

PALM SUNDAY LITURGY AT HOME

Gather in your back yard, near the door of your house, or some place a little distant from your home altar or focal point. Make sure you **have some branches** or leaves to wave – daffodil leaves, pine boughs, pussy willows, etc. One person can be the **Leader/Officiant** and others can be the **People**, who respond with the words in bold. You may also take turns being the Leader/Officiant. Some of the readings are set up like a script; different people in your household can take parts, including kids – or it can be read straight through by a single voice. **If you live alone** you can say the words to yourself or call a friend and do the service together via phone call.

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Leader Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
People **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Leader Let us pray. Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Palm Gospel: A Reading from Matthew 21:1-11

This can be read in parts, or by a single person as a continuous narrative.

Narrator When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them,

Jesus 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.

Narrator 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 a 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 he 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,

Crowd Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Narrator When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying,

Crowd This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.

Process to the altar; make a parade of it. Singing the following hymn.

*The accompaniment can be heard here: <https://youtu.be/W4TL2KESbuA>
Alison Siener Brown playing; photo montage of All Saints'.*

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!

To whom the lips of child - ren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son.
Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Repeat Refrain

who in the Lord's name com - eth, the King and Bless - ed One.
who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

At the altar the candle(s) are lighted and the Leader prays the Collect.

Leader Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.** *The People may sit down.*

A Reading from the Letter to the Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sing the following hymn. The accompaniment can be heard here: <https://youtu.be/r3deVwYNPtc>

Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! Hark! all the tribes ho - san - na cry;
Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! Thy last and fierc - est strife is nigh:
thy hum - ble beast pur - sues his road with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.
the Fa - ther on his sap - phire throne ex - pects his own a - noint - ed Son.

The Homily: The Rev. Victoria Geer McGrath *listen to it here:* <https://youtu.be/kq4f3o5umn8>

Prayers of the People - Form IV

during the silence after each petition, people may add their own prayers.

Leader Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

In this time of illness, fear, isolation, and anxiety, keep us in the arms of your loving mercy. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Guide, guard, and protect all doctors, nurses, and medical workers, and all those searching for a treatment and a vaccination for corona virus. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *unison*

The Solemn Prayer Over the People

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

The Passion Gospel Matthew 27:11-54 (*shorter version*)

This can be read in parts or by a single voice.

Narrator Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

Reader Are you the King of the Jews?

Jesus You say so.

Narrator But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

Reader Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

Narrator But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

Reader Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Narrator For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

Reader Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.

Narrator Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

Reader Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

Crowd/All Barabbas.

Narrator Pilate said to them,

Reader Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Crowd/All Let him be crucified!

Narrator Then he asked,

Reader Why, what evil has he done?”

Narrator But they shouted all the more,

Crowd/All Let him be crucified!

Narrator So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

Reader I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.

Narrator Then the people as a whole answered,

Crowd/All His blood be on us and on our children!

Narrator So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying,

Reader Hail, King of the Jews!

Narrator They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

Reader You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.

Narrator In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, “

Reader He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’

Narrator The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

Jesus Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani? My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Narrator When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Reader This man is calling for Elijah.

Narrator At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, “

Reader Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

Narrator Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

Reader Truly this man was God’s Son!

Extinguish the candles. Holy Week has begun.