, graciously hear us.

NOW RECITE THE LORD’S PRAYER

Since we cannot gather for Holy Communion you can join with the Church in making a spiritual communion by inviting the Lord to come to give you the same graces you would receive if you were able to physically receive Him.

(Included in the following prayers are 2 from the Ordinariate of St. Peter, Anglicans who have become Catholics)

The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs

under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION. Reverently invite Jesus into your heart.

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Almighty and everliving God,
we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us,
in these holy mysteries,
with the spiritual food of
the most precious Body and Blood
of thy Son and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
and dost assure us thereby
of thy favor and goodness towards us;
and that we are very members incorporate
in the mystical body of thy Son,
the blessed company of all faithful people;
and are also heirs, through hope,
of thy everlasting kingdom,
by the merits of the most precious death and Passion
of thy dear Son.
And we humbly beseech thee, O Heavenly Father,
so to assist us with thy grace,
that we may continue in that holy fellowship,
and do all such good works
as thou hast prepared for us to walk in;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit,
be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Look, we pray, O Lord, on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ did not hesitate to be delivered into the hands of the wicked and submit to the agony of the cross. Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen

Make the sign of the cross

Sing one of your favourite Lenten hymns
Or some recorded hymn of your choice.