



*Light and
Love in the
darkness*

CELEBRATING AT HOME PALM SUNDAY

*Jesus is welcomed
then condemned to death
and great love is revealed*

This resource is presented by the Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste at a time when we cannot gather together as we usually do to celebrate the Eucharist. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in our hearts. 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.

For this Sunday, 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.

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 at this time.

CELEBRATING AT HOME

PALM SUNDAY

Sign of the Cross

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

Amen

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church in
this moment of prayer.**

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 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 Arimathea, 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

We have heard the story of the passion and death of Our Lord. We unite the suffering of the world with his suffering as we pray:

For those who are betrayed, scorned, mocked and made to feel foolish.

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

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 violence and war, their families and friends.

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

For all who suffer the slow deaths of starvation, homelessness or poverty.

Lord, in your generosity, 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, especially those suffering with coronavirus, and for those caring for them.
Lord, in your love, raise us to new life.

For all who are responsible for the suffering and death of others.
Lord, in your wisdom, raise us to new life.

For our share in causing suffering to each other.
Lord, in your mercy, raise us to new life.

Father of mercy,
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.

Lord's Prayer

Jesus himself taught us how to pray,
so with confidence we say:

**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

Lord, God,
we thank you for this time together in prayer.
In your loving kindness remember your people.
Deliver us from the evil that threatens us.
May we be your light and love especially in this moment of need.
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.**

