

Collect

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

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Is 50:4-7

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Psalm

Psalm 21

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
"He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend."
Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones.
They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me!
I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled.
"You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons."

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

Phil 2:6-11

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Reading

The Gospel this Sunday is Matthew's account of the Passion; you should be able to find the text in the newsletter section of the website in the file called: 'Palm Sunday The Matthew Passion'.

Intercessions

- Pray for family and loved ones so that they may be held in God's compassionate care.
- Pray for all those who are working for others during this time of pandemic.
- Pray for other countries who are struggling with the effects of the COVID 19 virus.
- Pray for those whose lives and livelihoods have been adversely affected by this time of crisis.

If the following intentions are said in a family or other small group you may wish to conclude each one with the response:

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

That the Church, teaching in the name of Christ, may sustain the weary with a word of courage, righteousness and hope.

That those in positions of power and authority may open their ears and listen to the voices that cry out for food, for dignity and for peace.

That as we keep this Holy Week we may empty ourselves as did Christ Jesus, serving in unselfish love.

That those who, by their sufferings, share in the passion of Christ may share fully in his exaltation.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father...

Spiritual Communion

Prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things
and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come spiritually into my soul
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.
Amen.

Prayer

from the Mass of Palm Sunday (adapted)

We humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, just as through the death of your Son
you have brought us to hope for what we believe,
so by his Resurrection
you may lead us to where you call.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Conclusion

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