

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH – PALM/PASSION SUNDAY, YEAR A**

*Jesus willingly submitted to suffer in our place. Let us pray to God our Father, and place in his hands the suffering of the world.*

Heavenly Father: we pray for your church on earth, that all Christians may bear their cross and follow Jesus.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who have no faith, like the crowds. Bless the witness of your church this holy week that the word of your Son's death and resurrection may be clearly portrayed before the world.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who have sinned, like Peter.

Teach us to be sorry for our sins, and forgive us for Jesus' sake.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for prisoners and criminals like Barrabas.

May they find true freedom by changing the way they live.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for people in government, like Pilate.

May they be responsible and serve truth and justice.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who are dying, like the thieves who died with Jesus.

May they die with Jesus by their side, and be received into your kingdom.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for parents like Mary who have lost a child.

May they have hope in the midst of their suffering and know the comfort of your love.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for the whole human race, that we may all come to know Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Father, may the suffering and death of Jesus lighten the burdens of all those who suffer. Lead us in the way of the Cross, so that, as we suffer with Jesus, we may rise to life in his glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**