

# Liturgical Seasons Prayers

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## Lenten Prayer

Holy mystery,

we offer praise for the slowly warming winds  
and for the lengthening of daylight hours  
calling forth the blossoms of springtime,  
for the re-creation of hope and growth.

We are filled with gratitude  
for the changing rhythm of the natural order  
and the ways it brings nourishment and joy.

We give you thanks,

O gracious one,

for you have touched our soul.

You have loved us from the moment of our conception  
and held us in grief and happiness.

As we travel our path,

call us forth from the prisons and bondage  
we have created  
by our narrow patterns of being and believing,  
our limited acceptance of ourselves and others.

Show us a way through our wilderness.

Most generous lover  
grace us with your presence.

You welcome us home.

You awaken our slumbering hearts  
to the fullness of our humanity  
so that we may claim our awesomeness  
and fragile beauty.

We seek to be encouraged by your truth  
so that we might restore compassion  
to the human family,  
renew the face of the earth and  
give expression to your light  
in the midst of the world's wilderness.

Christ spirit, in these days of Lenten prayer,  
stir up our dream of true peace with justice.

We believe prayer to be  
a radical act of faith,

a spirited give and take with ultimate mystery.  
Show us the ways to give speech to the longings  
of our world and of ourselves and  
to extend that speech into action.

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#### **Palm Sunday and Holy Week**

Gracious, eternal one,  
we celebrate this morning in the tradition of Palm Sunday,  
offering our Hosannas of praise and thanksgiving  
for Jesus and the way he lived his life.

We offer praise  
for the expressions of your covenant with us through him.

We gratefully acknowledge  
our tradition that also proclaims this Passion Sunday  
and are thankful that

Jesus was a person of deep compassion,  
willing to accept the consequences of such love.

We embrace with gratitude

his willingness to ride a lowly donkey into the city,  
realizing the limits of his power  
to bring change to that city  
and to change the actions of his followers.

Compassionate womb,

awaken in us a fresh awareness of the richness  
the images of Holy Week offer.

Remind us that Jesus' actions throughout the week  
were on behalf of the whole world.

Encourage our understanding of how

taking up our cross means

abandoning neutrality,

making the invisible visible,

sharing God's vision.

We offer prayers of intercession

as our compassionate response to your call

to join Jesus' Holy Week journey.

Eternal, empowering, Holy One,

we praise you

for the promise and fresh energy

the Easter story brings into our lives.

We are thankful

that Jesus continues to show himself to us in new ways

and that we can experience

his love, presence and vision for the world

in our own lives and times.

Gracious God,

we praise and thank you for

the witness of the women who went to the tomb.

The scripture describes

the fears as well as the joys and relief they experienced.

We too are caught

between the fears and doubts of our faith

and the joy and affirmation of what we have seen and known.

It is good to recognize ourselves

as part of the history of your people struggling

between fear of what is and has been

and a desire to affirm

an open and unknown future.

Unexpected, moving, evolving spirit of God,  
you bring about powerful reversals  
in the world and in our lives.

The mystery of your created universe is  
a constant reminder  
of the ways you create and re-create  
through cycles of death and new life,  
through change and fresh beginnings.

As your Easter people,  
we want this new life to be offered and experienced  
by people and situations all over our world,  
for hope to be known and embraced.

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**Easter**

Risen, living Christ,  
we embrace your gift of resurrection power.  
We open our whole being to your invitation to  
join you in moving from deadness into fullness of life.

We respond,

“Yes!”

to your call to live.

Jesus, spirit, companion, friend,

you embrace the whole world with human/divine love and caring.

You ask each of us to show our love for you  
by tending and feeding your world and its people.

Enable us to recognize the people and places  
to whom we are being sent.

Enable us to offer love.

Open us to fresh expressions

of your loving of us,

so that we can be more whole and more accepting of ourselves  
and out of that acceptance

move toward others with trusting hearts.

Turn us from mourning into dancing.

Loosen our sackcloth.

Gird us with gladness.

Christ spirit,

you go before us and call us into the future.

Encourage our community

as we form and re-form ourselves as your Body.

Just as the revelations of Easter

energized the first disciples,  
so we would be energized to dream new visions  
and be open to new risks  
and to the unknown.

We join your embrace of the whole world  
with our prayers.

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*Veni Sancte Spiritu*

Holy one, we come  
ready to receive anew the gifts of your spirit  
that will give us vision  
to form and reform ourselves as a people of Pentecost.  
Come, Holy Spirit, come and be a new reality.  
Free us from fear.  
Give us courage to speak of your marvelous ways  
and of your hope  
so that we may live each day fully.  
Come, Holy Spirit, come and be a new reality.  
Awaken us so that we may be bold to be



the body of Christ's presence in the world,  
renewing our life together,  
renewing the world.

Come, Holy Spirit, come and be a new reality.

Spirited wind of change

enable the bending of what is rigid,  
the reversal of what has gone astray,  
the freshness of new possibility.

Come, Holy Spirit, come and be a new reality.

Come as comforter and offer us and all people  
relief, consolation and companionship.

Tend to our woundedness.

Restore us to life that we may be healers.

Come, Holy Spirit, come and be a new reality.

Reconciler and spirit for justice,

empower our prophet's voice

that it may be heard throughout the land

retelling the gospel vision,

praying for the unity of all true spirits.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

You are the reason

this gathering is a holy place.

Come, Holy Spirit, and be a new reality.