

A CELEBRATION FOR PALM SUNDAY IN THE HOME



Choose someone to be the 'leader'. It is better if this person is an adult but it isn't absolutely necessary. In a suitable place, gather the members of your household. Try to ensure you will not be interrupted for a while. Turn off mobiles, computers, the TV and radio.

Light a candle and gather around it. If you have a crucifix place that near the candle. Open your Bible at the reference too.

Try to hold a sense of quiet and calm for a few moments before beginning. It may seem a little strange at first if you are not used to praying together. Don't worry.

All make the sign of the Cross as we say together:

**In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Then a reader says the following antiphon:

Reader | Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out:

All ***Hosanna in the highest!***

Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

Leader Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
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 his own city of Jerusalem.
Therefore, with faith and devotion,
let us commemorate the Lord's entry into the city for our salvation,
following, as it were, in his footsteps,
so that, being made by his grace partakers in the Cross,
we may have a share also in his Resurrection and in his life.

Then, with the Palm Crosses held up the leader continues:

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

Now ask another member of the family, or household, to read aloud the Gospel for everyone to hear. Or you can divide the parts up so that different voices speak the various parts (plan this beforehand!)

Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, (pronounced Beth-fa-gee) to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village facing you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her: untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord has need of them," and he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Sion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and



the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee.'

The Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Spend a few moments in silence thinking about how Our Lord was content to enter his own city in great humility. Not for Him the trappings of worldly grandeur and boasting but gentleness, lowliness, kindness and love. Jesus is Lord and Master, but as He will show us in the events of Holy Week, His Lordship is at the service of humanity – he brings God's tremendous love to us directly, taking upon himself all our faults. What is my response to this great love for me, personally?

Prayers

Ask a different member of the family or household to pray each intercession so that everyone is involved as much as possible.

For the Church

Reader 1 Let us pray for the holy Church of God, that our God and Lord be pleased to give her peace, to guard her and to unite her throughout the whole world and grant that, leading our life in tranquillity and quiet, we may glorify God the Father almighty. Lord hear us

Lord Graciously hear us

Reader 2 Let us pray also for our most Holy Father Pope Francis, also for our Bishop Richard, for all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons of the Church and for the whole of the faithful people that our God and Lord, may keep them safe and unharmed. Lord hear us

Lord Graciously hear us

For the unity of Christians

Reader 3 Let us pray also for all our brothers and sisters who believe in Christ, that our God and Lord may be pleased, as they live the truth, to gather them together and keep them in his one Church. Lord hear us

Lord Graciously hear us

For the Jewish People

Reader 4 Let us pray also for the Jewish people, to whom the Lord our God spoke first, that he may grant them to advance in love of his name and in faithfulness to his covenant. Lord hear us

Lord Graciously hear us

For those who do not believe in Christ

Reader 5 Let us pray also for those who do not believe in Christ, that, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they, too, may enter on the way of salvation. Lord hear us

Lord Graciously hear us

For those who do not believe in God

Reader 6 Let us pray also for those who do not acknowledge God, that, following what is right in sincerity of heart, they may find the way to God himself. Lord hear us

Lord Graciously hear us

For those in public office

Reader 7 Let us pray also for those in public office, that our God and Lord may direct their minds and hearts according to his will for the true peace and freedom of all. Lord hear us

Lord Graciously hear us

For those in tribulation

Reader 8 Let us pray to God the Father almighty, that he may cleanse the world of all errors, banish disease, drive out hunger, unlock prisons, loosen fetters, granting to travellers safety, to pilgrims return, health to the sick, and salvation to the dying. Lord hear us

Lord Graciously hear 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.

Leader Almighty, ever-living God, you gave our Saviour the command to become man and undergo the cross as an example of humility for all men to follow. We have the lessons of his sufferings: give us also the fellowship of his resurrection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

All The Lord bless us, ✠ and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

