

Prayers for Palm/Passion Sunday

Scripture Focus: Matthew 21:1–11 (The Entry into Jerusalem)

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

All: In the name of the Father . . .

Leader: In this Gospel, we read that Jesus was welcomed by the crowds. They were so happy that he had come to them! They cried out their praises.

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Reader then reads the Scripture passage above from Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics.

Leader: We too can welcome Jesus into our hearts. We too can say: “Praise to Jesus! Praise be to God!”

All: Praise to Jesus! Praise be to God!

Leader: At every Eucharist, we praise Jesus. We thank him for coming to us. We say: “Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest” (*Roman Missal*).

All: Praise to Jesus! Praise be to God!

Leader: At every Eucharist, we praise Jesus. We pray to the Father in Jesus, with Jesus, and through Jesus. In every Eucharist, we become one with Jesus.

All: Praise to Jesus! Praise be to God!

Leader: At every Eucharist, Jesus enters into our hearts. We pray, “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof” (*Roman Missal*). We pray for healing.

All: Praise to Jesus! Praise be to God!

Leader: Thank you, Jesus, for coming to Jerusalem. Thank you for coming to us in every Eucharist.

All: Praise to Jesus! Praise be to God!

Closing Prayer

Leader: Today we gave praise and honor to Jesus. We promised to honor him all during Holy Week. Let us offer this prayer of praise from the Mass, as we pray with the whole Church.

All:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

(Roman Missal)

(The quotations on this handout are from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation [ICEL] [Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2011], pages 532, 669, and 532, respectively. Copyright © 2011, USCCB, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the copyright holder. Used with permission of the ICEL.)



Ritual Guide

Opening Prayer

Preparation

Choose a reader or several readers to read the passage from the Gospel of Matthew.

Optional: Choose an appropriate song to begin and end the prayer.

Gather

Gather the group in the Bible corner. Distribute the prayer handouts. Briefly rehearse the prayer response. Explain to the middle schoolers that the word *Hosanna*, which they may hear today, means, "Praise!"

Pray

Begin with the Sign of the Cross as indicated.

Introduce the prayer with the words given, or in your own words. At the close of this prayer, collect the prayer handouts and set them aside for the closing prayer.

(An activity for Palm/Passion Sunday can be found in chapter 10 of the *Breakthrough! Leader Guide*.)

Closing Prayer

Preparation

This prayer is an acclamation found at the end of the Preface at every Eucharist. It directly quotes the words of the crowds in Jerusalem as they greeted Jesus.

Gather

Gather the group in the Bible corner. Explain that the closing prayer is a prayer of praise that we say at every Eucharist. The word *Hosanna* means "Praise!"

Pray

Invite the middle schoolers to pray the prayer together, or to repeat each line after you.

Optional: End with the song you chose for the opening prayer.

