



PALM SUNDAY



PRAYER GUIDE 2026

Readings:
[Mt 21:1-11](#),
[Is 50:4-7](#),
[Phil 2:6-11](#),
[Phil 2:8-9](#),
[Mt 26:14—27:66](#),
[Luke 19:41](#)

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

The crowd swells with anticipation of his arrival. “Jesus is coming!” The excitement is palpable. “The King is coming!” Bodies bend into other bodies, heads all turned in waiting for a glimpse of his arrival. Palms raised in expectant hope. Cloaks covering the path in adulation and honor. The Messiah is coming!”

PRAY | PAUSE | REFLECT:

How do you see Jesus’ arrival in today’s world? In what ways does Jesus’ arrival stir your hopes?

Jesus enters Jerusalem on a stranger’s borrowed donkey draped with a white cloth, apparently someone’s simple cloak. Hardly the description of a victorious King, a warrior hero, an honored messianic leader or savior of the people, Jesus looks toward the City of Jerusalem. As He approaches, He weeps. He weeps. As He did, we can weep, too.

PRAY | PAUSE | REFLECT:

What in our world today really moves us to weep? Lament? What in our world stirs your compassion?

The crowd cries out, charged with collective energy, “Hosanna! Hosanna!” A few short days later, those in this same crowd, cry out, “Crucify him!” “Let Him be crucified!”

PRAY | PAUSE | REFLECT:

In what ways do we participate in social sin? Collective injustice? What situations whittle away (compromise) at our integrity?

As we journey with Jesus and one another on Palm Sunday, we stand and turn together with attention and intention, with wonder and expectant joy, and with anxiety and sadness, too. We know what is ahead of Him on His journey: lies and betrayal, denial and abandonment, accusation and arrest, mockery and harassment, abuse and torture, crucifixion and death on a cross.



LISTENING TO THE VOICES OF OUR PEOPLE

La esperanza que huye sin Rumbo fijo: *“The hope that flees aimlessly: “Once I was a normal woman and mother. I had a home to which I belonged, and due to the persecution for my political and religious beliefs, my life became a nightmare. Here I am in an unknown land trying to survive with my two younger girls. We are displaced, fleeing for our lives, leaving everything behind: family, friendships...”*

PRAY | PAUSE | REFLECT:

What is stirring in you as you listen to this story? What do you hear?

“...Left alone with them, having a reason to fight and move forward, trying to seek safety, stability and a better future despite all the adversities that are present in our lives today, where the only thing I wish for is an opportunity to show that our suffering can be an example of overcoming...”

PRAY | PAUSE | REFLECT:

What is stirring in you as you listen to this story? What do you hear?

“...That love, strength, hope, resilience and trust in our Heavenly Father are our tools that we have left to endure all the trials we live through today. We can only trust that we are not alone and unprotected, to come to that idea and have hope to know if there will be a tomorrow for us, to know how long we will be like this as displaced persons and like the hope that flees without a fixed direction.” (Church World Services)

PRAY | PAUSE | REFLECT:

In what ways do these voices of God's people penetrate your defenses? How do they confound your comfort? Create dissonance? Move your feet?

Jesus enters Jerusalem united through prayer with God, His Father. In complete reliance and trust, He goes forward into Jerusalem. He enters Jerusalem in a posture of utter humility. He proceeds during each encounter with patience, in spite of horrific indignities. He accepts vulnerability and is undefended; even, forgiving. With openness and obedience, He chooses to be the “prince of peace.” He dies in freedom.

PRAY | PAUSE | REFLECT:

How does Jesus's active choices challenge you? Invite you to “let go” or to change or to continue? How does his way invite you to something new?

“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” Jesus is the fulfillment of many prophecies in Scriptures. He heard the “inner voice of God” (Pope Francis) and followed it. He knew “how to speak to the weary a word that would rouse them.” (Is 50: 4-7) He gave us a path to reconciliation (Genesis 3:15) and true peace. He showed us the way of Love.

PRAY | PAUSE | REFLECT: How do we sing God's praise today?

Closing Songs: [Save Your People – Jim Farrell](#) and [Loving and Forgiving – Scott Soper](#)



“No one goes anywhere alone, least of all into exile—not even those who arrive physically alone, unaccompanied by family, spouse, children, parents, or siblings. No one leaves his or her world without having been transfixed by its roots, or with a vacuum for a soul. We carry with us the memory of many fabrics, a self soaked in our history, our culture; a memory, sometimes scattered, sometimes sharp and clear, of the streets of our childhood, of our adolescence; the reminiscence of something suddenly that stands out before us, in us, a shy gesture, an open hand, a smile in a time of , a sentence, a simple sentence now forgotten by the one had had it.”

— Paulo Freire, *Pedagogy of Hope: Reliving Pedagogy of the Oppressed*

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