



***Palm
Sunday
celebration
at
Catholic
Homes***

***Holy Mass* of Palm Sunday is celebrated in private chapels and empty churches today.**

Please, while you have to stay at home, join your priests spiritually.

You can use palms from last year or fresh palm branches or other tree branches or leaves.

In the Passion narrative N = narrator, † = Christ, S = speakers other than Christ. If there are enough people the roles in the narrative may be distributed among them.

Dress nicely (as you do when you go to church), get your branches or leaves ready, gather your family around your table or in your prayer-corner, lit a candle and pray:

(sing an opening song)

(sign of the cross)

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with us all who are united in one Spirit of Love and Truth.

Let us pray.

Loving God, as we come to the beginning of Holy Week, we remember your triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We sing your praises, shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David.” You alone are the true King, the leader greater than all others. Even so, in your great mercy you chose to become like us, taking on human form and living among us. As we celebrate and shout “Hosanna” today, may we remember what will soon follow. Keep us faithful in word and deed, and help us love you to the best of our ability.

Amen.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (21,1–11):

Glory to you, O Lord.

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, "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 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,

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

When he 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.

We, too, welcome Jesus, the Son of David, the one who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel.

Holding our branches, let us acclaim Christ, the Lord. In a short procession let's go around the house (inside or outside) joyfully proclaiming: "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

(sing a procession song a go around your house with the branches)(after coming back to the table of prayer-corner continue:)

Let us pray.

Almighty everliving God, who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our savior to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

***A reading from the prophet Isaiah
(50,4-7):***

The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him that is weary. Morning by

morning he wakens, he wakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I turned not backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been confounded; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

All who see me deride me:

they curl their lips, they toss their heads:

“He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;

let him release him, for in him he delights.”

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

For dogs have surrounded me;

a band of the wicked besets me.

They tear holes in my hands and my feet;

I can count every one of my bones.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

They divide my clothing among them,
they cast lots for my robe.

But you, O Lord, do not stay afar off;
my strength, make haste to help me!

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

I will tell of your name to my kin,
and praise you in the midst of the assembly;
“You who fear the Lord, give him praise;
all descendants of Jacob, give him glory;
revere him, all you descendants of Israel.”

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

***A reading from the letter of Saint Paul
to the Philippians (2:6-11):***

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not count equality with God a thing to be
grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of
a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And
being found in human form he humbled himself
and became obedient unto death, even death on
a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name which is above
every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee

should bow, 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Christ became obedient for us unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him: and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

N - At that time: One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

S - “What will you give me if I deliver him to you?”

N - And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him. Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

S - “Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?”

N - He said,

† - “Go into the city to such a one, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’”

N - And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. When it was evening, he sat at table with the twelve disciples; and as they were eating, he said,

† - “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”

N - And they were very sorrowful, and began to say to him one after another

S - “Is it I, Lord?”

N - He answered,

† - “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me, will betray me. The Son of man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the son of man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

N - Judas, who betrayed him, said,

S - “Is it I, Master?”

N - He said to him,

† - “You have said so.”

N - Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said,

† - “Take, eat; this is my body.”

N - And he took a chalice, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying,

† - “Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

N - And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

† - “You will all fall away because of me this night; for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”

N - Peter declared to him,

S - “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”

N - Jesus said to him,

† - “Truly, I say to you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”

N - Peter said to him,

S - “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you.”

N - And so said all the disciples. Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,

† - “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.”

N - And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them,

† - “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.”

N - And going a little further he fell on his face and prayed,

† - “My Father, if it be possible, let this chalice pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”

N - And he came to the disciples and he found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

† - “So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

N - Again for the second time, he went away and prayed,

† - “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”

N - And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

† - “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

N - While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the Twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

S - “The one I shall kiss is the man; seize him.”

N - And he came up to Jesus at once and said,

S - “Hail, Master!”

N - And he kissed him.

S - Jesus said to him,

† - “Friend, why are you here?”

N - Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

† - “Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?”

N - At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

† - “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But all these things have taken place, that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.”

N - Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter followed him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat

with the guards to see the end. Now the chief priests and the whole council sought false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At least two came forward and said,

S - “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.’”

N - And the high priest stood up and said,

S - “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?”

N - But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him,

S - “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

N - Jesus said to him,

† - “You have said so. But I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

N - Then the high priest tore his robes, and said,

S - “He has uttered blasphemy. Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your judgment?”

N - They answered,

S - “He deserves death.”

N - Then they spat on his face, and struck him; and some slapped him saying,

S - “Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?”

N - Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a maid came up to him, and said,

S - “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.”

N - But he denied it before them all, saying,

S - “I do not know what you mean.”

N - And when he went out to the porch another maid saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

S - “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

N - And again he denied it with an oath,

S - “I do not know the man.”

N - After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

S - “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.”

N - Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear,

S - “I do not know the man.”

N - And immediately the cock crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death; and they bound him and led him away and delivered him to Pilate the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, saw that he was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying,

S - “I have sinned in betraying innocent blood.”

N - They said,

S - “What is that to us? See to it yourself.”

N - And throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

S - “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.”

N - So they took counsel, and bought with them the potter’s field, to bury strangers in.

Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by prophet Jeremiah, saying, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord directed me.”

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

S - “Are you the King of the Jews?”

N - Jesus said to him,

† - “You have said so.”

N - But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him,

S - “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?”

N - But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge; so that the governor wondered greatly.

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

S - “Whom do you want me to release for you, Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?”

N - For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much over him today in a dream.” Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the people to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them,

S - “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?”

N - And they said,

S - “Barabbas.”

N - Pilate said to them,

S - “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?”

N - They all said,

S - “Let him be crucified.”

N - And he said,

S - “Why, what evil has he done?”

N - But they shouted all the more,

S - “Let him be crucified.”

N - So when Pilate saw he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

S - “I am innocent of this righteous man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”

N - And all the people answered,

S - “His blood be on us and on our children!”

N - Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the praetorium, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put scarlet robe upon him, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him they mocked, saying,

S - “Hail, King of the Jews!”

N - And they spat upon him and took the reed and struck him on the head.

And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe, and put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him. As they were marching out, they

came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; this man they compelled to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull), they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus the King of the Jews." Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads, and saying,

S - "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."

N - So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying,

S - "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him; for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

N - And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice.

† - “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?”

N - That is

† - “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

N - And some of the bystanders hearing it said,

S - “This man is calling Elijah.”

N - And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said

S - “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”

N - And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

(kneel and pause for a moment)

N - And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom; and 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, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe, and said,

S - “Truly this was the Son of God!”

N - There were also many women there, looking on from afar, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him; among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb, and departed. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. Next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

S - “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ Therefore order the tomb to be secured until the third day, lest his disciples go and still him away, and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.”

N - Pilate said to them,

S - “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.”

N - So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

(in moment of silence, think about the gospel and about your own death and resurrection at the end of times)

Pray:

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Jesus was joyfully welcomed by the crowds as a
king on the Sunday before his death, but we now
know him as our crucified King whose love is
all embracing and everlasting. We pray through
him to the Father of mercies:

Lord, have mercy and hear us

We ask that Pope Francis may lead the Universal
Church into this Holy Week with humility and
simplicity, so that we might better know and
love our Saviour and Redeemer.

Lord, have mercy and hear us

With deep concern in this time of the Corona
virus we ask for the recovery of those infected,
for the safety of those caring for them, and for
those engaged in research.

Lord, have mercy and hear us

With compassion we pray for those vulnerable to the Corona virus, for those who are highly anxious, and for those who are now isolated from family and loved ones.

Lord, have mercy and hear us

With solidarity we pray for those facing a financial crisis, for those whose employment has ceased, for businesses which are now collapsing.

Lord, have mercy and hear us

With unity in faith we pray for Christians persecuted for their faith, mainly in North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya, Pakistan, Eritrea, Sudan, Yemen, Iran, India, China, Syria, and Nigeria.

Lord, have mercy and hear us

With trust in the mercy of God we pray for those who have died of the Corona virus, for those who have died alone, for all who believe Jesus to be their Resurrection and their Life.

Lord, have mercy and hear us

add your own prayers here

O God, be with us at all times, and especially when we feel abandoned. Lift us from despair to hope, from fear to courage, from doubt to faith, from hatred to love.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen

(sing an offertory song)

(now offer your gift - bring some money, airtime, groceries, clothes, candles etc. - basically anything useful that you can later donate to the Church or to the poor; now you can also send some ecocash or airtime to your parish account or to your bishop or priest or to a poor person who needs your help.)

Through the Passion of your Only Begotten Son, O Lord, may our reconciliation with you be near at hand, so that, though we do not merit it by our own deeds, yet by this sacrifice made once for all, we may feel already the effects of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

The Lord be with us all.

We lift our hearts up to the Lord.

It is right and just to give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For, though innocent, he suffered willingly for sinners and accepted unjust condemnation to save the guilty.

His Death has washed away our sins,
and his Resurrection has purchased our
justification.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise you, as
in joyful celebration we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

***A reading from the holy gospel
according to Matthew on the Lord's
Supper (26:26-30):***

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and
after giving thanks he broke it, gave it to his dis-
ciples, and said, "Take, eat, this is my body." And
after taking the cup and giving thanks, he gave
it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for
this is my blood, the blood of the covenant, that
is poured out for many for the forgiveness of
sins.

*(in moment of silence, remember your priest
celebrating the Holy Mass today and ask the
Holy Spirit to connect you with that Eucha-
ristic sacrifice; remember also your beloved
ones who are still alive but they are not with
you now; remember your beloved ones who*

have already died; remember also your beloved patron saints who are in heaven.)

(sing a song about the Eucharist)

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.

(pray whispering:)

My Jesus,

I believe that you re present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment 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.**

Let us pray.

We humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, just as through the death of your Son you have brought

us to hope for what we believe, so by his Resurrection you may lead us to where you call. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(sign of the cross)

+ *May Almighty God bless us, keep us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.*

Amen.

(sing a Marian song)

HAVE A BLESSED HOLY WEEK!!!

STAY HOME

AND KEEP AWAY FROM THE VIRUS!!!

(NO MORE ANNOUNCEMENT)

MAKE MY WORD YOUR HOME!