



CELEBRATING AT HOME

## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

*Love revealed (Mark 15:1-39)*



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*For those who cannot attend mass, gather some green branches from your garden. After the blessing these can be given to everyone present. The greenery is a reminder that the story of Jesus does not end in death, but life.*

### Sign of the Cross

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

### Preparing to hear the Word

We have been called by God to be the Church,  
the Body of Christ in this world.  
We are not a building, but a people,  
gathered and grounded in  
the Word of God,  
the love of Christ,  
and the unity of the Holy Spirit.

**During Lent we have been preparing  
for the celebration of Easter  
by works of love and self-sacrifice.**

Today, in union with the whole Church  
we remember Christ's entry into Jerusalem  
to complete his saving work as our Messiah:  
to suffer, to die and to rise again.

**We, too, enter this week of holiness  
and welcome Christ as our Saviour.**

### Blessing the Palms

*In the Roman Empire people used palm branches  
and other greenery as a sign of welcome and respect  
as important people entered the towns and cities.  
The Gospels record that this is what many people in  
Jerusalem did for Jesus.*

Almighty God, hear our prayers:  
let your blessing be upon us  
and these branches.  
Today we joyfully acclaim Jesus our Messiah and King.  
May we honour you every day  
by living always in him  
for he is Lord for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

### The Passion of Jesus according to Mark

First thing in the morning, the chief priests together with the elders and scribes, in short the whole Sanhedrin, had their plan ready. They had Jesus bound and took him away and handed him over to Pilate.

Pilate questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "It is you who say it" he answered. And the chief priests brought many accusations against him.

Pilate questioned him again. "Have you no reply at all? See how many accusations they are bringing against you!" But, to Pilate's amazement, Jesus made no further reply.

At festival time Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone they asked for. Now a man called Barabbas was then in prison with the rioters who had committed murder during the uprising. When the crowd went up and began to ask Pilate for the customary favour, Pilate answered them: "Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?" For he realised it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over.

The chief priests, however, had incited the crowd to demand that he should release Barabbas for them instead. "But in that case, what am I to do with the man you call king of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" "Why? What harm has he done?" But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas for them and, having ordered Jesus to be scourged, handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led him away to the inner part of the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the whole cohort together. They dressed him in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, king of the Jews!"

They struck his head with a reed and spat on him; and they went down on their knees to do him homage. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple and dressed him in his own clothes. They led him out to crucify him. They enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to

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carry his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull.

They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it. Then they crucified him, and shared out his clothing, casting lots to decide what each should get. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription giving the charge against him read: "The King of the Jews." And they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said, "Aha! So you would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself: come down from the cross!" The chief priests and the scribes mocked him among themselves in the same way: "He saved others, he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, for us to see it and believe." Even those who were crucified with him taunted him.

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani!" which means "My God, My God, why have you deserted me?" When some of those who stood by heard this, they said "Listen, he is calling on Elijah." Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink, "Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down." But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said, "In truth this man was a son of God."

There were some women watching from a distance. Among them were Mary of Magdala, Mary who was the mother of James the younger, and Joset, and Salome. These used to follow him and look after him when he was in Galilee. And there were many other women there who had come up to Jerusalem with him.

It was now evening, and since it was Preparation Day, that is the vigil of the sabbath, there came Joseph of Arimathaea, a prominent member of the Council, who himself lived in the hope of seeing the kingdom of God, and he boldly went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Pilate, astonished that he should have died so soon, summoned the centurion and enquired if he was already dead. Having been assured of this by the centurion, he granted the corpse to Joseph who brought a shroud, took Jesus down from the cross, wrapped him in the shroud and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. Mary of Magdala and Mary the mother of Jesus were watching and took note of where he was laid.

*Quiet time for reflection*

### Prayers of Intercession

For all who suffer verbal, psychological, sexual or physical abuse.

**Lord, in your gentleness, raise us to new life.**

For all who are persecuted in the cause of right.

**Lord, in your love, raise us to new life.**

For all who suffer torture and are violently killed.

**Lord, in your tenderness, raise us to new life.**

For all whose character or reputation has been destroyed.

**Lord, in your compassion, raise us to new life.**

For the victims of natural disasters, violence and war, their families and friends.

**Lord, in your goodness, raise us to new life.**

For those who suffer from fear, anxiety, psychological distress, addiction, broken relationships, and grief.

**Lord, in your kindness, raise us to new life.**

For the victims of disease, and for those caring for them.

**Lord, in your love, raise us to new life.**

For our share in causing suffering to each other.

**Lord, in your mercy, raise us to new life.**

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### Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,  
we pray:

**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.**

### Closing Prayer

Father of mercy,  
through the suffering and death of your Son  
you open our minds to the suffering of each other.  
By our sharing in Christ's suffering  
may your mercy be seen in us  
until love's work is completed  
and all your children give you joyful praise.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Blessing

May the Lord bless us,  
keep us from all evil  
and lead us to life everlasting.  
**Amen.**

### Ending

Our Holy Week has begun.  
**We go in peace remembering  
the Lord's great love for us.**

This resource is presented by the Carmelites for use by individuals, families and small groups as a prayerful celebration of the Word of God to help prepare us to celebrate the Eucharist with our worshipping communities. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. We are also conscious of the many people who, for various reasons including sickness and infirmity, cannot physically attend the Eucharist. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family.



**The Carmelites**  
Australia & Timor-Leste

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