

# Palm Sunday

## Readings and Prayers



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.

### Liturgy of the Palms

Hosanna to the Son of David.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord**

Behold your King comes to you, O Zion  
meek and lowly, sitting upon an ass.  
Ride on in the cause of truth  
and for the sake of justice.  
Your throne is the throne of God, it endures for ever;  
and the sceptre of your kingdom is a righteous sceptre.  
You have loved righteousness and hated evil:  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

**Hosanna to the Son of David.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord**

### COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love  
towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour  
Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer  
death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the  
example of his patience and humility and also be made  
partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ  
Your Son our Lord who is alive and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

### FIRST READING      **Philippians 2:5 - 11**

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,

### The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ

#### according to Matthew

[11] Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the  
governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"  
Jesus said, "You say so." [12] But when he was  
accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not  
answer. [13] Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear  
how many accusations they make against you?" [14]  
But he gave him no answer, not even to a single  
charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

[15] Now at the festival the governor was  
accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd,  
anyone whom they wanted. [16] At that time they  
had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. [17]  
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?" [18] For  
he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had  
handed him over. [19] 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."  
[20] Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded  
the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus  
killed. [21] The governor again said to them, "Which  
of the two do you want me to release for you?" And  
they said, "Barabbas." [22] Pilate said to them, "Then  
what should I do with Jesus who is called the  
Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!"  
[23] Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?"  
But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

[24] 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." [25] Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" [26] So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

[27] Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. [28] They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, [29] 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!" [30] They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. [31] After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

[32] As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. [33] And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), [34] they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. [35] And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; [36] then they sat down there and kept watch over him. [37] Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

[38] Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. [39] Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads [40] 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." [41] In the same way the

chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, [42] "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. [43] He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.' " [44] The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

[45] From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. [46] 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?" [47] When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." [48] 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. [49] But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." [50] Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. [51] At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. [52] The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. [53] After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. [54] 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!"

### **Post Communion**

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King to the glory of God the Father. Amen.