

HOLY WEEK AT HOME

PALM SUNDAY

Take a green branch from your garden. Gather the family together and, with each person holding a branch, pray together.

FAMILY PRAYER

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: During Lent, we have been preparing our hearts to celebrate Easter. Today we join Christ as he enters Jerusalem. In the coming days, we will relive the mystery of his death and resurrection. By joining ourselves to Christ, God's grace will lift us up and rescue us.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When they were near Jerusalem, the disciples brought a donkey to Jesus and laid their clothes on its back. Jesus sat on the donkey. A great crowd spread their clothes on the road, while others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in his path. The crowds who went in front of him and those who were following were crying out: *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 in turmoil as people asked, 'Who is this?' and the crowds answered, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

All: The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Spend a few minutes in silence to think about the Gospel. Then talk together about what Jesus will do in Jerusalem in the coming days. What will happen on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday?

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Lord, increase the faith of your people
and listen to our prayers.
Today we honour Christ our triumphant king
by carrying these branches.
May we honour you every day
by living always in him,
for he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

Make your own prayers for those who are sick or in need. Ask God to protect them. Finish each prayer with:

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Let us pray in the words Jesus himself gave 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. Amen.

Leader: May God bless us and keep us safe.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Place your palm branch beside your bed during the days of Holy Week.