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FOR CLERGY DISTRIUTION

TO: ALL CLERGY
FROM: FR. JOHN REILY
SUBJECT: OUR SUNDAY SUPPLICATION - APRIL 5, PALM SUNDAY

Attached you will find the next issue of Our Sunday Supplication. I have formatted it to fit within 8 letter-size pages, in as large as print as possible, as a couple of pastors have requested it.



Our Sunday Supplication

Sunday, April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Holy Mass is at the very core of our worship as a Catholic community. Nothing can ever be substituted for the celebration of the Eucharist. But in this exceptional time of difficulty for our communities, our nation, and even the whole world, precautions have been made to limit the exponential growth of COVID-19, including the suspension of public Masses in the Archdiocese.

So, if we cannot attend Mass on Sundays, how then are we, as a Church, to pray? This resource, Our Sunday Supplication, is a recommended prayer of the Archdiocese. Unlike Mass, this order of prayer can be offered by individuals and families, without the presence of a priest, and engages us in our Sunday celebration of the Word of God. We can pray this prayer in our homes—the “domestic churches” which help build up the Body of Christ on earth—and thus be connected to the entire Church at prayer.

During this time of prayer, we include the opportunity to make a Spiritual Communion, since we are presently unable to receive Holy Communion. Making a Spiritual Communion is a worthy practice, recommended by innumerable saints throughout the ages, which unites our whole selves to God and his Church. For, despite not being able to celebrate Mass together, this is certainly not a time to abandon the praise and supplication of almighty God, for he never abandons us! Now is the time to love and serve the Lord as best we can in our limited capacities.

ORDER OF PRAYER

Taken from the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours

INTRODUCTION

Leader: ✠ O God, come to my assistance.

Response: O Lord, make haste to help me.

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Response: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM IN TRIUMPH

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMN

All glory, laud, and honor to you, Redeemer King!
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the King of Israel, and David's royal Son,
Now in the Lord's Name coming, our King and Blessed One.

All glory, laud, and honor to you, Redeemer King!
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
The company of angels are praising you on high;
And mortals, joined with all things created, make reply.

All glory, laud, and honor to you, Redeemer King!
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went:
Our praise and prayers and anthems before you we present.

THE SUNDAY READINGS

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah

(Isaiah 50:4-7)

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.

Responsorial Psalm

(Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24)

Reader: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Together: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Reader: 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."

Together: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Reader: 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.

Together: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Reader: 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.

Together: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Reader: 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!"

Together: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

(Philippians 2:6-11)

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming 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, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

—Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

(Philippians 2:8-9)

Reader: Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Together: Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

(Matthew 27:11-54)

Here we have included the shortened option for today's passion reading. The full passion reading, which some may wish to consider reading, may be found at Matthew 26:14—27:66.

Jesus stood before the governor, Pontius Pilate, who questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?" 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, "Which one do you want me to release to you, Barabbas, or Jesus called Christ?" 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, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They answered, "Barabbas!" Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" But he

said, "Why? What evil has he done?" They only shouted the louder, "Let him be crucified!" 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, "I am innocent of this man's blood. Look to it yourselves." And the whole people said in reply, "His blood be upon us and upon our children." 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, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 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, "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!" Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said, "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.'" 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, "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "This one is calling for Elijah." 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, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him." But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit.

(Pause here for a moment of quiet remembrance)

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, "Truly, this was the Son of God!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

For reflection—

1. Judas went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" and they paid him thirty pieces of silver. When we sin, we are also betraying Jesus. For a moment, think about the things you have been "paid" for betraying our Lord, and how, like Judas, you weren't made happy by what you "received".

2. St. Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus to carry his cross. Who do you know who needs help bearing their own crosses, and what can you do this week to help them?

3. Within just a few days, the crowds went from praising Jesus to mocking and condemning him. What can we do to avoid turning against Jesus, even when things go bad?

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Leader: By your own blood, Lord, you brought us back to God.

Response: By your own blood, Lord, you brought us back to God.

Leader: From every tribe, and tongue, and people and nation,

Response: you brought us back to God.

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Response: By your own blood, Lord, you brought us back to God.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: As Christ entered Jerusalem he was greeted as King and Messiah.
Let us adore him, and joyfully praise him:

Response: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Leader: Hosanna to you, Son of David, King of the ages;
hosanna to you, victor over death and the powers of darkness.

Response: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Leader: You went up to Jerusalem to suffer and so enter into your glory;
bring your Church to the paschal feast of heaven.

Response: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Leader: You made the cross the tree of life; give its fruit to those reborn in baptism.

Response: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Leader: Savior of mankind, you came to save sinners;
bring into your kingdom all who have faith, hope and love.

Response: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Leader: Heal those who are sick, and keep safe those who are well.

Response: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Leader: Strengthen those who care for the sick.

Response: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Leader: Give hope to those whose livelihoods have been interrupted
by this health emergency.

Response: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Leader: Grant repose to all who have died in your friendship.

Response: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Remember us, Lord, when you come to your kingdom
and teach us how to pray:

Together: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Leader: You have given us bread from heaven.

Response: Containing in itself all delight.

Together: My Jesus,
I believe that you are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
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,
my Lord and my God!
Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

St. Francis of Assisi

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

Response: because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world!

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

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Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

Response: because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world!

CONCLUSION

Leader: ✠ May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil,
and bring us to everlasting life.

Together: Amen.