

**Home Family Worship Kit for
Sunday April 5, 2020
Palm Sunday**

Responsive Call to Worship:

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made,
ALL: **LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT!**
Leader: Jesus is coming.
ALL: **HOSANNA!**
Leader: He comes to us, riding on a donkey.
ALL: **HOSANNA!**
Leader: Open wide the gates!
ALL: **HOSANNA!**
Leader: Let us welcome him with waving branches and open hearts.
ALL: **HOSANNA!**
Leader: Jesus is coming!
ALL: **HOSANNA TO THE KING OF KINGS!**
HYMN: “Hosanna in the Highest” <https://youtu.be/p8xHr8krAll>

Prayer of Adoration & Confession

Hear us now as we speak to you about the truth of our lives:
God of courage and compassion,
we confess that we prefer the comfort of darkness to the light of your truth;
we follow our own ways rather than the path Jesus took.
We do what is easy rather than what is right,
assuring ourselves and each other we’ve made the right choice.
Forgive our fleeting enthusiasm for your purposes
and our shallow commitment to put our faith into practice.
Forgive us, O God,
and help us pay attention to the costly choices Jesus made for us
as he moved toward the Cross.

Assurance of Pardon

(Worship leaders might consider saying the assurance of pardon while pouring water into the Baptismal font. This serves as a visual reminder of the forgiveness that is offered in baptism.)

Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ – and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God’s generous grace.

Prayer for Understanding

God of all wisdom and knowledge,
in the reading and hearing of your Word,
help us know you more clearly so that we may love you more dearly.
In loving you more dearly, help us follow you more nearly, day by day.
In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings: - Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
 - Matthew 21:1-11

Meditation:

I know how it must have been for those people long ago
who rejoiced when Jesus came to their city
and cried "Hosanna!"

I know how their hearts swelled with good will
and how happily they threw their hats in the air.

I know, too, when I look within,
how the good will faded,

and the rancorous ill will grew into the cry,
"Crucify him!"

For I, too, am capable of swinging from praise to denial,
from singing to cursing.

I am not always steady and sure in what I want,
in my loves and loyalties.

O Lord, I wish you did not have to haul me back so often
from my erring ways.

But I am grateful that you do,
and that your love is as persistent as it is.

Since you refuse to give up on me,
help me to refuse to give up on myself.

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Intercession:

Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty and wonder,
yet we see so much hurt and betrayal that harm the world and its peoples.
We trust that your love has power in all situations,
even the most troubling or tragic.

So hear us as we bring to you our concerns for the people and places on our hearts this day:

We pray for people who struggle with poverty, sickness, or grief. Touch them in their pain and restore their hope and health:

(Hold a brief silence)

Lord, in your mercy;

ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

We pray for people and communities burdened by the weight of war, greed, hostility or jealousy. Lift their burdens and restore their hope and peace:

(Hold a brief silence)

Lord, in your mercy;

ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

We pray for people who challenge regimes marked by tyranny, domination, and brutality. Liberate their lives and restore their hope and freedom:

(Hold a brief silence)

Lord, in your mercy;

ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

We pray for people who are persecuted for their race or creed, or for the truth they tell; and for those who are not treated with respect or decency. Rescue them from discrimination and restore their hope and dignity:

(Hold a brief silence)

Lord, in your mercy;

ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Hear us as we pray to you in silence for those situations close to our hearts this day. Bring your grace to restore hope and healing where they are needed. We pray for all whose lives have been forever changed by the Corona Virus

(Hold a longer silence)

Lord in your mercy;

ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Now we pray together as Jesus taught us... Our Father who art in heaven...

HYMN: "King of Heaven" <https://youtu.be/5h8laPe1NVM>

Personal Prayer:

May the Blessing of God the father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all and with all those who are part of God's family, now and forever more. AMEN.