

Palm Sunday at Home
From Emmanuel Church, Weston
April 5, 2020

Before the home liturgy you may want to gather flowers, scarves or other easy to throw garments, and/or make “palms” from your hand palms (think making the turkeys with your hands for Thanksgiving) and tape or staple them together to look like palm fronds. You can use green construction paper or color them green if you’d like.

The individuals in the home should gather if they are able, or keep a safe distance from one another and begin by saying:

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. And Peace in heaven and glory in the Highest!

Someone in the home leads this prayer:

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.*

Someone in the home reads the following reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

Matthew 21:1-11

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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

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."

All: Thanks be to God.

Thoughts to consider (or discuss): Why were the crowd so excited for Jesus to come to their city? What did they think it meant for them personally and as a community?

What does it feel like to welcome Jesus today, maybe especially today when we can even mimic a parade to greet him?

Then a member of the household prays:

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, 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 Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let our garments, paper, flowers and other things we use to represent this parade be signs for us today: signs of victory in a time

of fear, isolation and pandemic in our specific time; but also in every age of oppression and disease. Grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way of love that leads to eternal life; who live and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

All Glory Laud and Honour from King's College, Cambridge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TTV6-yuCTg>

1 All glory, laud, and honor
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the King of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
the King and Blessed One.

2 The company of angels
is praising you on high;
and we with all creation
in chorus make reply.
The people of the Hebrews
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present.

3 To you before your passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.
As you received their praises,
accept the prayers we bring,
for you delight in goodness,
O good and gracious King!

At this point, especially if there are children in the home, commence a parade from room to room of the home to bless our physical homes and our spiritual progression towards Easter. If movement is prohibited, say the prayers while seated.

At the entrance: Holy God, watch over our going out and our coming in from this time forth for evermore.

In a bathroom: Holy God, in the incarnation of your Son our Lord, you made our flesh the instrument of your self-revelation: Give us a proper respect and reverence for our mortal bodies to keep them clean and whole. Amen.

In a work room or work-shop: O God your blessed Son worked with his hands, in the carpenter shop in Nazareth: Be present with us as we labor here and may we always share in the joy of your creation. Amen.

In the kitchen: O Lord our God, you supply every need of ours according to your great riches, especially during this time of perceived scarcity; give us grateful hearts for our daily bread and bless our hands as we provide food for our bodies. Amen.

At the dining table: God you give us food and drink to sustain our lives, make us grateful for all your mercies. Amen.

In bedrooms: O God of life and love, the true rest of your people: Sanctify to your servants hours of rest and refreshment, their sleeping and their waking, and grant them strength to rise to serve you all the days of their life.

In children's rooms: Holy God, your Son took young children into his arms and blessed them, Embrace the child(ren) whose room this is with your unfailing love and protect them from all danger to bring them to safety each new day. Amen.

In a place of study or where school-work is done: O God of truth, show yourself to us so that we may seek true wisdom and love. Amen.

In a place where prayer takes place: Almighty God, from you comes every good prayer, and you pour out on us the spirit of grace: Deliver us from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that we may worship you in spirit and truth. Amen.

At this point the individual or family may want to proceed to the Good Friday in the Home materials to recognize the Passion of Christ. However, the individual or family may wish to end the liturgy here. In which case you would conclude with the following prayer:

Almighty god, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.