



PALM SUNDAY PRAYER AT HOME

Sisters and brothers, this Sunday we gather in family groups, in small groups with neighbours and alone in our homes. In all instances God is with us and the Church is at prayer. This prayer resource is for you this Sunday.

This prayer form uses a branch of greenery, the Gospel, Reading and Psalm of Palm Sunday year A, a Seder Table Blessing the Te Deum and Prayers of Intercession followed by the Our Father and the final prayer and blessing.

The Seder Table Blessing takes us back to the origin of the Eucharist and the Last Supper. This ancient rite of blessing is associated with table fellowship, the Passover, the Liberation of Israel, the celebration of Holy Thursday and Easter. For this you will need a small piece of bread for each person and a small glass of wine for each.

Hymn options are in [blue](#) with a Youtube link beside. To go to the web page hover over the link and press Ctrl + click to get there.

The [text in red](#) are instruction not to be read out loud.

This is written to be adapted.



Opening

[Have a piece of greenery in your hand](#)

Leader or together: We have observed the 40 days of Lent. We unite ourselves to the Church Universal and pray that we may enter this Holiest of Weeks with reverence and hope.

We pray: God of all creation, this greenery is a symbol of the joy that accompanied Jesus on his entry to Jerusalem. Bless this greenery that I hold in my hand that it may go with me throughout the coming year. In Jesus' name, Amen.

All: Blessed is the King
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

[Read the Processional Gospel, Year A: Matthew 21:1-11.](#)

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."

All: O Gates lift high your heads;
Grow higher ancient doors.
Let him enter the King of Glory!
Who is the King of Glory?
He, the Lord of Host, he is the King of Glory

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, acclaimed as King, crucified as criminal,
teach us to accept our sufferings and triumphs
for your glory alone.
Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.

Processional Hymn: 'Hosanna to the Son of David' (Schutte)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axMtARvgc18>

Refrain Hosanna to the Son of David!
 O blest is he, O blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord!



Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 50:4-7

The 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.

Psalm 21 (Alstott)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMEZS62DIkw>

All: 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."

All: 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.

All: 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.

All: 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!"

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



Philippians 2:6-11

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.

Passion reading: Matthew 26:14-27:66

Brothers and Sisters Listen to the Holy Gospel According to Matthew

Jesus stood before the governor, Pontius Pilate, who questioned him,
“Are you the king of the Jews?”
Jesus said, “You say so.”
And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders,
he made no answer.
Then Pilate said to him,
“Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?”
But he did not answer him one word,
so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now on the occasion of the feast
the governor was accustomed to release to the crowd
one prisoner whom they wished.
And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas.
So when they had assembled, Pilate said to them,
“Which one do you want me to release to you,
Barabbas, or Jesus called Christ?”
For he knew that it was out of envy
that they had handed him over.
While he was still seated on the bench,
his wife sent him a message,
“Have nothing to do with that righteous man.
I suffered much in a dream today because of him.”
The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds
to ask for Barabbas but to destroy Jesus.
The governor said to them in reply,



“Which of the two do you want me to release to you?”
They answered, Barabbas!”
Pilate said to them,
“Then what shall I do with Jesus called Christ?”
They all said,
“Let him be crucified!”
But he said,
“Why? What evil has he done?”
They only shouted the louder,
“Let him be crucified!”
When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all,
but that a riot was breaking out instead,
he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd,
saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood.
Look to it yourselves.”
And the whole people said in reply,
“His blood be upon us and upon our children.”
Then he released Barabbas to them,
but after he had Jesus scourged,
he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium
and gathered the whole cohort around him.
They stripped off his clothes
and threw a scarlet military cloak about him.
Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head,
and a reed in his right hand.
And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying,
“Hail, King of the Jews!”
They spat upon him and took the reed
and kept striking him on the head.
And when they had mocked him,
they stripped him of the cloak,
dressed him in his own clothes,
and led him off to crucify him.

As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon;
this man they pressed into service
to carry his cross.

And when they came to a place called Golgotha
— which means Place of the Skull —,
they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall.
But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink.
After they had crucified him,
they divided his garments by casting lots;
then they sat down and kept watch over him there.
And they placed over his head the written charge against him:
This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.
Two revolutionaries were crucified with him,
one on his right and the other on his left.
Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying,



“You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days,
save yourself, if you are the Son of God,
and come down from the cross!”
Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said,
“He saved others; he cannot save himself.
So he is the king of Israel!
Let him come down from the cross now,
and we will believe in him.
He trusted in God;
let him deliver him now if he wants him.
For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”
The revolutionaries who were crucified with him
also kept abusing him in the same way.

From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land
until three in the afternoon.
And about three o’clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”
which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
Some of the bystanders who heard it said,
“This one is calling for Elijah.”
Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge;
he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed,
gave it to him to drink.
But the rest said,
“Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him.”
But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice,
and gave up his spirit.

And behold, the veil of the sanctuary
was torn in two from top to bottom.
The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened,
and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised.
And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection,
they entered the holy city and appeared to many.
The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus
feared greatly when they saw the earthquake
and all that was happening, and they said,
“Truly, this was the Son of God!”



A Seder Table Blessing

If you wish, follow the ancient Jewish tradition of the Table Seder.

Place the bread and cups of wine on the table. Read the Te Deum together or taking a verse each.

Te Deum Laudamus

We praise you O God and acclaim you as the Lord.
All creation worships you: the Father everlasting.
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven:
cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you:
the noble fellowship of prophets praise you,
the white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you:
Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship:
and the Holy Spirit, our advocate and guide.

You Christ are the king of glory:
the eternal Son of the Father.

When you became incarnate to set us free:
you humbly accepted the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death:
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory:
we believe that you will come and be our judge.

Come then Lord and help your people:
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints:
to glory everlasting.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Share the bread and cup

Table Song

'We Remember' (Haugen) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bkeLi8JMgw>

Refrain We remember how you loved us to your death,
and still we celebrate, for you are with us here;
and we believe that we will see you when you come, in your glory, Lord,
we remember, we celebrate, we believe.



Prayers of Intercession

We pray for all those infected by the Coronavirus around the world, for those who care for them, for health specialists and authorities who are combatting the spread of infection, and for all who at this time are feeling anxious, especially for those with friends and family in the infected countries and here in New Zealand ...

E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki ā mātou (Lord hear us)

For all believers: that we take up the cross each day and remain faithful to the Lord.

E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki ā mātou (Lord hear us)

For world leaders: that they may govern with mercy, justice and respect for the rights of all people to justice, food, water, shelter and safety.

E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki ā mātou (Lord hear us)

For wealthy nations and people; that they act with compassion and concern for the poor and marginalized.

E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki ā mātou (Lord hear us)

We pray for those who have died that they may rest in the loving presence of the Lord ...

E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki ā mātou (Lord hear us)

Please add your own prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Everyone prays this together

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Kua akona nei tātou e tō tātou Ariki,
ka īnoi tātou
E tō mātou Matua i te rangi
Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.
Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.
Kia meatia tāu e pai ai
ki runga ki te whenua,
kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.
Hōmai ki a mātou āiane
he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.
Murua ō mātou hara,
Me mātou hoki e muru nei
i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.



Āua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia;
Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:
Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha,
me te korōria,
Āke ake ake. Āmine.

Final Prayer

Together:

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Saviour 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 Blessing

As you say the blessing below make the sign of the Cross over yourself.

Parents may wish to say this blessing over their children and sign them on the forehead with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord
All: God is our help, now and for all time, Amen
Leader: Haere i runga i te rangimārie i runga i te aroha me te ngākau
hihiko ki te mahi ki te Ariki.
Whanua: Ka haere mātou i runga i te ingoa o te Karaiti.

Blessing Hymn

'Cradle Me' (Farrell/Alstott) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPrkq9yUaN4>

God eternal, cradle me, love me till the end.
Give me now your understanding.
Let me be, let me be, let me be a good friend.

Lord Jesus, cradle me, walk with me always.
Let me know true love and justice.
Love me through, love me through, love me through all my days.

Holy Spirit, cradle me, guide me from above.
Let me see you, see your power.
Cradle me, cradle me, cradle me in your love.

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