

Palm Sunday

5 April 2020

COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God,
who as an example of humility for the human race to follow
caused our Saviour 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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (see bulletin)

ROYAL ROAD TO CALVARY

Christ's life is reaching its climax of a crucifixion-death. But before he ascends the hill of Calvary to perform his redemptive work, he makes his triumphant way into the city of David to claim it as his own. But he does not make his entry, as his Jewish contemporaries expected their Messiah would do, to take possession of the city and proclaim it the capital of a great earthy empire. He enters "meek and riding on an ass" as was consonant with a king of a great world-wide spiritual kingdom. This solemn entry was no chance occurrence. From the time he sent the two disciples to collect the ass there was design in all he did. Those who shouted their Hosannas and strewed their palms on his path recognised greatness and dignity in him but were not aware of his true mission. Christ accepted their acknowledgement of him; he wished at this moment to demonstrate his messiahship, but his face was set towards Jerusalem to claim it, not as a worldly capital, but to give it spiritual significance. On its future ruins would rise a new Jerusalem – the city of God. And this would come about through death – the death of the Messiah king himself. The true recognition of the Messiah would not come in this moment of triumph and glory, but only after this had passed and darkness had enveloped the earth.

Palm Sunday then is a day of glory and triumph but always it must be seen against the background of the ultimate victory. It was like a resplendent sunset, for a short time filling the sky with its splendour of colours only to die away into an oblivion of darkness. It was from the darkness that the king would conquer and be recognised as the true Son of David. Christian people through the ages would raise their voices in praise for their king who won them for himself by death. After the sunset would come the sunrise. The Light of the World would illumine those who come into it.

Profession of Faith

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
At the words that follow, up to and including 'the Virgin Mary', all bow.
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.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER FOR PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, in the name of Jesus, which is above all other names, let us offer our intercessions to God.

1. That the Church, teaching in the name of Christ, may sustain the weary with a word of courage, righteousness and hope. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
2. That civil authorities and world leaders all work together to defeat the pandemic affecting the world. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
3. That those who face insult and degradation because of race, religious belief or political conviction may be supported by disciples of the Lord. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
4. That we may accompany the elect to the waters of baptism, supporting them by our prayer and fasting, and confessing with them that Jesus Christ is Lord. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
5. That, during this time of trial and stress, we may empty ourselves as Christ Jesus did, serving in unselfish love. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
6. That those who by their suffering share in the passion of Christ may share fully in his exaltation. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
7. That the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Lady of Sorrows, may support us as we follow her Divine Son in his passion, death and resurrection. **HAIL MARY.**

God our Father, in your wisdom you permitted your only Son to suffer for us. Through the Spirit, draw us closer to you that we may express our devout gratitude. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

PRAYER AMID THE CURRENT PANDEMIC

Lord Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, amid the global spread of the Coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another.

Heal us from pride and complacency which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

O Healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died.

Be with doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks.

Whether we are at home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering of this illness or only a few, be with us Lord as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. AMEN.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You have already come and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

