

# **Resources for Holy Week and Easter 2020**

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## Notes and helpful hints on these resources

We live in precarious times and we've never really been in a situation where Holy Week and Easter can't happen in Church. However, this doesn't mean that we can't still pray and share in the different parts of Holy Week and Easter to help us live out the story of Jesus' passion and resurrection. These resources are designed to give you some things to work with and to help guide your devotions. Feel free to add in your favourite hymns or music if you wish.

You will need a Bible, and you may also find it helpful to have a cross of some sort (last year's palm cross?) and a candle as a visual focus. You might like to take up Andrew's challenge of making your own palm cross out of whatever materials you have to hand if you can't find one from a previous year.

Some people have been using Facetime, WhatsApp, Skype, Zoom, and even the humble telephone to share in worship with others. Perhaps you might like to consider that.

If there is more than one of you taking part, you may wish to share in leading the services or reading the Bible passages. If you are using technology to 'meet up' you may have to do this anyway, or say the prayers line by line.

Some of the services encourage you to move around a bit if you're able. In fact, Maundy Thursday's can be integrated with your evening meal! It's probably a good plan to have a flick through before you start a service just to check what might be needed.

### **For those with internet access**

You may like to make use of *YouTube* for some music and hymns. Some suggestions are offered at various points in this booklet. You may find that the top-billed video is not one of the best so it may pay to do a bit of research before you start! Also [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) is a useful resource to find passages if you don't have a Bible to hand.

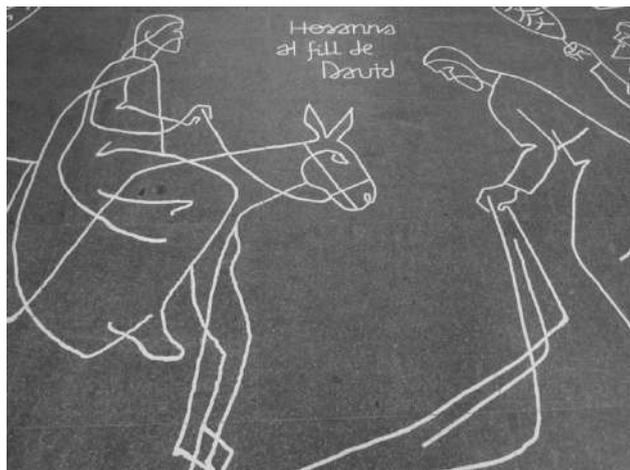
**The Easter Day service** will be led by Andrew, Victor, and Adam. We have produced a video so that you can join in using the words printed in this booklet beginning on page 9. The video will be posted at [tinyurl.com/GCLTV](https://tinyurl.com/GCLTV) before 10am on Easter Sunday.

Above all, know and trust that we do not pray alone or in spiritual isolation. We join our prayers with Christians around the world and with the whole company of heaven as we worship God.

*With love and prayers this passiontide,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adam".

## Palm Sunday



*Pavement outside the Sagrada Família, Barcelona.*

*You will need a cross and a Bible. You could use a palm cross from a previous year or one you have made yourself. You may also wish to have a candle lit as a sign of Christ's presence with you.*

*YouTube: 'Hosanna to the Son of David', by Weelkes.*

### Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

*Hold your cross whilst saying this prayer.*

God our Saviour, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die; let this Cross be for us a sign 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. Through the same, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### The Palm Gospel

*Read: Matthew 21.1-11*

### The Collect

*Hold a moment's silence then pray:*

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. **Amen.**

### The Passion Reading

*Read: Matthew 26.14 – 27.66*

*Keep a long period of silence for reflection.*

### Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray.

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean spiritual death, and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For Christian people, that through the suffering of disunity there may grow a rich union in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that God is far from them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we, with those who have died in faith, may find mercy in the day of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*A few moments of silence are kept before the prayers conclude with:*

Holy God,  
**holy and strong,**  
**holy and immortal,**  
**have mercy upon us.**

*YouTube: The hymn, 'My Song is Love Unknown'.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. **Amen**

### **Conclusion**

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

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## **During the week**

**Holy Monday**      *read: John 12.1-11*

**Holy Tuesday**      *read: John 12.20-36*

**Holy Wednesday**      *read: John 13.21-36*

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## Maundy Thursday



Image from [publicdomainvectors.org](http://publicdomainvectors.org).

*You will need a Bible, you may also wish to have a candle lit as you begin.*

*It is traditional for this service to take place in the evening. It may help you to engage with the story if you carry out this act of worship at the dining table as part of your evening meal.*

### **Before the Meal**

*Keep a few moments of silence, then pray: God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end and drank the cup prepared for him: may we who share his table watch with him through the night of suffering and be faithful. **Amen.***

### **First Reading**

*Read: 1 Corinthians 11.23-26*

*Now eat and enjoy your meal, but don't clear up afterwards!*

### **After the Meal, the Gospel Reading**

*Read: John 13.1-17,31-35, then keep a few moments of silence to ponder the readings.*

*YouTube: 'Ubi Caritas', by Duruflé*

*Now, as an act of service, clear the table and wash up or load the dishwasher.*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*Pray for:*

- the unity of Christ's Church, especially at a time when we can't gather.
- those who are isolated and lonely.
- those who are serving the needs of others above themselves.

- inspiration as to how we can serve in new and creative ways.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. **Amen**

### **Spiritual Communion**

*Give thanks for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus and ask him to be with you now:*

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given us, for all the pains and insults you have borne for us. Since we cannot now receive you in bread and wine, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts that we may know within ourselves, and show forth in our lives the fruit of your redemption, for you are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The Watch 'till Midnight**

*If you're able to move to a different place, you may wish to move there now and take your lit candle with you to signify that you are following Jesus to the Mount of Olives.*

*YouTube: 'Tantum Ergo', by De Severac.*

*Keep a period of silence (until midnight if you wish!) watching and waiting with Jesus.*

### **The Gospel of the Watch**

*Read: Matthew 26.36-56.*

*Ordinarily at this point, the church would be stripped of its adornments and left empty, symbolising the disciples fleeing in fear.*

*You may wish to depart to bed in silence at this point, but please ensure that the candle is extinguished.*

## Good Friday



*'What is truth?', from the Passion Façade, Sagrada Família, Barcelona.*

*You will need a Bible and a cross, you may also wish to light a candle at the beginning.*

*The customary time for this service is the early afternoon, the traditional hours of Jesus' suffering on the cross. However, you may wish to stagger the readings throughout the day leading up to 3pm.*

*The service begins with a moment of silence, then pray:*

Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Read: Isaiah 52.13 - end of 53*

*Then silence is kept.*

### **Psalm**

*Read: Psalm 22.1-21*

*Then silence is kept.*

### **The Passion Reading**

*Read: John chapters 18 & 19.*

*Extinguish the candle as a symbol of Jesus' death and keep silence after the reading.*

*Youtube: 'Crucifixus' by Lotti.*

## **The Proclamation of the Cross**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, **because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

This is the wood of the cross,  
on which hung the Saviour of the world.  
**Come, let us worship.**

O Saviour of the world, who by your cross and precious blood have redeemed us,  
**save us and help us, we humbly pray.**

*YouTube: 'The Reproaches' by John Sanders and recorded by Ely Cathedral.*

*You may wish to spend some time in silent prayer with the Cross that you have in front of you. If possible, you may wish to hold it.*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*Pray for:*

- the Church, its ministers, Bishop Viv and Bishop Lee.
- for Christians who are persecuted and tortured for their faith.
- for those whose faith is shaky or lost.
- the leaders of the nations.
- the relationship between countries, especially those at war.
- those tackling coronavirus nationally.
- the sick and suffering, and those who minister to them and care for them.
- those at the point of death, especially those who are afraid.
- the families of those who have died.
- your own prayers and petitions.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Conclude with the grace:*

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

*YouTube: 'O Saviour of the World', by John Goss*



*'The Empty Tomb', from <https://etc.usf.edu/clipart/>.*

*You will need a Bible, a candle, a cross and something to make a noise with; a bell, rattle or other percussion instrument (improvised or otherwise!), another instrument, or even your voice!*

*The customary time for this service is after sunset (though early risers may prefer to start at dawn on Easter Day instead). In any case begin in low light if possible.*

**Gathering**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord. We remember his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries, confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

*Light the candle.*

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The Light of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*YouTube: 'Easter Song of Praise', by Richard Shephard*

**Vigil**

As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer; and let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

**First Reading** *The Creation*

*Read: Genesis 1.1-2.4a then pause.*

Let us pray that we may see God's image restored:

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation. Your love cannot be contained and overflows in the wonder of creation. You formed the universe out of nothing and moulded us from the clay of the earth. All you have made sings of your marvellous deeds, O Lord, our maker and redeemer. **Amen.**

**Second Reading** *Crossing the Red Sea*

*Read: Exodus 14.10- 15.18 then pause.*

Let us pray that God will give freedom to his enslaved people:

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation. You heard the agony of your people as they cried out from their slavery, and you gave them Moses to lead them to a land flowing with milk and honey. Hear the cry of the enslaved and the homeless today and lead us through the turbulent sea of life to our true home with you, O Lord, our maker and redeemer. **Amen.**

**Third Reading** *The River of Life*

*Read: Ezekiel 47.1-12 then pause.*

Let us pray that God's justice will flow like rivers in the deserts of this world:

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation. The river of life flows from your heart and where that stream goes everything bursts into flower. May your refreshing water be a torrent of life in the deserts of this world, bringing food to eat and healing to the nations, O Lord, our maker and redeemer. **Amen.**

## **The Easter Acclamation**

*(Whispered)*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*(Louder)*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*(Louder still)*

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Now celebrate! Make a joyful noise! Ring bells, play an instrument, cheer, shout, greet one another etc. and if you started in low light, turn the lights back on!*

*YouTube: 'Gloria', from Schubert Mass in G*

*Or say together:*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you; we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*Pray the collect prayer:*

**God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **Gospel Reading**

*Read: Matthew 28.1-10.*

## **Affirmation of Faith**

*We say:*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Alleluia. Christ is Risen!

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*YouTube: Vierne, 'Finale' Symphony no.1.*

## Easter Day



*'Resurrection of Christ', M. I. Rupnik (2006)*

*This service will be available from 10am on Easter Sunday as a video that you can join in with online at [tinyurl.com/GCLTV](https://tinyurl.com/GCLTV). There will be two versions, a full version with no music, or a version divided into sections so that you can add your own music in between. There will also be a playlist which includes the music suggestions as below.*

*The team clergy will lead the service, preach, and intercede for us. Alternatively, you will need a Bible or the Team News sheet for the readings and Easter homily.*

*You may also wish to have a candle ready to light.*

### **The Service of Light**

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God. As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done, we can be confident that we will share his victory over death and live with him for ever.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

*The Easter candle is lit*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*YouTube: 'This joyful Eastertide', Easter from Kings 2019*

### **The Collect**

God of glory, by the raising of your Son, you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
**All Amen.**

### **The Gloria in Excelsis**

*Together we say:*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you; we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*YouTube: 'Te Deum in B flat', Stanford*

### **The Gospel Reading**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Read: John 20.1-18*

This is the word of the Lord,  
**All Thanks be to God.**

### **The Sermon**

*See Team News if not joining in online, or reflect on the readings for yourself.*

*YouTube: 'Blessed be the God and Father', Wesley*

## Prayers of Intercession

*Pray for:*

- *the Church of Christ.*
- *creation, human society, and those in authority.*
- *the local community.*
- *those who suffer.*
- *the communion of saints.*

*These responses may be used:*

Risen Lord,

**All come with life and power.**

*And at the end:*

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

## An Act of Spiritual Communion

*We share the peace:*

The risen Christ came among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you'. Then they were glad when they saw the Lord.

Alleluia. The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

**All And also with you. Alleluia.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Lord our God you prepare a table before us and, although we cannot be present at your Holy Eucharist, by your grace, open our hearts to receive the gift of your Son, the Word made flesh: who, on the night that he was betrayed took bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying take, eat, this is my body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way after supper, he took the cup. He gave it to them saying, drink this all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the

forgiveness of sins, do this in remembrance of me.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us that, though separated by distance, we may still, through faith, be partakers in the benefits of Christ's offering of his body and his blood.

This we ask, through the same Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**All Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us so we pray.

**All 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen**

## Receiving Communion

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

**All Therefore let us keep the feast.  
Alleluia.**

*Together we pray:*

**Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners. So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.**

*A time of silence follows, to allow each person present to make their own spiritual communion with God.*

*YouTube: 'See, what a morning', Stuart Townend*

## **Thanksgiving**

*Together we say:*

**All God of truth, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life: strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.

**All Amen.**

God the Son, who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

**All Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

**All Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

With the risen life of Christ within you,  
Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*YouTube: Widor Toccata*

*YouTube: Dubois Toccata*

## **Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

*Ordinarily as part of this service, we might renew our baptismal vows, but perhaps we'll save that for when we can meet again.*

*Instead, take a moment to ponder and give thanks for the gift of faith and your relationship with God. Thank God for the call upon your life in baptism and ask him to help you serve as best you can.*

*If you're with someone, you might like to take the opportunity to discuss your faith or perhaps some times when you've known God especially closely in your life.*

## Some Reflections for Meditation

### Palm Sunday

Today the crucial stage of the journey begins. A journey that started before time began. Before Eden, before the Crib. Now, Jesus comes to fulfil a destiny that was his from the moment of his birth. He arrives in humility, seated on a humble donkey, but still the crowds turn out to greet him in great number. These are the same crowds who in just a few days' time will stop shouting 'Hosanna!' and instead pick up the call to 'Crucify him!'. Where will our hearts be in a week's time, in amongst the uncertainty of life at the moment? Can we journey with Christ through the difficulties of the coming week, whatever it may hold for us? Can we keep our hearts and eyes fixed on him in amongst the temptations and distractions of the world? Can we continue to shout Hosanna?

### Maundy Thursday

A strange night. An evening of celebration that everyone looks forward to; celebrating shared history and God's providence down the ages. And yet, it turns very quickly. A convivial meal is changed by the dark warning of what is going to happen in the coming hours and the preparations that the disciples need to make for life without Jesus. He gives them the gift of the Eucharist to remember him by each time they meet. (This deserves more pondering than a short meditation offers at a time when we can't gather!). Jesus also tells them to serve one another, to wash one another's feet. Not to be so proud either to refuse to wash someone else's feet or to have one's own feet washed. At a time when many of us need help of one sort or another and we need to serve in different ways, what might this say to us?

The evening gets worse however, with betrayal, agony of mind, body and spirit and the eventual arrest, imprisonment and trial. Jesus' isolation and separation from the people he called his friends reaches a new point. That isolation and sense of abandonment will get worse as the hours wear on.

### Good Friday

In some ways, the best way to reflect on Good Friday is to point back to the Gospel account of Jesus' final hours through John 18 & 19. The story unfolds and within it the emotions and characters develop. From Peter's angry denial that he'd ever known Jesus to the patient and heart-rending loyalty of Our Lady and the Beloved Disciple. In amongst all of this, Jesus continues; mocked by the crowds that were initially so supportive, exhausted, beaten, tortured and with an increasing sense of abandonment by everyone, even by God. God has not abandoned Jesus, but there is a task to be done. A curtain of sin, separation and distance between God and humankind to be removed and destroyed. Jesus will fulfil that task. Jesus will rise again from this, but not before he has paid the ultimate price for the people he loves.

### Holy Saturday

A day of comparative peace and calm. Jesus lies in the tomb given to him by a follower, other people come to terms with what has happened. The frenzy of the last few hours and days comes to a shuddering halt. Some people wait in fear of being associated with Jesus. Some wait in expectation and hope, remembering in the back of their minds what they've heard Jesus prophesy. Will it happen? Will his promises come true? We know the answer, but that doesn't have to lessen our expectation and hope too.

### Easter Day

The promises have been fulfilled. Christ is alive! What do we do with that information? With that knowledge in our hearts? How can we be sent forth like Mary Magdalene and the disciples and share that good news, that hope and that assurance of new life through God's love for us?

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