

# PALM SUNDAY MARCH

## PRAYER SERVICE

If you are sitting at home, perhaps light a candle. If you are walking around your yard, plan the way you will walk so that you find a rhythm quickly. The prayers have been selected from a number of resources which are acknowledged as well as some psalms.

“ Let's begin with the Lord's prayer:  
Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come,

Your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

And deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours

Now and forever.

Amen

A note for when you read this psalm, 'selah' is not meant to be said aloud, but a point at which the reader pauses, breaths, and takes a moment to reflect. A good practice for reading any piece of scripture rather than 'consuming' it.

### PSALM 46

“ <sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

*Selah*

<sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

<sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;

God will help it when the morning dawns.

<sup>6</sup> The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;

he utters his voice, the earth melts.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our refuge.

*Selah*

<sup>8</sup> Come, behold the works of the Lord;

see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

<sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;

he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;

he burns the shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup> 'Be still, and know that I am God!

I am exalted among the nations,

I am exalted in the earth.'

<sup>11</sup> The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our refuge.

*Selah*

### A MOMENT FOR GRACE

#### A PRAYER FOR REFUGEES

“ God of our Wandering Ancestors,  
Long have we known

That your heart is with the refugee:

That you were born into time

In a family of refugees

Fleeing violence in their homeland,

Who then gathered up their hungry child

And fled into alien country.


Their cry, your cry, resounds through the ages:

"Will you let me in?"

Give us hearts that break open  
When our brothers and sisters turn to us with that  
same cry.  
Then surely all these things will follow:  
Ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices.  
Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of a threat.  
Tongues will not be silenced but will instead advocate.  
And hands will reach out—  
working for peace in their homeland, working for  
justice in the lands where they seek safe haven.

Lord, protect all refugees in their travels.  
May they find a friend in me  
And so make me worthy  
Of the refuge I have found in you.  
Amen  
(Catholic Relief Services)

### PSALM 146

 <sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
<sup>2</sup> I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

<sup>3</sup> Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup> When their breath departs, they return to the  
earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.


<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God,  
<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith for ever;  
<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
<sup>8</sup> the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.


<sup>9</sup> The Lord watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord will reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the Lord!

### PRAYER FOR REFUGEES

 God, the refuge of wanderers and exiles,  
the mother and father of the homeless,  
you weep with those who are uprooted from  
their homeland,  
and you suffer with those who exist without shelter  
and security.  
Grant that your faithful love may reach out,  
and that your healing mercy rise like the dawn  
on all who are oppressed.  
We ask this through Jesus, your Son,  
who knew hardship and died outside the city wall.  
Amen.  
(Revised common lectionary)

### PSALM 23


 <sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.

### PRAYER FOR IMMIGRANTS

 Our God, you have given us in your word  
the stories of persons who needed to leave their  
homelands—  
Abraham, Sarah, Ruth, Moses.

Help us to remember  
that when we speak of immigrants and refugees,  
we speak of Christ.

In the One who had no place to lay his head,  
and in the least of his brothers and sisters,  
you come to us again, a stranger seeking refuge.

We confess that we often turn away.

You have chosen that the life of Jesus be filled  
with events of unplanned travel and flight from enemies.

You have shown us through the modelling of Jesus  
how we are called to relate to persons from different nations and cultures.  
You have called us to be teachers of your word.

We ask you, our God, to open our minds and hearts  
to the challenge and invitation  
to model your perfect example of love.  
Amen.

*(<http://justiceforimmigrants.org>)*

## CELTIC BLESSING

“ Eternal light shine in our hearts.  
Eternal goodness deliver us from evil.  
Eternal power be our support.  
Eternal wisdom scatter the darkness of our ignorance.  
Eternal pity have mercy on us  
that with all our heart and mind  
and soul and strength we may seek Your face  
and be brought by Your infinite mercy into Your holy presence.  
*(Alcuin of York, 8th century)*