

Celebrating Palm Sunday at Home

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: At an appropriate time, gather together to celebrate Palm Sunday and Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. A simple prayer space can be created for the entire Holy Week, starting today with a candle, crucifix, and/or palms / other plants available (or, children might create palm branches). If there is Holy Water in the home, the family may sign themselves when they gather with it. If the hymn is unfamiliar, you may find it on the internet (example: YouTube), shorten it, or simply move on to the other prayers. A leader should divide up the roles and adjust the service as necessary to make sure everyone is able to participate.

1. Hymn

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed over the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of love, behold his hands and side,
Those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of Heaven, enthroned in worlds above,
Crown him the King to Whom is given the wondrous name of Love.
Crown him with many crowns, as thrones before Him fall;
Crown him, ye kings, with many crowns, for he is King of all.



3. Gospel Reading

Reader: Let us listen to the words of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

When Jesus and the disciples drew near Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tethered, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them here to me. And if anyone should say anything to you, reply, 'The master has need of them.' Then he will send them at once." This happened so that what had been spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled: Say to daughter Zion, "Behold, your king comes to you, meek and riding on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden." The disciples went and did as Jesus had ordered them. They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them, and he sat upon them. The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road. The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest." And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, "Who is this?" And the crowds replied, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Introduction

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (All make the Sign of the Cross together.)

All: Amen

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace. Blessed be God for ever.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Leader: Since Ash Wednesday, we have prepared our hearts and home through prayer, fasting, and works of charity for this celebration of Holy Week. While we cannot be together with our parish family in person, we unite with the whole Church at the beginning of this Holy Week, as we walk recall the Paschal Mystery: the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Let us walk with Jesus in a special way this week and today remember his entry into the city of Jerusalem.

By following in his footsteps and recalling his great sacrifice, may we join our hearts to his, and share in his Cross we prepare our hearts and homes for the joy of his Resurrection.

4. Responsorial Psalm [Psalm 22] (said or sung)

Leader: Our responsorial psalm is: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Leader: All who see me scoff at me;
they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads: "He relied on the LORD; let him deliver him, let him rescue him, if he loves him." R:/

Leader: Indeed, many dogs surround me,
a pack of evildoers closes in upon me;
They have pierced my hands and my feet;
I can count all my bones. R:/

Leader: They divide my garments among them,
and for my vesture they cast lots. R:/
But you, O LORD, be not far from me;
O my help, hasten to aid me. R:/

Leader: I will proclaim your name to my brethren;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you:
"You who fear the LORD, praise him;
all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him;
revere him, all you descendants of Israel!" R:/

6. Our Father

Leader: Remember us Lord when you come into your kingdom and teach us to pray as you taught us:

All: Our Father, Who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;

Thy Kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

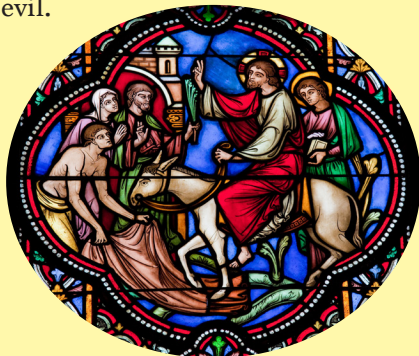
Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.



5. Intercessions

Leader: As we remember the hardships that Jesus endured for us, we remember and are filled with hope because God is with us always, even in sad moments in life. Let us therefore call upon Him who hears all of our needs. Please respond: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the Pope, our Bishop, and all leaders of the Church; that they will continue to lead us with wisdom and be inspired by the Holy Spirit. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: That all nations of the world will always find ways of seeking peace and care for the lives of their people. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For all those who are suffering from illness. That they will strengthen in their struggle, bring comfort to their family and friends, and keep their caregivers safe. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: That we will keep our hearts open to those who are in most need of our prayers during this Holy Week, and spend these days preparing for the hope and joy of Easter. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: What else shall we pray for? [Add intentions and prayers.] For all these intentions, let us pray to the Lord. R:/

7. Conclusion

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty, ever-living God,

You have given the human race Jesus Christ
our Savior as a model of humility.

He fulfilled your will by becoming
man and giving his life on the cross.

Help us to bear witness to you

by following his example of suffering

and make us worthy to share in his resurrection.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord bless, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

(*All make the Sign of the Cross together.*)

Besides the candle, the prayer space can be kept up in the home throughout the Week and changed for the particular days. Spend some additional time as a family in prayer together throughout the day, especially for those who are sick or lonely. Consider finding the Gospel reading in the Bible together.

CELEBRATING HOLY THURSDAY AT HOME

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: In the evening, gather together to celebrate the Lord's Supper and start of the Triduum, the Sacred Three Days of the Church's Year leading to the celebration of Easter. A simple prayer space can be created with a candle, crucifix, and/or an image of the Last Supper, grapes/bread, etc. For the washing of feet, prepare a large bowl/basin, towels, pitcher of warm water, and chair. If the hymn is unfamiliar, you may find it on the internet (example: YouTube), shorten it, or simply move on to the other prayers. A leader should divide up the roles and adjust the service as necessary to make sure everyone is able to participate.

1. Hymn

Refrain: And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, and I will raise you up on the last day.

I am the Bread of Life. You who come to me shall not hunger; and who believe in me shall not thirst. No one can come to me unless the Father beckons.

(refrain)

The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world, and if you eat of this bread, you shall live for ever, you shall live for ever.

(refrain)

Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man and drink of his blood, and drink of his blood, you shall not have life within you.

(refrain)

3. First Reading: 1 Cor 11:23-26

Reader: Let us first listen to the words of the Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

Brothers and sisters:

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

(pause for silent prayer)

2. Introduction

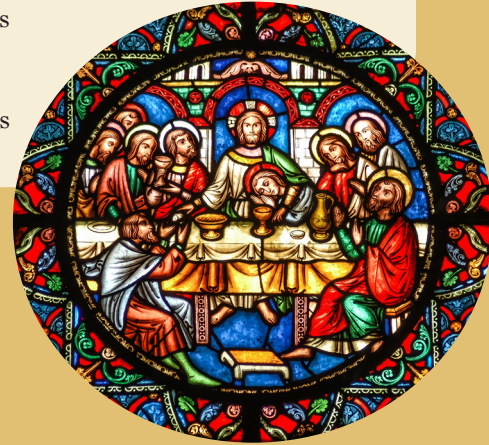
Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (All make the Sign of the Cross together.)

All: Amen

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace. Blessed be God for ever.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Leader: Tonight we begin to celebrate the three sacred, holy days of the Church's Year, when we remember the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. While we cannot gather with our parish family, we join with our Church family around the world and remember the great love God has for us. Tonight we remember Jesus' sharing of the Last Supper with his disciples and his gift of the Eucharist to them and to all of us. We also remember how he washed the disciples feet as a reminder that we too must serve one another as he served.



3. Gospel Reading: Jn 13:1-5

Reader: Let us listen to the words of the Holy Gospel according to John:

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over. So, during supper, fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God, he rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Master, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well." Jesus said to him, "Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed, for he is clean all over; so you are clean, but not all." For he knew who would betray him; for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean." So when he had washed their feet and put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

4. The Washing of Feet

Leader: Just as Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, let us remember that we are called to help those around us, especially those who are most in need.

The Leader invites others to have their feet washed and to wash each others' feet. After removing shoes/socks, one by one each may be seated and extend their feet over the bowl. This can be done by simply pouring water over the foot/feet and drying with a towel symbolically.

Reader: For all who care for the sick. May the compassion of Christ strengthen them in their efforts to bring healing and hope to others. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For all our friends, neighbors, and others who are lonely. May they remember they are loved and are part of our family in Christ. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: What else shall we pray for?
[Add intentions and prayers.]
For all these intentions,
Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

6. Our Father

Leader: Remember us Lord when you come into your kingdom and teach us to pray as you taught us:

All: Our Father....

5. Intercessions

Leader: As we celebrate the night that Jesus gifted us with his Body and Blood in the Eucharist before he was betrayed, we gather our prayers as one family. Please respond: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the Church, especially those who serve in ministry; may all be strengthened to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in these challenging times. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: That through the example of Jesus Christ's service to others, all nations will work to provide for the most vulnerable among us, especially the poor and homeless. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

7. Conclusion

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty, ever-living God, You have given the human race Jesus Christ our Savior as a model of humility. He fulfilled your will by becoming man and giving his life on the cross. Help us to bear witness to you by following his example of suffering and make us worthy to share in his resurrection. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord bless, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

(All make the Sign of the Cross together.)

Besides the candle, the prayer space can be kept up in the home throughout the evening or prepared for Good Friday. Spend some quiet time as a family in prayer together for the remainder of the evening if possible. Consider beginning your Good Friday fasting and abstaining following the prayer time has concluded.

By Michael Poradek, Diocese of Gary Liturgical Commissions





GOOD FRIDAY

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: At an appropriate time, preferably in the afternoon or evening, gather together to celebrate Good Friday, the passion and death of Jesus Christ. A simple prayer space can be adjusted with a candle, cross or crucifix, and red cloth. If the song is unfamiliar, you may find it on the internet (example: YouTube), shorten it, or simply move on to the other prayers. A leader should divide up the roles and adjust the service as necessary to make sure everyone is able to participate.

For the reading of the Passion, the Leader should assign parts: Narrator (N), Voice (V), Jesus (†), and all others as Crowd (C). These parts may be doubled if there are less than four people able to read a part. Before the prayer service, the Leader may choose to highlight each part, especially for children, to ease in finding their parts. Encourage as much participation as possible.

1. Hymn

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

2. Introduction

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (All make the Sign of the Cross together.)

All: Amen

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace. Blessed be God for ever.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Leader: Today we recall the passion of Jesus Christ on the Cross. While we cannot be with our parish family today, we remember and join with all those suffering around the world.

3. A Reading of the Passion

[Reminder: Narrator (N), Voice (V), Jesus (†), and all others as Crowd (C).]

N: From the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said,

C: "Hail, King of the Jews!"

N: And they struck him repeatedly. Once more Pilate went out and said to them,

V: "Look, I am bringing him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in him."

N: So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak. And he said to them,

V: "Behold, the man!"

N: When the chief priests and the guards saw him they cried out,

C: "Crucify him, crucify him!"

N: Pilate said to them,

V: "Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him." **N:** The Jews answered,

C: "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God."

N: Now when Pilate heard this statement, he became even more afraid, and went back into the praetorium and said to Jesus,

V: "Where are you from?"

N: Jesus did not answer him. So Pilate said to him,

V: "Do you not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?"

N: Jesus answered him,

†: "You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from Above. For this reason the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin."

N: Consequently, Pilate tried to release him; but the Jews cried out,

C: "If you release him, you are not a Friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar."

N: When Pilate heard these words he brought Jesus out and seated him on the judge's bench in the place called Stone Pavement, in Hebrew, Gabbatha. It was preparation day for Passover, and it was about noon. And he said to the Jews,

V: "Behold, your king!"

N: They cried out,

C: "Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!"

N: Pilate said to them,

V: "Shall I crucify your king?"

N: The chief priests answered,

C: "We have no king but Caesar."

N: Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and, carrying the cross himself, he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle...

N: When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another, in order that the passage of Scripture might be fulfilled that says: They divided my garments among them, and for my vestment they cast lots. This is what the soldiers did. Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved he said to his mother,

†: "Woman, behold, your son."

N: Then he said to the disciple,

†: "Behold, your mother."

N: Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and that they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe. For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled: Not a bone of it will be broken. And again another passage says: They will look upon him whom they have pierced. After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took his body. Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom. Now in the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried. So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day; for the tomb was close by.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

4. Intercessions

Leader: We join our prayers with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Please respond: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the Church. (pause) That God will guide her in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ and to serve all who are in need.

Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For the Pope. (pause) That God will protect Pope Francis and continue to inspire him in his leadership of the Church around the world. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For all members of the Church. (pause) That God will guide all Bishops, Priests, Deacons, and Lay Faithful to share their gifts in service to others.

Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For catechumens. (pause) That God will strengthen all catechumens, those preparing for baptism, as they enter the Church this Easter Season. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For Christian unity. (pause) That God will gather all those who share a belief in his Son, Jesus Christ to journey with one another in faith and service.

Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For the Jewish People. (pause) That God will be present to all those who are of the Jewish faith and that they may grow closer to him by recognizing his loving kindness.

Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For those who do not believe in Christ.

(pause) That God will be present to all those who seek the love and mercy which comes from following Jesus Christ. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For those who do not believe in God.

(pause) That God will aid in allowing himself to be known through the witness of service, love, and peace of his Church. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For those in public office (pause) That God will guide those in government offices to serve the needs of all people, especially the poor and most vulnerable. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For all those in need. (pause) That God will hear their prayers and answer them in their time of need, bringing healing, comfort, mercy, peace, forgiveness, and love.

Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For all who are sick and for all who have died as a result of the Coronavirus, as well as for the safety of healthcare workers, for the consolation of those who cannot leave their homes, and for the encouragement of all who feel anxiety, fear or doubt during this health crisis.

Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

5. Our Father

Leader: Remember us Lord when you come into your kingdom and teach us to pray as you taught us:

All: Our Father...

N: And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said,

†: "I thirst."

N: There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said,

†: "It is finished."

N: And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

(All kneel and pause for a short time in silence before the Cross/Crucifix (if present). Then the Leader invites all to stand.)

6. Conclusion

Leader: Let us pray. (pause) Father, look with love upon your people, the love which our Lord Jesus Christ showed us when he delivered himself to evil men and suffered the agony of the cross, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

7. Adoration of the Cross

(if a Cross/Crucifix is present)

(If there is no Cross/Crucifix present, the Leader leads the Sign of the Cross and all depart quietly or continue to spend some time in quiet prayer. Or:)

Leader: *(turns to the Cross/Crucifix present)* We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

All: for by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Leader: *(Reverences the Cross with a touch, kiss, or other gesture. Then makes a Sign of the Cross in silence. Invite others to do the same. Depart quietly or continue to spend some time in quiet prayer.)*

Besides the candle, the cross/crucifix and red cloth can preferably be left up for prayer time throughout the day until Saturday evening. Encourage those in the household to spend some additional in quiet prayer throughout the remainder of the day/evening and into Saturday morning.

By Michael Poradek, Diocese of Gary Liturgical Commissions

CELEBRATING HOLY SATURDAY

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: In the evening, gather together to celebrate the start of the Easter Season, normally celebrated at the great Easter Vigil. A simple prayer space can be created with white/gold table clothes, candles, crucifix, and/or plants and flowers. This opportunity to pray at home allows the faithful to live the Easter mystery in this time. Gather the household around the table, perhaps after a light meal. Light a large candle. Place a bowl of water on the table. Mark the Bible for Matthew 28:1-10 and Romans 6:3-11. The Leader parts may be taken up by various members or by one person. If the hymn is unfamiliar, you may find it on the internet (example: YouTube), shorten it, or simply conclude the prayer time.

1. Service of Light

(Light candles and turn off other lights; use another light for reading if necessary.)

Leader: With this lighted candle, let us recall Christ in our midst who is yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega, and to whom belongs all the ages, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: Christ is our light.

All: Thanks be to God.

All sing: This little light of mine, I'm gonna it shine,

This little light of mine, I'm gonna it shine,

This little light of mine, I'm gonna it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine...

Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine...

3. Renewal of Baptism

Leader: Let us call on the saints to pray for us.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

Holy Angels of God, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, pray for us.

Saints Peter and Saint Paul, pray for us.

Saint Mary Magdalene, pray for us.

Saint Stephen, pray for us.

Saint Agnes, pray for us.

Saint _____ pray for us.

All holy men and women, pray for us.

Leader: May this water remind us of the grace of Baptism. O God, your chosen people were saved from the flood and passed dry shod through the Red Sea Your Son made water holy in the Jordan giving us the baptismal bath of regeneration. We give you thanks and praise through that same Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

[All make the sign of the cross with water.]

Reader: [Open the Bible and read aloud
Romans 6:3-11: on Baptism into Christ.]

2. Recalling Salvation History in the Word of God

Leader: Let us recall the wonderful works of God in the history of salvation.

God of all creation, you spoke and everything was made. You saw how good, how wonderful it was. We cherish, we respect this gift of creation and give you thanks and praise:

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: God of Abraham and Sarah, you spared their son Isaac as they strove to sacrifice everything they loved to worship you. Because you spare us, too, and bless us and fill us with grace, we give you thanks and praise:

God of Moses and the Israelites, you brought the people you chose from slavery in Egypt through the sea to safety. Because you save us this day and every day from all that holds us back from following you, we give you thanks and praise:

God of all tenderness,
you saved Noah, his family, and creatures from the flood.

Because you save us so that no affliction separates us from your love, we give you thanks and praise:

O God, you constantly call us to yourself
and feed us with your grace and mercy.

In striving to seek you, to keep you near that we may hear your voice, and, prompted by your grace, to do your will, we give you thanks and praise:

Mighty God of Jacob, no other is compared to you.

All we see and all we hear is from you.

Because you protect us this day as we follow in your way and live in enduring peace, we give you thanks and praise:

God of relentless affection, nothing we do can keep you from loving us. You wash us clean of what defiles, you renew our hearts to love you more, and you fill us with your Spirit.

Because we are your people and you are our God, we give you thanks and praise:

Let us continue to give God praise as we say:

All: Glory be....

Reader: [Open the Bible and read aloud Matthew 28:1-10:
on how Jesus has been raised and tells us, "Do not be afraid."]



3. Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Leader: This night, let us make our annual renewal of promises made in Baptism.

Leader: Do you renounce Satan?

All: I do.

Leader: And all his works? R:/

Leader: And all his empty promises? R:/

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? R:/

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father? R:/

Leader: Do you 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? R:/

This is our faith.

This is the faith of the Church.

We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus.

4. Conclusion

Leader: Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: Our Father...

Leader: Let us grieve that we cannot celebrate Mass this night nor share in Christ's Body and Blood. Let us long for the day when our hunger for Communion will be fed and our thirst for it slaked. Until that day, let us pray for the health of everyone and pledge to do what we can for those who need shelter, food, protection, and compassion. May almighty God bless us all, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

All: Amen.

(All make the Sign of the Cross together.)

Here is the list of readings and psalms for the Easter Vigil. The week that follows Easter, the Octave of Easter, is a week of solemnities. Spend some time each day, if you are able, with a reading or a psalm. Gave thanks for what God continues to do in our lives.

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord – At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter
Lectionary for Mass, no. 41, Year A.

1. Genesis 1:1-2:2 – *on creation.*

Psalm 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 – (30) *Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.*

OR Psalm 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 – (5b) *The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.*

2. Genesis 22:1-18 – *on Abraham's sacrifice.*

Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 – (1) *You are my inheritance, O Lord.*

3. Exodus 14:15-15:1 – *on the passage through the Red Sea.*

Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 – (1b) *Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.*

4. Isaiah 54:5-14 – *on the new Jerusalem.*

Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 – (2a) *I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.*

5. Isaiah 55:1-11 – *on salvation freely offered.*

Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 – (3) *You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.*

6. Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4 – *on the fountain of wisdom.*

Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11 – (John 6:68c) *Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.*

7. Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28 – *on a new heart and new spirit.*

When baptism is celebrated

Psalm 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 – (42:2) *Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God.*

When baptism is not celebrated

Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 – (3) *You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.*

OR Psalm 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 – (12a) *Create a clean heart in me, O God.*

Romans 6:3-11 – *on Baptism into Christ.*

Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 – *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Matthew 28:1-10 – *on the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

A Shocking First Morning. Two Marys come to the tomb at dawn and are shocked by a great earthquake, an angel coming like lightning, and soldiers shaken with fear. "Do not be afraid," the angel says to the women. The same words spoken to mother Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds by other angels years before. The same words spoken by the Risen Jesus to his disciples after his resurrection. The Same words spoken to us today. And every day.

- * What do I fear that I need to stop fearing?
- * How will this risen and renewed life fill me with grace?
- * What will I do this Easter week to share life, bring life, be the very presence of the life-giving Christ the Lord?

CELEBRATING EASTER SUNDAY

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: Continue to celebrate Easter Sunday with these prayers in the morning and/or before for the First Meal of Easter with the following traditional blessing. A simple prayer space can be created with white/gold table clothes, candles, crucifix, and/or plants and flowers; or, the prayer could be moved into the kitchen before the Easter Meal with at least some of the foods for the meal present which remind us of this festive season and God's bountiful love. If Holy Water is available, place in a small bowl for use. If the hymn is unfamiliar, you may find it on the internet (example: YouTube), shorten it, or simply move on to the other prayers. A leader should divide up the roles and adjust the service as necessary to make sure everyone is able to participate.

1. Hymn

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the holy anthem rise,
And the choirs of heaven chant it
In the temple of the skies;
Let the mountains skip with gladness,
And the joyful valleys ring
With Hosannas in the highest
To our Savior and our King.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Like the sun from out the wave,
Christ has risen up in triumph
From the darkness of the grave,
Glorious splendor of the nations,
And the lamp of endless day;
Christ the very Lord of glory
Who is risen up today.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Blessed Jesus, make us rise
From the life of this corruption
To the life that never dies.
May your glory be our portion
When the days of time are past,
And the dead shall be awakened
By the trumpet's mighty blast.

2. Introduction

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (All make the Sign of the Cross together.)

All: Amen

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace. Blessed be God for ever.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Leader: Throughout Lent we prepared for Easter by prayer, fasting, and works of service and charity. When we gather during his feast of Easter, we remember it is the Risen Christ who now fills us with joy, for he has conquered death. Alleluia!



3. Gospel Reading : Jn 20:1-9

Reader: Let us listen to the Gospel according to John:

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



4. Renewal of Baptismal Promises

[NOTE: If the baptism promises were not renewed the night before, you may renew them now. Otherwise, skip to the next section/page.]

Leader: When we were Baptized, we were joined to the same death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will now renew our baptismal promises. If so, say "I do" to each promise:

Leader: Do you renounce Satan?

All: I do.

Leader: And all his works? R:/

Leader: And all his empty promises? R:/

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? R:/

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father? R:/

Leader: Do you 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? R:/

Leader: May the Lord bless and give us strength to live these baptismal promises in our lives, now and always.

All: Amen.

(If Holy Water is present: the Leader signs himself/herself with Holy Water with the Sign of the Cross and invites others to do the same.)

6. Our Father

Leader: Remember us Lord when you come into your kingdom and teach us to pray as you taught us:

All: Our Father...

7. Conclusion

Leader: Let us pray.

God our Father, by raising Christ your Son you conquered the power of death and opened for us the way to eternal life. Let our celebration today raise us up and renew our lives by the Spirit that is within us. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord bless, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

(All make the Sign of the Cross together.)

5. Intercessions

Leader: The Son of God who invites us to the Paschal feast stands ready to help. Let us call upon him in our need.

Please respond: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That Easter may find us cleansed of sin and ready to live anew our Christian faith. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: That the bread we share may be a reminder of the bread of life we share in the eucharist.

Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: That we may be ready to give from our table to those who hunger and thirst. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: That all who are sick may be strengthened by the Risen Christ to overcome their illness and those who care for them may be kept safe. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: That we may one day enjoy the banquet of the Lord in the heavenly kingdom. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For all who are sick and for all who have died as a result of the Coronavirus, as well as for the safety of healthcare workers, for the consolation of those who cannot leave their homes, and for the encouragement of all who feel anxiety, fear or doubt during this health crisis. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

7. Blessing of Food for the Easter Meal

[NOTE: If the food for the First Easter Meal is to be blessed, the Leader turns to the Food and prays the following blessing prayer. If there is no food to be blessed, move to the next section.]

Leader: Let us pray.

God of glory, the eyes of all turn to you as we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death. Bless us and this food of our first Easter meal. May we who gather at the Lord's table continue to celebrate the joy of his resurrection and be admitted finally to his heavenly banquet. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

