

**Prayer and Readings for the
SUNDAY OF THE PASSION
- PALM SUNDAY –
9 APRIL 2017**

Prayer of the Day

God of all,
you gave your only-begotten Son
to take the form of a servant,
and to be obedient even to death on a
cross:
give us the same mind that was in Christ
Jesus that, sharing in his humility,
we may come to be with him in his glory,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 21:1–11

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

21 When they had come near Jerusalem
and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount
of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,
2 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.
3 If anyone says anything to you, just say
this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will
send them immediately." 4 This took place
to fulfill what had been spoken through
the prophet, saying,
5 "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."
6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had
directed them;
7 they brought the donkey and the colt,
and put their cloaks on them, and he sat
on them.

8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

9 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!”

10 When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?”

11 The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

9 It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Today’s gospel reading takes us through the dramatic climax of the gospel story. Due to its length we do not have a printed version this week, and encourage you instead to reflect on the words as they are read in the service.

Matthew 26.14-27.66

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 50:4–9

The Servant’s Humiliation and Vindication

4 The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear

to listen as those who are taught.

5 The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

6 I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

7 The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

8 he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.