

SAFFRON WALDEN AND VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY
HYMNS AND PRAYERS FOR SUNDAYS IN PASSIONTIDE:
21 MARCH AND 28 MARCH (PALM SUNDAY)

This prayer sheet is specially designed for those who are praying at home during this time of Coronavirus. It covers services for the two Sundays in Passiontide, which includes Palm Sunday, with readings and suggested hymns for each week. The text of the readings will be set out in the Grapevine, which will be sent round each week as usual. We hope that this sheet will continue to connect you to the rhythm of our worship together.

You might like to light a candle, symbolising Jesus as the Light of the World: and to say the prayers and readings out loud. Remember that even if you are by yourself at home, you are still part of God's Church, praying across the world.

Our Lenten journey now turns, with Jesus, towards the cross. This is a solemn season as we listen to Jesus first speaking about his death and then entering Jerusalem, initially to wide acclaim from the crowds, but which he realises will be the place of his crucifixion. Red vestments replace the purple of Lent as we think of Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Introduction

We gather together, united in purpose though separate in place, in the name of God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

We say together an opening hymn: see pages 5-7.

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

We have come together as the family of God in this community. And especially today we thank you, heavenly Father, as we follow our Lord Jesus Christ on the way to the cross, sharing in his suffering. Help us to pray to you in faith, to sing your praise with gratitude, and to listen to your word with eagerness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus Christ, we confess we have failed you as did your first disciples. We ask for your mercy and your help.

When we take our ease rather than watch with you:

Lord, forgive us *Christ have mercy*

When we bestow a kiss of peace yet nurse enmity on our hearts:

Lord, forgive us *Christ have mercy*

When we strike at those who hurt us rather than stretch out our hands to bless:

Lord, forgive us *Christ have mercy*

When we deny that we know you for fear of the world and its scorn:

Lord, forgive us *Christ have mercy*

Hearing God's forgiveness

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days. **Amen.**

As God's forgiven people, we say

Thanks be to God for his endless grace.

Readings *We now follow the readings on the Grapevine:*

Collect (the special prayer for each Sunday)

March 21st (5th Sunday of Lent):

First Reading: Hebrews 5: 5-10; **Gospel:** John 12: 20-33

March 28th (Palm Sunday):

First Reading: Philippians 2: 5-11; **Gospel:** Mark 14: 1- 15: 47

Liturgy of the Palms: Mark 11: 1-11

Reflection *You may wish to read the Reflection on the Grapevine.*

On Palm Sunday, it is traditional to read or hear what is known as the 'Liturgy of the Passion', covering the entire period of Jesus's betrayal and death, in addition to the 'Liturgy of the Palms' telling of his entry into Jerusalem.

We declare our faith together

**We believe and trust in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

You may like to base your own prayers around the themes below: feel free to expand and to use your own words

Father, we remember how your Son Jesus turned towards suffering and death. When we face suffering, give us grace to accept it through the power of your Spirit and knowing that this is a path that He himself has trodden.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for your Church throughout the world: for our Bishops; for all the people, communities and churches of this Saffron Walden and Villages Team Ministry. As the disciples who followed Jesus to the cross later became the foundation of your Church, so bring into our fellowship a varied company who will look to you for inspiration, guidance and help in building your Body, in our generation and in this place,

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

As we think of the actions of those in power during the time of our Lord, we pray for all those who exercise power today, and those whose hearts are hardened by the making of difficult decisions that affect the lives of others. We pray for world leaders, especially those in situations of conflict or unrest. As we reflect too on the fickle nature of the crowds who welcomed Jesus on Palm Sunday, we ask for constancy in the commitment to justice and truth,

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for our families and for our neighbours, thanking you for the love and fellowship that we enjoy. Help us to care for one another in times of trouble and to stand alongside all who suffer.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for the on-going patience in face of continuing restrictions. As the weather brightens and as we approach a time when schools break up, and when many would expect to have a break, help us to remain steadfast and to support attempts to control the spread of the virus. We thank you for the work of all who serve us, for medical and care staff and for those in shops and public services.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We hold before you all who are sick or in any kind of need. Bless our families, friends and neighbours, both near and far, especially those in need of any kind whom we name before you in the silence of our hearts Hold them in your loving arms, and be with them always.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We thank you now for the lives of those who have died. Give hope and faith to the dying and the bereaved, gentleness to all who minister to them, and confidence that nothing can separate us or them from your love.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

In a moment of silence, offer to God any other needs on your heart.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sharing God's Peace

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

As you say this, hold in your mind all who are joining in these prayers today.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together as Jesus has taught us

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. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

We ask God's grace for the week ahead

Heavenly Father, sustain us in our joys and in our anxieties. Enfold us in your peace in our waking and in our sleeping, and may we know your presence with us now and always: in the name of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

We say (or sing!) a final hymn: see pages 5-7.

Christ crucified draw you to himself to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us all now and evermore.

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SUGGESTED HYMNS

SUNDAY 21st March (5th Sunday of Lent)

Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,
if thou wouldst my disciple be;
deny thyself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me.

Take up thy cross – let not its weight
fill thy weak spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear thy spirit up,
and brace thy heart, and nerve thine arm.

Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,
nor let thy foolish pride rebel:
thy Lord for thee the cross endured,
to save thy soul from death and hell.

To thee, great Lord, the One in Three,
all praise for evermore ascend:
O grant us in our home to see
the heav'nly life that knows no end.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that as you love, so may I love
and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure:
until my will is one with yours
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fulfill my heart's desire,
until this earthly part of me
glows with your heav'nly fire.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
of your eternity.

SUNDAY 28th March (Palm Sunday)

My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake,
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

Sometimes they strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King;
then 'Crucify!' is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.

They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save,
the Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes,
that he his foes from thence might free.

Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

--

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
hark, all the tribes hosanna cry;
thy humble beast pursues his road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death ad conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The last and fiercest strife is nigh;
the Father, on his sapphire throne,
awaits his own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, thy pow'r, and reign.