



## Holy Week- Year C

## Ritual Prayer – Primary

### ***This Holy Cross***

**Note:** *Celebrating these major feasts of the liturgical year in schools is always difficult due to school holidays often occurring before, after or during Holy Week and Easter. This year, as students will be returning to school the week after Easter, and two weeks after Holy Week there are various options available.*

*This is a liturgy to celebrate Holy Week.*

*There are also Stations of the Cross and a separate liturgy for Easter offered on the LRP site.*

*In this liturgy, the procession is led in by a person carrying a large cross.*

*Children carrying various symbols of the passion follow e.g. palm branches, bread and wine, crown of thorns, hammer and large nails, and a large white candle.*

*They place these in the sacred space.*

*The cross needs to be placed in the centre of the gathering space with plenty of room around it. If the cross is not free standing, then two adults could hold the cross upright during the Veneration.*

*Please read through the liturgy carefully so that you know what you will need for it and can prepare beforehand. The liturgy needs to be well-prepared and practised so that the students feel confident and sure of words and actions.*

*Costumes for students only need to be very simple so as not to detract from the prayer.*

## **WE GATHER**

### **Welcome & Introduction**

Leader: We come together as our school community to celebrate Holy Week.  
We pray and reflect on the events of Jesus' last days, his suffering and death.  
We think about what it might teach us  
so that we can be more faithful followers of Jesus  
willing to serve others just as he did.

### **Gathering hymn**

**In Stillness and Silence** (Monica Brown – Be Still and Know God is Here) **OR**  
**Presence** (Jen Charadia – At the Well)



## Penitential Rite

Leader: As we remember the events of Holy Week,  
we think about how we fail to live as Jesus would like us to.  
We ask for forgiveness ... *(pause)* ...

Lord Jesus, you show us how to be kind and thoughtful.  
Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord have mercy.**

Leader: Christ Jesus, you show us how to be compassionate and understanding.  
Christ have mercy.

**All: Christ have mercy.**

Leader: Lord Jesus, you show us how to be generous and loving.  
Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord have mercy.**

Leader: May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us when we hurt each other and show us the way to follow you.

**All: Amen.**

## Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray ... *(pause)* ...

Gracious God,  
you sent us Jesus to show us how to live in love and peace with each other.  
Through your holy Word may we come to know and understand  
how Jesus gives us hope and the strength to go on even when we want to give up.  
May our hearts be open to his message.  
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, who is love.

**All: Amen.**

## **WE LISTEN**

### Liturgy of the Word

Note: *You could use the same group of students for each tableau  
by moving them into different positions at the front of the prayer space.  
In this case, please adapt the directions below accordingly.*

**Reading** Luke 19: 28 – 31; 35 – 38

*As the reading is read, 6-8 children dressed in black, one of them Jesus who has a red sash  
or waistband on, move forward up the main aisle. They wave branches and dance around Jesus.  
When they reach the front, they move to one side of it and freeze as a tableau in a position  
of waving palms.*



**Response**     **Hosanna, Shout Hosanna** (John Burland – Lord Teach Me Your Ways).

**Reading**     John 13: 4-9

*As the reading is read, 6-8 different children dressed in black, one of them obviously Jesus who has a red sash or waistband on, move forward up the main aisle.*

*Jesus carries a bowl and a towel.*

*When they reach the front, they move to one side of it next to the Palm Sunday group and freeze as a tableau in a position of Jesus washing the feet of one of the apostles.*

**Response**     **Come Do this in Memory – First verse only**

(John Burland – Lord Teach Me Your Ways)

**Reading**     Luke 22: 54-62

*As the reading is read, two more children dressed in black, one of them Jesus and the other one Peter, move forward up the main aisle. When they reach the sanctuary, they move to the opposite side from the first two groups and freeze as a tableau in a position of Peter looking ashamed and Jesus looking at him with forgiveness.*

**Response**     **Peter's Denial – Sing first verse only** (Christopher Hoyne – Sunday Morning)

**Reading**     Luke 23: 22-25

*As the reading is read, another 6-8 children dressed in black, one of them obviously Jesus wearing a red sash or waistband, move forward up the main aisle. The group are shaking fists at Jesus and have angry faces. When they reach the front, they move to one side of it next to the Peter and Jesus group and freeze as a tableau in a position of Jesus in the centre with the other children raising angry fists with angry faces.*

**Response**     **Will You Love Me – Chorus only** (B. Boniwell – AOV 1)

**Reading**     Luke 23: 44 – 46

*As the reading is read, a new child dressed in black as Jesus moves very slowly forward up the main aisle. When s/he reaches the front, s/he stands in front of the cross facing the congregation with arms outstretched and holds position.*

**Response**     **Look at the Cross – Sing once through** (Michael Mangan – This is the Time)

*At the end of this prayer this same child who is Jesus picks up a cross (if possible and if appropriate) and walks slowly down the aisle followed by other children from the various tableaux.*

*It is appropriate to have a long pause here as there is a definite shift in the feeling of the liturgy.*



## Reflection

Leader: Let us pause now and reflect on the burdens and worries,  
the sadness and failings that are part of our lives,  
and in the quiet of our hearts share them with God.

*(Play some appropriate instrumental music.*

*e.g. **Too Deep for Words** – (Monica Brown. St Mary MacKillop)*

*After a minute or two of silent reflection, explain to the students that they will be invited to come forward, class by class, to venerate the cross. They will be asked to stand before the cross for a few seconds and make the sign of the cross or make a small bow (they will need to be shown how to do this reverently) and return to their seats. If there is a large group, children could come forward from different directions so that there are 3 or 4 lines.*

## **WE RESPOND**

### Veneration of the Cross

Leader: Let us come forward now to stand before the cross.  
In our hearts let us ask God to help us get through the hard times in our lives.

*During this time, sing appropriate songs such as:*

**Into Your Hands** (Monica Brown – Holy Ground)

**I'll Be Always Loving You** - (Trish Watts - As One Voice)

**Lord by Your Cross** (John Burland – Lord Teach Me Your Ways)

**Where Have You Gone** (Michael Mangan – Forever I will Sing)

**God Is Love** (Monica Brown - Praise & Blessings)

**The Death of Jesus** (Christopher Hoyne – Sunday Morning)

### Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Ever-present and loving God,  
we bring our prayers to you knowing you are always there for us.

Reader: When you rode into Jerusalem you wanted to proclaim God's love for all people.  
May we be ready to show welcome and acceptance to all *(pause)* We pray...

**All: Jesus, you show us the way.**

Reader: At the Last Supper, you showed us how to serve one another.  
May we open our hearts to the needs of others. *(pause)* We pray...

**All: Jesus, show us the way.**

Reader: In the Garden of Gethsemane, you showed us how to trust in God.  
May we always know you walk with us. *(pause)* We pray...

**All: Jesus, you show us the way.**



Reader: When you forgave Peter, you showed us that your heart is full of mercy and forgiveness. May we be always ready to forgive others. (Pause) We pray...

**All: Jesus, you show us the way.**

Reader: During your suffering and death you showed your great love for us. May we show that same love to all we meet. *(pause)* We pray...

**All: Jesus, you show us the way.**

Leader: We offer our prayers to you O God, with hearts full of gratitude.

**All: Amen.**

## **WE GO**

### **Closing Prayer**

Leader: Gracious God,  
as we remember the events of Jesus' last days,  
help us to be people of courage and people of hope  
who are willing to encourage and support others.  
May we remember Jesus' example and proclaim the Gospel message  
through our words and deeds.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.

**All: Amen.**

### **Blessing & Dismissal**

Leader: May the blessings of almighty God fill your heart, mind, and spirit.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: Let us go forth to love and serve God and each other.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Recessional Hymn**

*Towards the end of the final hymn, the cross is processed out and the cross bearer stands outside the doors with the cross so that everyone leaving the Church passes it. This reminds us to carry on Jesus' message as we go forth.*

**Lord, By Your Cross** (John Burland – Lord, Teach Me Your Ways) **OR**  
**This Holy Cross** (Andrew Chinn – Many Roads, One Journey)