



A way to mark Palm Sunday and Holy Week this year may I suggest you a creative way that can make your home a sign of reign of the Prince of Peace Jesus the Christ?

Find a branch in your garden that you like – a eucalypt, olive branch or some other branch. Decorate your front door with it as a sign of peace for the coming week. Pray for peace of mind and heart for the world and for ourselves and all who are sick or working at the front line – in hospitals, medical centres, shops and medical research centres. I found the picture below on the internet and thought you might be inspired by it as I was.



I have blessed palm crosses that we would have distributed on Palm Sunday. There are options to get yours. You can pick it up from the box outside the vicarage – along with a candle to light when praying this office. Or I can bring it to you. Let me know what suits you best. Finally, we will still have them when the time arrives when we all return to Saint Mark's to sing with one voice!

God bless you this Palm Sunday and throughout this Holy Week.

Fr Stuart

THE PREPARATION

O Lord, open our lips
And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Make me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me.

Behold your king comes to you, O Zion,
meek and lowly, sitting upon an ass.
Ride on in the cause of truth
and for the sake of justice.
Your throne is the throne of God, it endures for ever;
and the sceptre of your kingdom is a righteous sceptre.
You have loved righteousness and hated evil.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.
Hosanna to the Son of David.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, *
his mercies never come to an end;

They are new every morning; *
great is your faithfulness.

‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, *
‘therefore I will hope in him.’

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, *
to the soul that seeks him.

It is good that we should wait quietly *
for the salvation of the Lord.

For the Lord will not reject for ever; *
though he cause grief, he will have compassion.

According to the abundance of his steadfast love; *
for he does not willingly grieve or afflict anyone.

From Lamentations 3

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; *
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

PSALM 22: 7-8, 16-17, 18-19, 22-23

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

All who seek me mock at me;
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;
“Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver –
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

For dogs are all around me;
a company of evildoers encircles me.
My hands and feet have shrivelled;
I can count all my bones.
They stare and gloat over me;
they divide my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.
But you, O Lord, do not be far away!
O my help, come quickly to my aid!

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; *
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Collect: Be not far from me, O Lord,
 Restless with grief and fear,
 the abandoned turn to you:
 in every hour of trial,
 good Lord, deliver us,
 O God most holy,
 God most strong,
 whose wisdom is the cross of Christ.
 Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE

Come, let us return to the Lord *
for we have been torn and he will heal us.

We have been stricken *
and God will bind up our wounds.

After two days, he will revive us, *
and on the third day will raise us up, that we may live in his presence.

Let us strive to know the Lord; *
his appearing is as sure as the sunrise.

He will come to us like the showers, *
like the spring rains that water the earth.

‘O Ephraim, how shall I deal with you? *
How shall I deal with you, O Judah?

‘Your love for me is like the morning mist, *
like the dew that goes early away.

‘Therefore, I have hewn them by the prophets, *
and my judgement goes forth as the light.

‘For loyalty is my desire and not sacrifice, *
and the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.’

Based on Hosea 6:1-6

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; *
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Read Matthew 21:1-11

May your word live in us;
and bear much fruit to your glory.

THE GOSPEL CANTICLE

God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ

✝ Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel:
who has come to his people and set them free.

The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour:
born of the house of his servant David.

Through the holy prophets, God promised of old:
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us.

To show mercy to our forebears:
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear:
holy and righteous before him, all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of God, the Most High:
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.

To give his people knowledge of salvation:
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God:
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death:
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ

LITANY IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

by Fr Rick Morley (USA)

God the Father,
Have mercy upon us.

God the Son,
Have mercy upon us.

God the Holy Spirit,
Have mercy upon us.

Holy Trinity, One God,
Have mercy upon us.

Spare us, good Lord, spare your people, who you have redeemed with you most precious blood, and by your mercy preserve us through this crisis, and for ever.
Spare us, good Lord.

From all evil and wickedness, from disease and illness, especially this coronavirus,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all ignorance and apathy, and from all willingness to engage in activities that could harm others,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all refusal to understand, from pride and a sense of invincibility,
Good Lord, deliver us.

We your children beseech you to hear us, O Lord God, to look upon this world struck by pandemic, and drive from us this disease,
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to strengthen the weak, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems,
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to give health and comfort to all who are already stricken with illness,
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to give patience and grace to all those who are in quarantine or who fear that they have already contracted the virus,
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to surround those who are scared and fearful, those who are overcome with anxiety and worry,
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to give wisdom and stamina to all scientists, biologists, doctors, and all who are working on tests, vaccines, and treatments,
We beseech your to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to uphold all those who are treating and ministering to the sick,
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give to your people a heart to love their neighbour through this time, and to look after those who are most vulnerable.
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to support, help, and comfort those who are worried about getting through this time financially, and whether they will have employment when this passes,
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to help our young people grow in wisdom and knowledge even as schools and universities are closed,
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to heal the sick, lift up the stricken, and open the airways of those who have difficulty breathing,
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to receive into your bosom those who have died from this disease, and to gather into your arms those who grieve,
We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,
Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,
Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,
Grant us your peace.

**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 for ever.**

Amen.

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord bless us, ✚ and keep us from all evil,
and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Let us stay here in the peace of Christ,
thanks be to God.