



PALM SUNDAY LUNCH SERVICE*
Let us sit and watch Songs of Praise together
on the ABC and then set the table for our
Parish meal.



- **Let us all set our table for our Sunday lunch service**

Sometimes we eat, in front of the TV either together or alone; we eat on the run; we eat out in restaurants or even in our car; but today we sit at a table that we have set for our Sunday lunch meal. It is our everyday altar of life-giving food.

As we celebrate Palm Sunday let us define the occasion by decorating our table with a variety of leaves and/or palm fronds from our garden.

- **Careful, simple and intentional preparation for a meal**



Set your meal for this day. Give some thought to the presentation of your meal as a meditation on the importance of the time you are setting aside for worship. Make it pleasing to your eye.

If you are celebrating this meal without people physically present, please be aware that *God is with you*. Also, please be aware in your mind, you are celebrating this Sunday meal with many other people in the parish at the same time on this same day.

- **Opening prayer — consciously drawing together the dispersed Parish community around your table**



Be still and silent.

Visualise in your mind, those whom you invited to share with you. Pray:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Here, and throughout the world,

We adore you O Christ, and we bless you,

because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen

Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.

Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen, In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

- **Read a pertinent part of Jesus' story in Holy Week**



A reading from the Prophet of Isaiah,
Chapter 50 beginning at Verse 4

⁴ The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens - wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵ The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷ The Lord God helps me; therefore, I have not been disgraced; therefore, I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸ he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a} It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? [NRSV Isaiah 50:4-9a] Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

Psalm 31:9-18

- ⁹ Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am in trouble:
my eye wastes away for grief,
my throat also and my inward parts.
- ¹⁰ For my life wears out in sorrow,
and my years with sighing:
my strength fails me in my affliction,
and my bones are consumed.
- ¹¹ I am become the scorn of all my enemies:
and my neighbours wag their heads in derision.
- ¹² I am a thing of horror to my friends:
and those that see me in the street shrink from me.
- ¹³ I am forgotten like one dead and out of mind:
I have become like a broken vessel.
- ¹⁴ For I hear the whispering of many:
and fear is on every side;
- ¹⁵ While they plot together against me:
and scheme to take away my life.
- ¹⁶ But in you, Lord, have I put my trust:
I have said 'You are my God.'
- ¹⁷ All my days are in your hand:
O deliver me from the power of my enemies
and from my persecutors.
- ¹⁸ Make your face to shine upon your servant:
and save me for your mercy's sake.



A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians, Chapter 2 beginning at Verse 5

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

[NRSV Philippians 2:5-11]

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, Chapter 27 beginning at Verse 11

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." ¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" ¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵ Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. ¹⁶ At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷ So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" ¹⁸ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. ¹⁹ While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife

sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed.²¹ The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas."²² Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!"²³ Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."²⁵ Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!"²⁶ So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

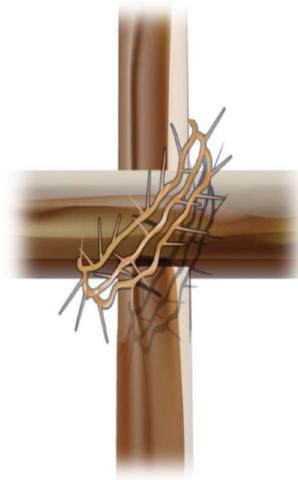
²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him.²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him,²⁹ and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"³⁰ They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head.³¹ After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

³² As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull),³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots;³⁶ then they sat down there and kept watch over him.³⁷ Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

³⁸ Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.³⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads⁴⁰ and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,⁴² "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him."⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'"⁴⁴ The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.⁴⁶ And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"⁴⁷ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah."⁴⁸ At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink.⁴⁹ But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

⁵⁰ Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.⁵² The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.⁵³ After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.⁵⁴ Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"



NRSV Matthew 27:11-54

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

• **Eating reflectively and responding to the passage**



Engage in some quiet conversation and sharing, responding to the Gospel passage. If there are children present some careful *open questions* (*what/who/how/when/where/why*) may facilitate the conversation. If you are alone, you might like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

• **Prayer-time (concluding with the Collect for the Day *)**

Offer short one sentence prayers for example. for healing of the world; for those affected by coronavirus; for family; for members of the parish and wider community, for the life and ministry of the Church, for self, etc.

Please pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer; Ron & Ann; Les; Tristan; Kathy; Mitchell; David; Pat; Izabelle; Peta; Mariette; Joanne, Barry; Peter G, Peter C; Nicholas B; Samantha & Noah; Fiona; Brenton; Sue; Brenda, David & Lynn King; Pat; Brendon, Fr Percy & Betty, Bp David, Jill, Bill, David H, Petra, Miriam & family, Marjorie, John & Carole, Joyce; Diane; Jean; Mitchell and family; Kathy; Carolyn; Allison; Angela; Susie; Carol; Shirley; Lucy Ann; Lyn; Ted & Joyce ; Carol; Irene and Liz.



Prayer of the Day

God of all,
you gave your only-begotten Son
to take the form of a servant,
and to be obedient even to death on a cross:
give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus
that, sharing in his humility,
we may come to be with him in his glory,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Conclude the meal with the following prayer together.

***May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be amongst us and remain with us always.
Amen.***

• **Intentional connection beyond your home**

After the Table Service, make contact via phone, email, letter, Messenger, Skype, Zoom, etc, with a person who is on your heart and mind at this time. It might be one of the people you invited to your meal, or a member of your family, or someone who doesn't have family, or a friend,



Let God guide you to the person or people with whom you connect.
Contact the person.

Start a conversation: "I was thinking of you.....", or, "What did you think of..... in songs of praise", etc.

* *In acknowledgement, the Collects are from "A Prayer Book for Australia" (Copyright 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. All rights reserved.)*