



–Kai Althoff

Holy Week Prayers

Palm Sunday Vespers

*You are invited to pray these words following supper,
or anytime in the evening before going to sleep.*

Before beginning...

- ✚ *Light a candle as a sign that God is with you in Spirit.*
- ✚ *If you're using the audio recording, feel free to stop and start it as necessary. If you're not using the recording, you are free to pray through the material as you wish.*
- ✚ *If you're with a group, you may wish to have different people read different sections. Or you may have a leader read the light print, and have the group read together the text in bold print.*
- ✚ *Where you see a + you are invited to make the sign of the cross.*
- ✚ *You may want to create a family "altar" in your home for Holy Week. Pick a spot in your house where you can gather by yourself or with others, and there place a candle, a cross, and a bowl.*
- ✚ *If you coloured a palm branch this morning, have that as well as a pencil or pen nearby. If not, have a few pieces of paper available.*



THE CALL TO PRAYER

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. -Psalm 95:6-7

THE GREETING

Glory be to You, God of all comfort and compassion, who longs to gather us as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. -Matthew 23:37

I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me; incline your ear to me, and hear my words. -Psalm 17:6

SONG FOR THE DAY ~ *Remember Me*

To you, oh Lord, do I lift up my soul.
You are the only recourse that I know.
When shame denies me a place in your fold,
In your love remember me.

Show me your road with respect to the truth.
Hold not against me the sins of my youth.
There's no one to turn to if you won't come through.
In your love remember me.

In your love remember me.
In your love remember me.
All because of your goodness, Lord,
In your love remember me.

Yahweh confides in the ones who have faith,
And shares from the secrets of old, so they say.
Dare I presume you would treat me the same?
In your love remember me.

Show me your favour, Yahweh,
Let it never be said that I've trusted in vain.
It is your reputation that makes me outrageously brave.
And hold out your mercy to me.
Go ahead and correct me for the sake of your name.
It's not much of a threat but my hoping is keeping me sane,
Again and again

-Steve Bell

Hosanna, Lord, hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

-Psalm 118:25-26

PRAYER OF ORIENTATION

Now to the gate of my Jerusalem,
The seething holy city of my heart,
The Saviour comes. But will I welcome him?
Oh crowds of easy feelings make a start;
They raise their hands, get caught up in the singing,
And think the battle won. Too soon they'll find
The challenge, the reversal he is bringing
Changes their tune. I know what lies behind
The surface flourish that so quickly fades;
Self-interest, and fearful guardedness,
The hardness of the heart, its barricades,
And at the core, the dreadful emptiness
Of a perverted temple. Jesus, come
Break my resistance and make me your home.

-Malcolm Guite

CONFESSION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father: I have sinned against you, through my own fault, in thought, and word, and deed, in what I have done and in what I have left undone. For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me all my offenses; and grant that I may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your Name. Amen. +

~ Listening Silence ~

Be attentive to what God wishes to communicate to you.

(Feel free to pause your playback device)

You, O Lord, are a shield about me; you are my glory, the one who lifts up my head.

-Psalm 3:3

Hosanna, Lord, hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE
(read by Katherine Wight)

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion!
Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you,
righteous and having salvation,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
I will take away the chariots from Ephraim
and the war horses from Jerusalem,
and the battle bow will be broken.
He will proclaim peace to the nations.
His rule will extend from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.
Return to your fortress, O prisoners of hope;
even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.

Then the Lord will appear over them;
the Lord their God will save them on that day
as the flock of his people.
They will sparkle in his land
like jewels in a crown.
How attractive and beautiful they will be!

—Zechariah 9:9-12, 14, 16-17

Hosanna, Lord, hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

Take a few moments to write down the names of people or situations on the leaves of your palm branch, or on pieces of paper, and place them in the bowl, or at the foot of the cross or the candle.

(Feel free to pause your playback device)

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous. May the Lord Almighty grant us and those we love a peaceful night and a perfect end; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

THE CONCLUDING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord, it is evening after a long day. What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be.

The night is dark. It is for stillness. Let our fears of the darkness, of the world, and of our lives rest in You. Let us be still in your Presence.

The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us, and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, and new possibilities. Amen. +

~ Listening Silence ~

*In the quiet, let yourself come to rest in God's presence.
(Feel free to pause your playback device)*

THE FINAL THANKSGIVING

Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised; for these eyes of mine have seen the Saviour, whom you have prepared for all the world to see: a Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

