



Diocese of
OWENSBORO

LITURGY OF THE WORD- PALM SUNDAY

HYMN

**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, our King and Blessed One!**

**All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer King!
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

John Mason Neale, 1843

INTRODUCTION

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 as we prepare our hearts and homes for the joy of his Resurrection.

All sign themselves with the sign of the cross saying, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

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

All respond: Blessed be God for ever.

Leader: Let us pray.

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

READINGS

It is encouraged that someone other than the leader should proclaim the readings of the day from a Bible.
Otherwise, daily readings may be found at usccb.org/bible/readings, and audio recordings of the daily readings
may be found at usccb.org/bible/readings-audio.cfm.

First reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 22

Refrain (all together): **My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

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."

Refrain (all together): **My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

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.

Refrain (all together): **My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

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

Refrain (all together): **My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

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!"

Refrain (all together): **My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel (All stand for the reading of the Gospel. A layperson omits the greeting, “The Lord be with you” and proceeds to “A reading from the holy Gospel According to”): Matthew 26:14—27:66 OR 27:11-54

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

This week we have a reflection from our Bishop, Most Reverend William F. Medley:

“WE REMEMBER”

Palm Sunday
April 5, 2020

Religious experience is founded on memory. For Catholics, the central memory we hold is that Jesus, on the night before he died, blessed bread saying “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he shared with them a cup of wine saying, “Drink from it ... for this is my blood of the covenant.” And, of course, even this meal was for Jesus and his disciples a commemoration of the Passover, the delivery of the Israelites from slavery.

Most of us recall memories of Palm Sundays past, the gospel account of Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem where the people cried out, “Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord, hosanna in the highest.” Typically the congregation assembled outside the church to bless palm branches with which we reenacted that procession into Jerusalem, singing our own hosannas. We remember.

Palm Sunday is a day of stark contrast, for our reenactment does not conclude with triumph and hosannas. In the course of one liturgy of memories, we preview the story of Holy Thursday and Good Friday. Today we set the stage.

The institution of the Holy Eucharist is recounted and we hear the words from inside us, “Do this in memory of me.” The gospel leads us through the Garden of Gethsemane and Jesus’ anguished prayers and pleadings that those closest to him might stay awake to comfort him. We have heard the gospel so many times that we vividly remember.

The story unfolds with Jesus’ arrest, Peter’s denial, the trial, the crowd crying out, “Crucify him, crucify him.” This is the same crowd that only days before had sung, “Hosanna!” Our memories are clear because we have joyfully and then somberly marked these memories for years.

Year after year we have heard homilies recounting the bearing of the cross to the place called Golgotha, a place we remember as Calvary: Jesus’ anguished cries; a mother grieving in pain unimaginable; the stark embarrassment of the Son of Man feeling forsaken. We remember.

We remember because we have joined as people of faith to recall this story year after year, decade after decade, a half century and more for some. Our memories have built faith.

I recall the many different churches where I have relived Palm Sunday and Holy Week. I remember as a child thinking that that the reading of the Passion surely must take longer than Jesus' own ordeal. I recall a deacon who could not proclaim the story without weeping himself. I recall the words sung, "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?", and know those words to have come from an old spiritual among African American slaves.

This year the memories are with me. And I sadly add to those memories this year when I gather with but a handful of faithful and look out upon an empty church. I know that many hundreds are with us through our live-streaming. Many more join when they see this taping later in the day or later in the week.

I am grateful that we remember. I am grateful that you who cannot be in your parish church today can reach into the store of your memories and by that still encounter Jesus Christ in the power of the gospel stories. I know that, while you cannot receive the Holy Eucharist, the Lord Jesus comes to you and is in Holy Communion with you -- and all of us with each other because of our common faith, our common memories.

I have talked with scores of the priests of the Diocese of Owensboro this week and I am pleased to say that they sense a good morale even in anxiety and doubt. Our parishes are doing many innovative things to remain connected. They are striving to reach out in any way they can to those most isolated -- while remembering we are creating new memories.

Families, I pray that in years to come when you remember the pandemic of 2020 there will be good memories. I pray that you will recall ways you prayed together, ways you observed Holy week and Easter.

Our prayer together might echo the psalms: "How long, O Lord, how long?" And only the Lord knows.

+ W. F. Medley
Palm Sunday
April 5, 2020

Additionally, you can also find video reflections from the USCCB on the readings here:
<http://www.usccb.org/bible/reflections/>.

Observe a period of silence for reflection on the Word of God. You may want to ask the following questions:

What word or phrase is stirring in your heart?
How can you apply this message to your daily life?

PROFESSION OF FAITH (Nicene Creed)

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of Heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation,
he came down from heaven,
(At the words that follow, up to and including “and became man,” all bow.)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into Heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

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

You or members of your family can be invited to speak out their intercessions, to which all reply, “Lord, hear our prayer.” It would be good to include a prayer for the end of the coronavirus pandemic and a return to public Sunday Eucharist.

Leader: Incline your merciful ear to our prayers, we ask, O Lord, and listen in kindness to the supplications of those who call on you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

ACT OF THANKSGIVING

Make a prayer of thanksgiving. This can be your own personal prayer of thanksgiving, a canticle of praise from scripture, or you may choose one of the following Psalms: Psalm 100; Psalm 113; Psalm 118:1-4, 19-29; Psalm 136; Psalm 150

CONCLUDING RITE

In solidarity with our diocese, here you could include Pope Francis’ prayer to Mary for protection against the coronavirus found at the beginning of the *Diocese of Owensboro Prayer Companion*.

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.

Response: Amen

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

All sign themselves with the cross.

Response: Amen

As an option here, you could add “Let us offer each other the sign of peace,” extending a sign of Christ’s peace to your loved ones by way of a hug, kiss, or whatever would be most appropriate for your situation.

HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

**O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.**

Isaac Watts, 1702