

The Diocese of Blackburn



Prayer and worship at home

Sunday 5th April, 2020

Palm Sunday

If a household are praying together, one person may act as leader and the others as the congregation and they join in the words in bold type.

If alone, read all the words aloud.

You may want to light a candle before you begin, and have a Bible, cross or crucifix to look at.

You might prepare for this act of worship by listening to some music, or by being still

Preparation

The Lord is here
His Spirit is with us.

Prayers of Penitence

During Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Words of forgiveness

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The special prayer for this week

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.
Amen.

The Word of the Lord

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴ The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he awakens—
awakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.
⁷ The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸ he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
⁹ It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
All of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately.^[a]"
⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,
⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,

humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;
⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their
cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large
crowd^[a] spread their cloaks on the road, and others
cut branches from the trees and spread them on the
road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that
followed were shouting,
“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”
¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in
turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹ The crowds were
saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in
Galilee.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

*(Alternatively, you may wish to read Matthew 26.14-end of
27)*

Affirmation of faith

With our Christian brothers and sisters, we affirm
our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is
Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

cf Philippians 2.6-11

Prayers of intercession

*(Here you may wish to offer prayer in your own words,
or be prompted by the words here)*

*We pray for the health and well-being of our nation, for
our Prime Minister and Government and for our NHS,
that all who are fearful and anxious may be at peace and
free from worry...*

*We pray for the isolated and housebound,
that we may be alert to their needs,
and care for them in their vulnerability...*

*We pray for our homes and families,
our schools and young people,
and all in any kind of need or distress...*

*We pray for a blessing on our local community,
that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and
friendship, where all are known and cared for...*

*We remember those who have died in recent days, and all
whom we love but see no longer...*

The Lord's Prayer

Joining with Christians throughout the world,
we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven...

(or)

Our Father in heaven...

Concluding Acclamation

We tell your story
We follow in your footsteps
Lead us into Holy Week

We walk towards the city
We wait in the garden
Lead us onto Holy Ground

We journey towards death
We hope for resurrection
Lead us into Holy Joy

The Grace

We conclude our prayers

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy
Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen**



HOLY WEEK

Readings for the coming week:

Monday	Psalm 41	John 12.1-11
Tuesday	Psalm 27	John 12.20-36
Wednesday	Psalm 102	John 13.21-32
Thursday	Psalm 116	John 13.1-17, 31b-35
Friday	Psalm 69	John 18 & 19
Saturday	Psalm 142	Matthew 27.57-end