



**Holy Week  
in a  
Time of  
Quarantine**

**Praying**

**Worshipping**

**Connecting**

**Church of the  
Holy Comforter  
Montgomery, AL**

# What you will find

The week before last, it became clear we would find our way through Holy Week with only a few familiar mileposts at which to stop for refreshment and remembrance.

Fortunately, *Virginia Theological Seminary* offered an online seminar with ideas and recommendations for a “Holy Week in a Season of Quarantine.” The message was clear: the week can be – and desperately needs to be – holy.

By focusing on what’s essential, by keeping things simple, by inviting ourselves to a much slower and, in some respects, gentler pilgrimage through these days, we will surely find that the graces of the season are more than enough for the journey.

There are three sets of resources we will be offering our community:

1. A set of four eBooklets, one for each of the high holy days, with Scripture readings for each, links to enriching resources, and activities that invite us to deeper prayer and reflection.
2. Links to live-streamed worship services for the special liturgies of the week. You’ll find those in our weekly newsletter and on our Facebook page as well.
3. Short videos for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, an offering from a small group of us who gathered by phone and video conference to plan and help open this way forward. Thank you to Randy Foster, Michael and Roy Paul, Terri Via, Missy Via, Lee Wilkins and Randy Woodland for the energy, creativity and deep reverence they brought. These will be posted to Facebook and our webpage as each holy day arrives.

May these resources allow the pilgrimage, as lonely and isolated as it feels, to make clear that LOVE still binds us together, still has the last word, and remind us that even now, God is “raising up what had been cast down, making new what had grown old.”

In Christ,

Rosa+

# Palm Sunday

## *The Readings*

### **Matthew 21:1-11**

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut



branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

## Psalm 118:19-29

- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; \*  
I will enter them;  
I will offer thanks to the Lord.
- 20 "This is the gate of the Lord; \*  
he who is righteous may enter."
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me \*  
and have become my salvation.
- 22 The same stone which the builders rejected \*  
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the Lord's doing, \*  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24 On this day the Lord has acted; \*  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
- 25 Hosannah, Lord, hosannah! \*  
Lord, send us now success.
- 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; \*  
we bless you from the house of the Lord.
- 27 God is the Lord; he has shined upon us; \*  
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.
- 28 "You are my God, and I will thank you; \*  
you are my God, and I will exalt you."
- 29 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; \*  
his mercy endures for ever.



## *Links*

Holy Week has always called forth rich and beautiful expressions of faith in the Christian Church. One of the things I will miss this year is the experience of processing together into the church, palms waving, that first sight of the altar in red paraments, and the way we sing *All Glory, Laud and Honor* with such gusto. [This link](#) will allow you to hear and see this magnificent part of Palm Sunday and look forward to the Holy Week still to come when we will once again be able to gather in song and Hosanna. Click on [this link](#) to participate via livestream in the entirety of the Palm Sunday Service at the National Cathedral.





## *Activities*

**Blessing of a Palm Branch.** This year, instead of receiving a palm at church, perhaps you will find one. (We certainly have plenty of palmetto palms around us that will work just fine!) Use this prayer (adapted from the prayer for the blessing of palms in the Book of Common Prayer) or consider writing your own!

“[I/we] praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of Kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! *Amen.* (BCP p 271)

**A Procession in Your Home** Here are two things I know. At its best, worship engages us in body, mind and spirit – our faith is incarnational. I also know we all love a parade and procession.



Whether you are by yourself, or with other members of your family, consider having a Palm Sunday procession through your home. Use the link above to play *All Glory Laud and Honor*, and turn the volume up. Just march around reveling in the beauty of the music and the joy of the promise.

As you walk through your home, stop in each area and adapt this petition to what you do in each room or area. For example, in the foyer you might say, “Jesus, our Messiah and friend, *in my comings and goings from our foyer*, may I ever hail you as King and follow you in the way that leads to eternal life. With my life I will cry, “Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.”