

Pastoral Prayers for Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020  
By Zac Koons

Gathering God, thousands crowded the road to Jerusalem to get a glimpse of your Son; gather the hearts of your church on this day that our bodies must remain distant, and give us also glimpses of him who walked to Jerusalem on our behalf, and give us courage to follow him into this Holy Week; through him, your Son, our King and Lord, by your Holy Spirit, *Amen*.

God of every tongue, tribe, and nation, your Son revealed to us the kind of king that you are—humble, holy, and just; equip those in our world who possess kingly power with those same virtues, so they might work effectively toward the peace and healing of our community, our country, and our world, through Christ our Lord, who reigns as King forever at your right hand, *Amen*.

Requiring God, nothing could stop your Son from entering a dangerous Jerusalem; blessed are those who follow your Son into nearby Jerusalems today—doctors, nurses, grocery store workers, cleaners, caregivers, transportation providers, and others in the fray; protect them, embolden them, and give them an extra portion of your grace. Inspire us to lay down before them branches of encouragement and prayer; and cloaks of personal sacrifice, to give when we hear a voice saying “the Lord needs this;” and to praise you, shouting “Hosanna,” when we recognize you passing by, through your Son our Lord.

We name before you the healthcare workers in our community at this time: \_\_\_\_\_. *Amen*.

Loving God, Jesus entered a city in turmoil. Our whole world is in turmoil. By your Spirit, visit us anew, especially those who this worldwide turmoil has touched personally—visit the sick and the suffering; visit the lost and the lonely, so that we may come out the other side of this with a new, more real, and more beautiful understanding of who you are, as not just a prophet from Nazareth, but as Christ our King, in whose name we pray.

We name before you those in our community who are in turmoil: \_\_\_\_\_. *Amen*.

We rejoice in the birth of two new beautiful babies in our church community, Elaine Sareen and Bennett Schmid. We commend their lives to your care, that they might never know a day apart from you. *Amen*.

We commend to your mercy those who have died, including Jen and Charles, and we praise you for your saints who have entered into joy. *Amen*.