



WORSHIP BOOK

LIBRO DE ADORACIÓN

**THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION (PALM SUNDAY)
DOMINGO DE PASIÓN (DOMINGO DE RAMOS)**

SAINT STEPHEN & THE INCARNATION EPISCOPAL CHURCH - WASHINGTON, DC

LA IGLESIA
Episcopal



Palm Sunday for a Household

Holy Week in a Home

We begin Holy Week, living in the critical situation that requires us to practice social distancing and which will not allow us to gather in our usual way to attend church. However, the Church is all of us. We are the Body of Christ, by virtue of our baptism. Christ is present in each one of us. Christ is revealed, not only in the Eucharistic celebration, but in ourselves, and in the Word, since he is the Word incarnate.

For the liturgies of Holy Week, our parish will provide resources for you to use in your homes. These resources can be found through the church's website, our YouTube page, and our two Facebook pages (in English and in Spanish languages).

The home services during Holy Week for 2020 can be carried out by individuals and families in their homes. Holy Week is the most important week of the year when we remember the events through which God gave us life and liberation. These services are composed of elements from the official rites of the Episcopal Church in the Book of Common Prayer.

I have been in touch and working with Rev. Dr. Juan M.C. Oliver to provide meaningful rituals that are cross-cultural for our bilingual congregations. Rev. Oliver is the current Custodian of the Book of Common Prayer and author of the book "A House of Meanings".

Palm Sunday and Passion at Home

You can set up an altar or shrine, either outside or in the home, using a table with a tablecloth, or a cross with a candle. It can be decorated with palms or any green branches. You can also use flowers or colorful ribbons to remember the festive welcoming of Jesus by people on his entrance into Jerusalem.

If possible, start away from the altar and carry the branches/ribbons as you go in procession to your place of worship. For example, you might begin at the front door of the household, reading the Gospel of the Palms.

After the service, you may choose to place your palm or ribbon on your window or front door to mark the beginning of a holy week.

Reader 1 - Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

*People - **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.***

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 GOSPEL OF THE PALMS

Reader 1 - 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 prophets, 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 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."

Reader 1 - **Almighty God, we praise you for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.**

Reader 1 - Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

People - **Hosanna in the highest.**

You can walk to your home altar or shrine carrying palms/ribbons and singing the hymn "All glory, laud, and honor" or reciting the Psalm 118:19-29.

When you arrive at the altar, you can set the branches or ribbons on the table. The ritual continues as follows:

All - 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.

People sit for the readings.

One or more readings may be read.

Note: The Gospel of the Passion is optional for this ritual. You may choose to focus today on the Gospel of the Palms and read the Gospel of the Passion on Good Friday.

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

[Isaiah 50:4-9a]

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 72:1-14

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son,
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 8 He shall rule from sea to sea *
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- 9 His foes shall bow down before him, * and
his enemies lick the dust.
- 10 The rulers of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the rulers of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
- 11 All rulers shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress *
and the oppressed who has no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

Reader: A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians

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.

[Philippians 2:5-11]

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God**

Note: The Gospel of the Passion is optional for this ritual. You may choose to focus today on the Gospel of the Palms and read the Gospel of the Passion on Good Friday.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." 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, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, *And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me.*

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" 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, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" 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, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." 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, "Which of the

two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

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, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" 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, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 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, "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." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "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.'" 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, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." 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, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." 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, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

[Matthew 27:1-54]

You may choose to read or listen to a sermon, or you can reflect on the meaning of the biblical readings with those in your household.

You are also called to meditate on the significance of this Christian feast to your own faith journey.

Prayers

Prayer is offered with intercession for

The Universal Church, its members, and its mission

The Nation and all in authority

The welfare of the world

The concerns of the local community

Those who suffer and those in any trouble

The departed (with commemoration of a saint when appropriate)

Any of the forms which follow may be used.

Adaptations or insertions suitable to the occasion may be made.

OUR FATHER

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.

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.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

If you desire, you may share a meal after the prayers. The following prayers may be said,

Reader 1 - (while breaking the bread)

Blessed are you, our God, Ruler of the Universe, because you make the grain sprout from the earth. We thank you for having gathered us to remember this day when Our Lord entered the final week of his life. Give us your grace to follow him on this path to a new life. **Amen.**

Reader 1 - (while raising a glass of wine or fruit juice)

Blessed are you, our God, for the fruits of the earth. We thank you for grafting us into the True Vine, Jesus our Savior, and for making us one with Him in baptism. We ask that your Spirit lead us to share his love with the world. **Amen.**

The following may be said,

Loving God,

We praise you in a special way today as we celebrate Palm Sunday.

Be with us as we begin our journey through Holy Week,

that we may more closely align our lives with yours,

knowing suffering and death,

yet remaining hopeful in the life you promise.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**



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You can access other devotional resources for Holy Week, either in English or Spanish, on our webpage, YouTube and Facebook pages.
