



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

Sunday 13th April 2025 Palm Sunday
Let us watch Songs of Praise together
on the ABC and then set the table
for our shared meal



Setting 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 worship at home today let us give some thought to the presentation of our meal, let our table reflect the importance of the season of lent, a time of reflection, prayer and fasting. 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. If you are celebrating this meal without people physically present, please be aware that God Is With You.



The reading today is from Jesus "last supper." Before they start he says, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." The emphasis is in the word "have." So when did Jesus begin to desire this supper. In Jesus deity as the Christ this can only have been when sin entered humanity. Right from the beginning God had never stopped wanting us to be restored to Him. This Passover meal would herald the day of Salvation. Jesus in His humanity and deity would destroy sin's curse upon the cross. This is what God so eagerly desired to do.



- ***opening prayer — consciously drawing together in our mind our Parish community around our 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.

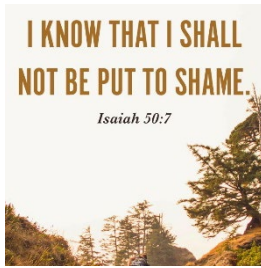
Here, and throughout the world, We adore you O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen

Bless this food, both physical and spiritual. Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen, In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

- ***Let us read and reflect on our cycle of readings.***

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah Chapter 50.verses 4–9a

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.⁹ It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment, the moth will eat them up.

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.



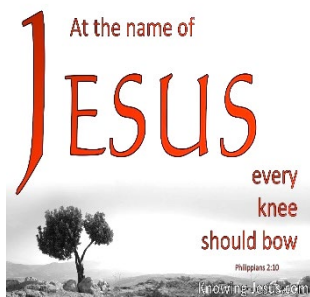
A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians Chapter 2 beginning at Verse 5

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

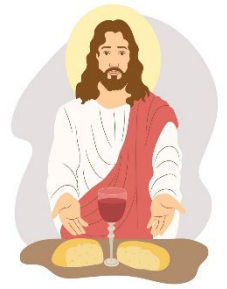
Hear the word of the Lord, thanks be to God

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke Chapter 22 beginning at Verse 14 Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

¹⁴ When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God. ¹⁷ After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. ¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink



again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. 21 But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. 22 The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him.



This is the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**(THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
Continues at Luke Chapter 22 verse 23 to Luke Chapter 23 v 56)**

Sentence

At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Let us now engage in some quiet reflection, or conversation and sharing, responding to the Gospel passage. We may like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

"I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover."

"This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

A covenant is a promise agreed upon between two parties. It requires accountability on both sides. With Jesus, His covenant is sealed with his blood. Jesus introduces us to what we call our communion feast.

We not only recognise that He promised to restore us into God's perfect love (called salvation). But by taking communion we are submitting to live in God's perfect ways. Jesus put His life on the line (or rather the cross) for us to do this. His covenant is reciprocated by us partaking in this new covenant. His life for us, our lives for Him. But for us the only thing that dies is our sinful nature.



prayer-time

Now let us continue to offer our prayers for healing of the world; God of peace and justice, who changes the hardened heart and breaks the power of violence, we pray for the world, remembering especially the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine, Africa and the Middle East, we pray for a ceasefire and for peace in all areas of conflict and war.

We pray for family; for members of the parish and wider community, for the life and ministry of the Church, for encouragement in our journey of faith.

We give thanks for the Life Work and Witness of Joyce Newing, (wife to Fr Ted Newing) who died earlier in the week. We pray for their family and friends as they grieve her passing. Joyce's memorial service will be held at St Nicholas Seaford at 2pm on Thursday 17th April. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

We pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer, Fr Ted and family, Heather C, Neville B, Mary and family, Lisa W, Jan Y, Michael, Andrew, Jo, Colin C, Cathy M, Pratibha K, Jeanette B, Lynn H, Barbara A, Jo M, Barbara W, Sue Mc, Griselda, Patrusca, Lorraine,

Rachel, Steve, Ebony, Jean T, Nicole, David, Takoohi , Glenda, Margaret, Wendy, Gweneth, Jo and Ginne , Matthew, Ann , Kathryn and Keiran, Ruth, Jean N, Colin , Georgia, Pat V, Brenda, Joanie, Jo, Jan, Joy I, Jac B; Eileen, Ursula P, Tom A, Nicholas & Ben; Sue & Frank G, Emily and her family; Trish S, Christina and any others we wish to remember, either silently or aloud.

Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together.

Our Father

Prayer for Palm Sunday

Everlasting God,
in your tender love for the human race
you sent your Son to take our nature,
and to suffer death upon the cross:
in your mercy enable us
to share in his obedience to your will
and in the glorious victory of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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 our Table Service, take the time to contact other people you know, especially those on their own or separated from family and friends. Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Contact them. Start a conversation: How have you been keeping, what about this changing weather or hope you are keeping well, or I was just thinking of you and decided to call.

