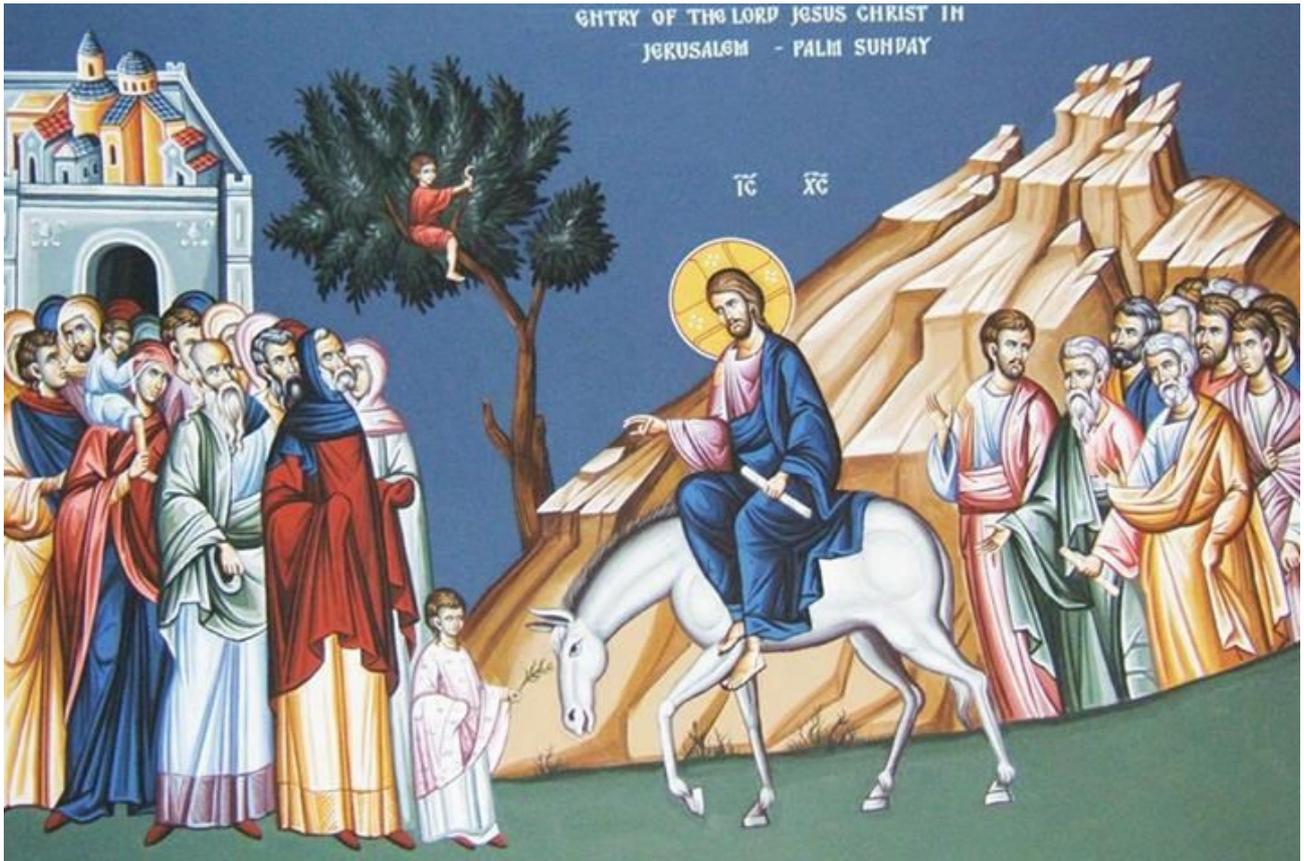


## EASTER AT HOME



Hosanna! Hosanna?

Entering in Jerusalem with  
Jesus

Prepared by

# *Sacred Heart*

INTERNATIONAL  
ENGLISH SPEAKING  
CATHOLIC PARISH AMMAN



with  
inspirations by  
and  
thanks to

[www.aletheia.org](http://www.aletheia.org)

The Jesuit Community in Homs

[www.youtube.org](http://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. Blessing of the Palms
2. Listening to the Passion
3. Praying for the World

## **PREPARATIONS**

*a) On the Prayer Table/Corner:*

a candle without lighting it,

a crucifix or a large cross, if you want you can cover it in a red cloth

palms or olive branches, or any other green wigs for everyone.

*b) Decide on the Roles of the Prayer*

*Leader*

Who reads: Gospel of the Entrance

1st Reading, Responsorial Psalm

The Passion (Narrator, Jesus, Voices)

*c) YouTube-Links:*

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGQ1K7iACa82RJ6w9LiQ7sb7NW8wKbFjW>

## INTRODUCTION

*All are seated. You can start with listening to the first song “All Glory, Lauds and Honour” and while you are listening you kindle the candle.*

The leader of the celebration introduces the prayer with these words (or his or her own):

Today we begin the Holy Week. A very special time for all Christians, we accompany Jesus from his glorious entry in Jerusalem to his death on the cross. We do it here at home, but we think and pray for all who suffer in these days. Let us begin with the sign of the cross, saying all together.

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**L:** The Lord is in our midst.

**All: He is and ever shall be. Amen.**

## PRAYER

*The leader says the opening prayer:*

Almighty every-living God, grant us so to celebrate the mysteries of the Lord’s Passion that we may merit to receive your pardon. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*BLESSING OF THE PALMS*

Take in hand the branches you have prepared (or their substitute), and raise them up, waving them and singing the Sanctus to a familiar melody:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Still holding the branches, hold them out in front of you. The leader of the prayer, with hands joined, says the prayer of blessing.

Increase the faith of those who place their hope in you, O God, and graciously hear the prayers of those who call on you, that we, who today hold high these branches to hail Christ in his triumph, may bear fruit for you by good works accomplished in him. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

## *GOSPEL*

*All stand, and the reader reads the Gospel of the Palms.*

The Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Matthew (21:1-11)

When Jesus and the disciples drew near Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tethered, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them here to me. And if anyone should say anything to you, reply, ‘The master has need of them.’ Then he will send them at once.”

This happened so that what had been spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled:

Say to daughter Zion, “Behold, your king comes to you, meek and riding on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had ordered them.

They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them, and he sat upon them.

The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road. The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying:

“Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is the he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest.”

And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, “Who is this?” And the crowds replied, “This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee.”

At the end of the Gospel, all acclaim the Lord once again singing the second part of the Sanctus

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest. (Bis)**

All lay down their palms in an appropriate place and then sit down. The prayer leader speaks, inviting all to reflect.

O Jesus, during this celebration of the Palms, we have just commemorated your triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and we have just united the impulse of our hearts and the sound of our voices to acclaim you, united in one heart and one mind with your Church. Yes, we want you to triumph, you who come in the name of the Lord,

O Jesus, our brother and our God. Grant us the grace never to lose sight of the truth of Easter, the truth you're going to teach us throughout your Passion. This Easter truth is this: Christian triumph always passes through a cross, and through the gift of his life for love, until the very end.

## *Part 2 Listening to the Passion*

The leader introduces the second part of the celebration:

Now, let us prepare ourselves to open our hearts to the Passion of the Lord, observing a moment of silence.

Still seated, all bow their heads and close their eyes to reflect with greater concentration. All are silent for 2 minutes. The prayer leader marks the end of the period of silence.

*The reader for the first reading remains standing while the others sit down.*

### *FIRST READING (Is 50:4-7)*

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them. Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 22**

Let our response be:

**R/ My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

All who see me scoff at me;  
they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads:  
“He relied on the Lord; let him deliver him,  
let him rescue him, if he loves him.” R/

Indeed, many dogs surround me,  
a pack of evildoers closes in upon me;  
they have pierced my hands and my feet;  
I can count all my bones. R/

They divide my garments among them,  
and for my vesture they cast lots.  
But you, O Lord, be not far from me;  
O my help, hasten to aid me. R/

I will proclaim your name to my brethren;  
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you:  
“You who fear the Lord, praise him;  
all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him;  
revere him, all you descendants of Israel!” R/

*GOSPEL*

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

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 name.

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

*The reading is done according to the roles determined ahead of time. The letters designating the various readers are as follows:*

*X = Christ; N = Narrator; V = Voices;*

*If young children are present, they may be seated.*

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

N One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

V “What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?”

N They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on he looked for an

opportunity to hand him over.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples approached Jesus and said,

V “Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?”

N He said,

X “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The teacher says, “My appointed time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples.”’”

N The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered, and prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, he reclined at table with the Twelve.

And while they were eating, he said,

X “Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”

N Deeply distressed at this, they began to say to him one after another,

V “Surely it is not I, Lord?”

N He said in reply,

X “He who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me. The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born.”

N Then Judas, his betrayer, said in reply,

V “Surely it is not I, Rabbi?”

N He answered,

X “You have said so.”

N While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said,

X “Take and eat; this is my body.”

N Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying,

X “Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father.”

N Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

X “This night all of you will have your faith in me shaken, for it is written:/ I will strike the shepherd,/ and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed;/ but after I have been raised up, I shall go before you to Galilee.”

N Peter said to him in reply,

V “Though all may have their faith in you shaken, mine will never be.”

N Jesus said to him,

X “Amen, I say to you, this very night before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”

N Peter said to him,

V “Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you.”

N And all the disciples spoke likewise. Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,

X “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”

N He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them,

X “My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me.”

N He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying,

X “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will.”

N When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter,

X “So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

N Withdrawing a second time, he prayed again,

X “My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!”

N Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open. He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing again. Then he returned to his disciples and said to them,

X “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at hand.”

N While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a large crowd, with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests and the elders of the people. His betrayer had arranged a sign with them, saying,

V “The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him.”

N Immediately he went over to Jesus and said,

V “Hail, Rabbi!”

N and he kissed him. Jesus answered him,

X “Friend, do what you have come for.”

N Then stepping forward they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. And behold, one of those who accompanied Jesus put his hand to his sword, drew it, and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,  
X “Put your sword back into its sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot call upon my Father and he will not provide me at this moment with more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled which say that it must come to pass in this way?”

N At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

X “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to seize me? Day after day I sat teaching in the temple area, yet you did not arrest me. But all this has come to pass that the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled.”

N Then all the disciples left him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. Peter was following him at a distance as far as the high priest’s courtyard, and going inside he sat down with the servants to see the outcome. The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward who stated,

V “This man said, ‘I can destroy the temple of God and within three days rebuild it.’”

N The high priest rose and addressed him,

V “Have you no answer? What are these men testifying against you?”

N But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

V “I order you to tell us under oath before the living God whether you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

N Jesus said to him in reply,

X “You have said so. But I tell you:/ From now on you will see ‘the Son of Man/ seated at the right hand of the Power’/ and ‘coming on the clouds of heaven.’”

N Then the high priest tore his robes and said,

V “He has blasphemed! What further need have we of witnesses? You have now heard the blasphemy; what is your opinion?”

N They said in reply,

V “He deserves to die!”

N Then they spat in his face and struck him, while some slapped him, saying,

V “Prophecy for us, Christ: who is it that struck you?”

N Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said,

V “You too were with Jesus the Galilean.”

N But he denied it in front of everyone, saying,

V “I do not know what you are talking about!”

N As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there,

V “This man was with Jesus the Nazorean.”

N Again he denied it with an oath,

V “I do not know the man!”

N A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter,

V “Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away.”

N At that he began to curse and to swear,

V “I do not know the man.”

N And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: “Before the cock crows you will deny me three times.” He went out and began to weep bitterly.

When it was morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death.

They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, deeply regretted what he had done. He returned

the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,  
saying,

V “I have sinned in betraying innocent blood.”

N They said,

V “What is that to us? Look to it yourself.”

N Flinging the money into the temple, he departed and went off and hanged himself. The chief priests gathered up the money, but said,

V “It is not lawful to deposit this in the temple treasury, for it is the price of blood.”

N After consultation, they used it to buy the potter’s field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why that field even today is called the Field of Blood. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of a man with a price on his head, a price set by some of the Israelites, and they paid it out for the potter’s field just as the Lord had commanded me.

Now [Jesus stood before the governor, who questioned him,

V “Are you the king of the Jews?”

N Jesus said,

X “You say so.”

N And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer.

Then Pilate said to him,

V “Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?”

N But he did not answer him one word, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now on the occasion of the feast the governor was accustomed to release to the crowd one prisoner whom they

wished. And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had assembled, Pilate said to them,  
V “Which one do you want me to release to you, Barabbas, or Jesus called Christ?”

N For he knew that it was out of envy that they had handed him over. While he was still seated on the bench, his wife sent him a message, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man. I suffered much in a dream today because of him.” The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas but to destroy Jesus. The governor said to them in reply,

V “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?”

N They answered,

V “Barabbas!”

N Pilate said to them,

V “Then what shall I do with Jesus called Christ?”

N They all said,

V “Let him be crucified!”

N But he said,

V “Why? What evil has he done?”

N They only shouted the louder,

V “Let him be crucified!”

N When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying,

V “I am innocent of this man’s blood. Look to it yourselves.”

N And the whole people said in reply,

V “His blood be upon us and upon our children.”

N Then he released Barabbas to them, but after he had Jesus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying,

V“Hail, King of the Jews!”

N They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him.

As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross.

And when they came to a place called Golgotha—which means Place of the Skull—, they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall. But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink. After they had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And they placed over his head the written charge against him: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.

Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying,

V“You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, and come down from the cross!”

N Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said,

V“He saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will

believe in him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

N The revolutionaries who were crucified with him also kept abusing him in the same way.

From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

X “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”

N which means,

X “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

N Some of the bystanders who heard it said,

V “This one is calling for Elijah.”

N Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting

it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said,

V “Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him.”

N But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit.

*(Here all kneel and pause for a short time.)*

N And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said,

V “Truly, this was the Son of God!”

*No acclamation is used at the conclusion of the reading of the Gospel. All are seated.*

### Part 3: Short Prayer Service

#### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

All remain standing for the universal prayer. After the introduction, the intercessions can be read by everyone.

The prayer leader says:

Jesus, King of the ages, enters Jerusalem,  
and He walks towards his death; let us implore him:

**R/ Forget our sins, and have mercy on us!**

Jesus, Savior, you came doing good,  
come and heal the suffering in hospitals. R/

Jesus, Savior, you consoled Martha and Mary,  
come support those who are in mourning without being able  
to accompany their deceased loved ones. R/

Jesus, Son of man and Son of God, bring the dead into the  
heavenly Jerusalem. R/

Each participant may freely add an intention, to which all  
respond:

R/ Forget our sins, and have mercy on us!

At the end, the leader introduces to the Lord's Prayer:

United in the Spirit and in the communion of the Church, we  
dare to pray as the Lord Jesus himself taught us:

*All say or sing the Our Father:*

**Our Father...**

Continuing immediately with:

**For the kingdom...**

## *SIGN OF PEACE*

*Then the leader invites those present to share a sign of peace:*

We have just joined our voices  
with that of the Lord Jesus to pray to the Father. We are sons  
and daughters in the Son. In the love that unites us with one  
another, renewed by the word of God,  
we can exchange a gesture of peace,  
a sign of the communion we receive from the Lord.

*All then exchange a greeting of peace from a distance: for  
example, by bowing deeply towards each other in turn; or, as a  
family, by blowing each other a kiss. All sit down.*

## *SPIRITUAL COMMUNION*

*The leader says:*

When we can't receive sacramental communion for lack of a  
Mass, Pope Francis urges us to practice spiritual communion,  
also called "communion of desire." So let us all say the Act of  
Spiritual Communion:

**My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy  
Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to  
receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into  
my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be  
separated from You. Amen.**

*All remain in silence for 2 minutes for a heart-to-heart  
conversation with Jesus Christ. You can listen to the song... from  
the playlist*

·

*FINAL BLESSING*

*All stand. The leader says the closing prayer, in the name of all:*

Through the intercession of St. Francis Xavier and of all the saints of God,

May the God of perseverance and courage grant us to manifest throughout our lives the spirit of sacrifice, compassion and love of Christ Jesus.

Thus, in the communion of the Holy Spirit, we will give glory to God,

the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

for ever and ever! Amen All together facing the cross, each with their hands joined in prayer, invoke the Lord's Blessing:

**May the Lord let his face shine upon us and come and save us. Amen.**

*All make the Sign of the Cross.*

*Then parents may trace the Sign of the Cross on their children's foreheads.*







