



28 MARCH 2021

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

INTRODUCTION:

This Sunday, called Palm or Passion Sunday, is the beginning of Holy Week. During this week, we will prayerfully remember the events of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, his passion and death and how he became the sacrificial lamb for us. Today, Palms are blessed and distributed to us to be kept in our homes as a witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, the messianic king and in his Paschal Victory.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS:

In both the readings of today, Jesus' subjugation is proclaimed. They also reveal how the passion and crucifixion end in his exaltation. When we proclaim the Psalm, we are invited to join Christ in entering into the mystery of our salvation. In the account of Jesus' passion according to Mark, people respond to Jesus in different ways. During Jesus' last few hours, only a few faithful people stand by him. As the passion is proclaimed, where do we stand?

READINGS:

First Reading: Is 50:4-7

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22:8-9,17-18a,19-20,23-24

Second Reading: Phil 2:6-11

Gospel: Mk 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: As we begin Holy Week, may we pray more fervently and faithfully to our Heavenly Father as we prepare to share in Jesus' passion, death and resurrection.

Our response is: Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.

For our Pope Francis, the bishops, the clergy, the religious and all the members of the Church, that as we take up our cross and follow Christ, we may seek freedom for the innocent, justice for the oppressed and consolation for the dejected; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For our armed forces, the police, the fire-fighters and all those who are entrusted with our welfare and safety, that they will be protected by our Lord as they go about performing their

duties with diligence, kindness and fairness towards everyone; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For our doctors, nurses, healthcare workers, paramedics and medical staff and all those working in essential services who are unable to stay at home because of their call of duty or because they must work to provide for their families; that especially during this Pandemic, God will continue to protect them and keep them safe and in good health; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For those who have been unjustly condemned, tortured or killed, that their suffering and death will not be in vain but that it will bring about a change in the hearts of their perpetrators; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For all of us gathered here and those hearing online Eucharist, that we may find comfort in the Lord when our hearts are troubled and remain steadfast in prayer, always seeking to do what is right, just and compassionate, and work together as a loving Christian community; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

Celebrant: Almighty God, as we dwell on the passion and death of Jesus, lighten the burdens of all those who suffer and seek Your blessings. May our hope and faith in You never cease. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONA VIRUS:

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for an efficacious control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We thank You for blessing the efforts of our research scientists working on the development of a vaccine. We pray that these vaccines will be effective in combating the virus and its mutants, and in controlling the spread of the pandemic. We pray that the vaccine be available for all our people even the poor and those in rural areas.

We pray for doctors, nurses and health workers who are in the frontline of this battle, that they be kept safe and have the strength and courage to continue their heroic efforts.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Commission for Liturgy
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