

EASTER AT HOME



Save us, Saviour of the World

Celebrating
the Passion of Christ

Prepared by

Sacred Heart

INTERNATIONAL
ENGLISH SPEAKING
CATHOLIC PARISH AMMAN



with
inspirations by
and
thanks to

www.aletheia.org

The Jesuit Community in Homs

www.youtube.org

All the “Easter at Home” liturgical services will include the section of preparation before the prayer, and the program of the prayer including a para-liturgical activity or rite. In the preparations section there will be the “prayer corner” which can be a table you adorn nicely and you arrange the seats in front of it, or you out the table in your midst and sit around it. I have also prepared a YouTube playlist with music that would fit. Feel free in using it or not.

Today’s celebration has an introduction and three parts

1. Liturgy of the Word
2. The Great Intercessions
3. The Adoration of the Cross

PREPARATIONS

a) On the Prayer Corner:

a big cross or better a crucifix under a purple, red or black cloth

b) Decide on the Roles of the Prayer

Leader

Who reads: 1st reading

the Passion (narrator, Christ, voices)

c) YouTube-Links:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGQ1K7iACa82R0QwNIGpZ71-VkefTgXJk>

INTRODUCTION

All are seated. We start this Liturgy i silence. No music. After letting everyone be in silence for two or three minutes. The candle is lit.

PRAYER

The leader says the opening prayer:

Remember your mercies, O Lord,
and with your eternal protection sanctify your servants,
for whom Christ your Son,
by the shedding of his Blood,
established the Paschal Mystery.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Part 1: LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

See, my servant shall prosper, he shall be raised high and greatly exalted. Even as many were amazed at him— so marred was his look beyond human semblance and his appearance beyond that of the sons of man— so shall he startle many nations, because of him kings shall stand speechless; for those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it.

Who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; there was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him. He was spurned and avoided by people, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, one of those from whom people hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem.

Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins; upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; but the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all.

Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before

the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth.

Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away, and who would have thought any more of his destiny?

When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people, a grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers, though he had done no wrong nor spoken any falsehood.

But the LORD was pleased to crush him in infirmity.

If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life, and the will of the LORD shall be accomplished through him.

Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days; through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear. Therefore I will give him his portion among the great, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, because he surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; and he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses.

Word of God

Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

The first song of the Playlist “In manus tuas Domine” (In your hands, Lord, I commend your spirit) can be played. Or you stay in silence.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every other name.

PASSION OF OUR LORD

N: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley
to where there was a garden,
into which he and his disciples entered.

Judas his betrayer also knew the place,
because Jesus had often met there with his disciples.

So Judas got a band of soldiers and guards
from the chief priests and the Pharisees
and went there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.

Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him,
went out and said to them,

Jesus: "Whom are you looking for?"

N: They answered him,

V: "Jesus the Nazorean."

N: He said to them,

Jesus: "I AM."

N: Judas his betrayer was also with them.

When he said to them, "I AM,"
they turned away and fell to the ground.

So he again asked them,

Jesus: “Whom are you looking for?”

N: They said,

V: “Jesus the Nazorean.”

N: Jesus answered,

Jesus: “I told you that I AM. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.”

N: This was to fulfill what he had said, “I have not lost any of those you gave me.” Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter,

Jesus: “Put your sword into its scabbard. Shall I not drink the cup that the Father gave me?”

N: So the band of soldiers, the tribune, and the Jewish guards seized Jesus, bound him, and brought him to Annas first. He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had counseled the Jews that it was better that one man should die rather than the people. Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Now the other disciple was known to the high priest, and he entered the courtyard of the high priest with Jesus. But Peter stood at the gate outside. So the other disciple, the acquaintance of the high priest, went out and spoke to the gatekeeper and brought Peter in.

Then the maid who was the gatekeeper said to Peter,

V: “You are not one of this man’s disciples, are you?”

N: He said,

V: “I am not.”

N: Now the slaves and the guards were standing around a charcoal fire that they had made, because it was cold, and were warming themselves. Peter was also standing there keeping warm. The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his doctrine. Jesus answered him,

Jesus: “I have spoken publicly to the world. I have always taught in a synagogue or in the temple area where all the Jews gather, and in secret I have said nothing. Why ask me? Ask those who heard me what I said to them. They know what I said.”

N: When he had said this, one of the temple guards standing there struck Jesus and said,

V: “Is this the way you answer the high priest?”

N: Jesus answered him,

Jesus: “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?”

N: Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.
Now Simon Peter was standing there keeping warm. And they
said to him,

V: “You are not one of his disciples, are you?”

N: He denied it and said,

V: “I am not.”

N: One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the one
whose ear Peter had cut off, said,

V: “Didn’t I see you in the garden with him?”

N: Again Peter denied it.

And immediately the cock crowed.

Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. It
was morning. And they themselves did not enter the
praetorium, in order not to be defiled so that they could eat
the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and said,

V: “What charge do you bring against this man?”

N: They answered and said to him,

V: “If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him
over to you.”

N: At this, Pilate said to them,

V: "Take him yourselves, and judge him according to your law."

N: The Jews answered him,

V: "We do not have the right to execute anyone,"

N: in order that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled that he said indicating the kind of death he would die. So Pilate went back into the praetorium and summoned Jesus and said to him,

V: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

N: Jesus answered,

Jesus: "Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?"

N: Pilate answered,

V: "I am not a Jew, am I?

Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me.

What have you done?"

N: Jesus answered,

Jesus: "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be

fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here.”

N: So Pilate said to him,

V: “Then you are a king?”

N: Jesus answered,

Jesus: “You say I am a king.

For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

N: Pilate said to him,

V: “What is truth?”

N: When he had said this, he again went out to the Jews and said to them,

V: “I find no guilt in him.

But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at Passover. Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?”

N: They cried out again,

V: “Not this one but Barabbas!”

N: Now Barabbas was a revolutionary.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said,

V: "Hail, King of the Jews!"

N: And they struck him repeatedly. Once more Pilate went out and said to them,

V: "Look, I am bringing him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in him."

N: So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak. And he said to them,

V: "Behold, the man!"

N: When the chief priests and the guards saw him they cried out,

V: "Crucify him, crucify him!"

N: Pilate said to them,

V: "Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him."

N: The Jews answered,

V: “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.”

N: Now when Pilate heard this statement, he became even more afraid, and went back into the praetorium and said to Jesus,

V: “Where are you from?”

N: Jesus did not answer him.
So Pilate said to him,

V: “Do you not speak to me?
Do you not know that I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?”

N: Jesus answered him,

Jesus: “You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from above. For this reason the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin.”

N: Consequently, Pilate tried to release him; but the Jews cried out,

V: “If you release him, you are not a Friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.”

N: When Pilate heard these words he brought Jesus out and

seated him on the judge's bench
in the place called Stone Pavement, in Hebrew, Gabbatha. It
was preparation day for Passover, and it was about noon. And
he said to the Jews,

V: "Behold, your king!"

N: They cried out,

V: "Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!"

N: Pilate said to them,

V: "Shall I crucify your king?"

N: The chief priests answered,

V: "We have no king but Caesar."

N: Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they
took Jesus, and, carrying the cross himself, he went out to
what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha.
There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on
either side, with Jesus in the middle. Pilate also had an
inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus the
Nazorean, the King of the Jews."

Now many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place
where Jesus was crucified was near the city: and it was
written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. So the chief priests of the
Jews said to Pilate,

V: “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that he said, ‘I am the King of the Jews’.”

N: Pilate answered,

V: “What I have written, I have written.”

N: When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another,

V: “Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be,”

N: in order that the passage of Scripture might be fulfilled that says: They divided my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots. This is what the soldiers did. Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved he said to his mother,

Jesus: “Woman, behold, your son.”

N: Then he said to the disciple,

Jesus: “Behold, your mother.”

N: And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said,

Jesus: "I thirst."

N: There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said,

Jesus: "It is finished."

N: And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

Here all kneel and pause for a short time.

Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and that they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus.

But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe. For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled: Not a bone of it will be broken. And again another passage says: They will look upon him whom they have pierced.

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of

Jesus.

And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took his body. Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom. Now in the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried. So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day; for the tomb was close by.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Meditation

You can listen to the second number of the playlist: God my God why have you forsaken me.

Part 2: THE GREAT INTERCESSIONS

The leader introduces the second part with these words:

We will now pray for the needs and intentions of all the world that the Lord, who died for us, may show us his mercy:

After this all are taking turns in reading the intercessions. The leader of prayer always reads the title, then someone reads the intercession and all say or sing: Kyrie Eleison or Lord have mercy.

I. For the Holy Church

Let us pray, dearly beloved, for the holy Church of God, that our God and Lord be pleased to give her peace, to guard her and to unite her throughout the whole world and grant that, leading our life in tranquility and quiet, we may glorify God the Father almighty.

Kyrie eleison (or: Lord have mercy)

II. For the Pope

Let us pray also for our most Holy Father Pope Francis, that our God and Lord, who chose him for the Order of Bishops, may keep him safe and unharmed for the Lord's holy Church, to govern the holy People of God.

Kyrie eleison (or: Lord have mercy)

III. For the people of God

Let us pray also for our Apostolic Administrator Pierbattista and our Bishop William, for all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons of the Church and for the whole of the faithful people.

Kyrie eleison (or: Lord have mercy)

IV. For catechumens

Let us pray also for our catechumens, that our God and Lord may open wide the ears of their inmost hearts and unlock the

gates of his mercy, that, having received forgiveness of all their sins through the waters of rebirth, they, too, may be one with Christ Jesus our Lord.

Kyrie eleison (or: Lord have mercy)

V. For the unity of Christians

Let us pray also for all our brothers and sisters who believe in Christ, that our God and Lord may be pleased, as they live the truth, to gather them together and keep them in his one Church.

Kyrie eleison (or: Lord have mercy)

VI. For the Jewish people

Let us pray also for the Jewish people, to whom the Lord our God spoke first, that he may grant them to advance in love of his name and in faithfulness to his covenant.

Kyrie eleison (or: Lord have mercy)

VII. For those who do not believe in Christ

Let us pray also for those who do not believe in Christ, that, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they, too, may enter on the way of salvation.

Kyrie eleison (or: Lord have mercy)

VIII. For those who do not believe in God

Let us pray also for those who do not acknowledge God, that, following what is right in sincerity of heart, they may find the way to God himself.

Kyrie eleison (or: Lord have mercy)

IX. For those in public office

Let us pray also for those in public office, that our God and Lord may direct their minds and hearts according to his will for the true peace and freedom of all.

Kyrie eleison (or: Lord have mercy)

IX b. For the afflicted in time of pandemic

Let us pray also for all those who suffer the consequences of the current pandemic, that God the Father may grant health to the sick, strength to those who care for them, comfort to families and salvation to all the victims who have died.

Kyrie eleison (or: Lord have mercy)

X. For those in tribulation

Let us pray, dearly beloved, to God the Father almighty, that he may cleanse the world of all errors, banish disease, drive out hunger, unlock prisons, loosen fetters, granting to travelers safety, to pilgrims return, health to the sick, and salvation to the dying.

Kyrie eleison (or: Lord have mercy)

XI. For an end to the pandemic

Let us pray, dearly beloved, for a swift end to the coronavirus pandemic that afflicts our world, that our God and Father will heal the sick, strengthen those who care for them, and help us all to persevere in faith.

Kyrie eleison (or: Lord have mercy)

Part 3: THE ADORATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

The leader explains how everyone will revere the cross, by touching, kissing (with desinfection after every kiss!) or by bowing. Then he or she reveals the cross saying slowly:

Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world. Come, let us adore.

While one after another shows his reverence and love to Christ, you can listen to number three or four in the playlist, byzantine music for this moment of the Liturgy.

After all have finished to show their reverence to the cross the leader leads the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father,...

For the Kingdom....

At the end of the Celebration the leader can pray this prayer over the people:

May abundant blessing, O Lord, we pray, descend upon your people, who have honored the Death of your Son in the hope of their resurrection: may pardon come, comfort be given, holy faith increase, and everlasting redemption be made secure. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.