



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI

A LITURGY FOR THE BURNING OF PALMS ON SHROVE TUESDAY

Concerning the Service

The burning of Palms from the previous Passion Sunday is a tradition dating back to the eighth century. In homes and churches, on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, host a "Pancake Supper" or a variation thereof; it is appropriate at such gatherings to burn the palms collected from the members of the congregation. Leftover palms can also be used as part of the New Fire at the Easter Vigil.

In preparation for the service, a brazier or other fireproof container should be set up either outside or in a place where the fire and smoke can be contained. A fire extinguisher should be kept nearby. Palms from the previous Passion Sunday will be especially dry and therefore will need very little preparation. The liturgy that follows can be incorporated as part of the Shrove Tuesday festivities.

When the people have gathered around the brazier the Leader begins with a few words as to the purpose and symbol of the palms and the ashes that will be collected. The Liturgy continues as followed.

Leader Satisfy us by your loving-kindness O God.

People ***That we may rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.***

Leader Let us pray.

God of tender mercy, you fashioned us from the dust of the earth, and bid us follow your Gospel call in the company of the Church. Look on us with kindness as we prepare the ashes which will mark the beginning of our Lenten journey. Grant that we who make the desert pilgrimage might come to the font of rebirth with a renewed passion for justice. May our alms serve your people and bring us peace, may prayer sanctify all our deeds, and may we come at last to the table you set in the place where you reign with Christ and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.

The palms are then set alight.

Come Holy Spirit, renew the whole creation. Send the wind and flame of your transforming life to lift up the church in this day. Grant that as we kindle these palms that they may be for us a symbol your holy flame, which consume the arrogance and hatred that divides your holy people; Give us a vision of your breadth and length and height that will challenge our smallness of heart and bring us humbly together; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A reader reads from the Prophet Isaiah followed by the recitation of a portion of Psalm 90.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH 61:1-3

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

Psalm 90:1-6,12

- 1 Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.
- 3 You turn us back to the dust and say,
“Go back, O child of earth.”
- 4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night.
- 5 You sweep us away like a dream;
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
- 6 In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
- 12 So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

The service concludes with the following prayer.

Merciful God, who is our salvation and consolation for evermore, send down upon us your Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, the spirit of grace to establish us in the faith, the spirit of prayer to keep us in communion with you, the spirit of power to strengthen us for the good fight, the spirit of peace and hope to preserve our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life eternal. *Amen.*

Leader Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**