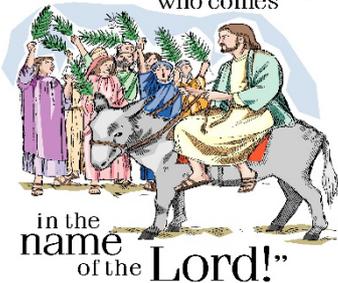


*Blessed is the king
who comes*



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

Sunday 29th March 2026 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. 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, or maybe just a hot cross bun, simple but effective. If you are celebrating this meal without people physically present, please be aware that to **God Is With You.**

MATTHEWS PASSION OF CHRIST.(Matthew 26 v 14 to 27 v 66)



It wasn't meant to be pretty.

It is the countenance of our hearts that God sees behind our words and actions this is what moves Him. Matthew tells the graphic story of a man's trial and death. Behind the narrative a perfect man in heart and soul was prepared to take on the death of hell to break its curse on us. He loved humanity that much. The story in Matthew is the most descriptive of all the other gospel accounts. It leads us to the grave of our own depravity because of an unfathomable love in our Lord's heart for us.

- **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

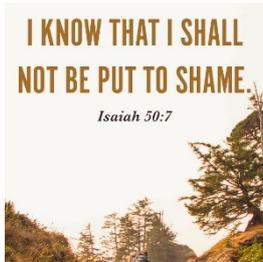
Bless this food, both physical and spiritual. Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen, In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

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

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

⁴The 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.⁵The 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.

[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.'

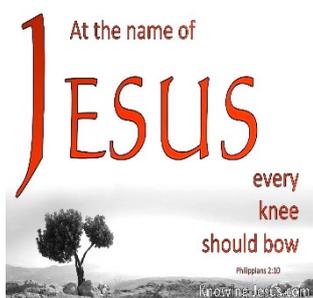
17 All my days are in your hand: O deliver me from the power of my enemies and from my persecutors.

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 21:1-11

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."



The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Please read the THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54 from your own bible.

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 passages of scripture.. We may like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

At the moment of his death Christ experienced the same separation we lived without God; His and our Father in heaven. Matthew shows that the death of Jesus shook nature itself and the very core of the spiritual realm. Those that mocked Him at the cross changed their tune saying, surely this man is the Son of God. God's love is this much for us, that he died to give us a new kind of life and took on the condemnation we deserved. The heart of Jesus, is where the power of God's Spirit breaks the curse and in rising Him to life He calls us to live that life with Him so our hearts might share in the same passion as His.



prayer-time

Now let us continue to offer our prayers for healing of the world; for those affected by natural disasters, especially in Australia as the cyclone continues to affect Northern

Queenslands recovery, and also in the Northern Territory and now into Western Australia, ; those evacuated from their homes, those cut off by floods and for emergency service workers who are assisting wherever needed, we pray for all who are suffering because of war and conflict; through no fault of their own they suffer hunger and loss of place and people.. We pray for a peaceful resolution to the escalating conflict in the Middle East.



We continue to pray for those in our parish asking for prayer Trish, Suzi, Nicole, Richard and family, Rachel, :Ann W, Joy I, David B, Cathy, Jo, Lorraine, Sue, Margaret P, Trish S Kay & Chris DeVries Lynn H, Jean T, Sue and family, Stephen, Anne, Ken, Neville B, Lisa W, Jan Y, Michael, Andrew, Colin C, Pratibha K, Jeanette B, Barbara A, Jo M, Sue Mc, Griselda, Patrusca, Lorraine, Rachel, Steve, Ebony, Nicole, David, Takoohi , Glenda, Margaret, Wendy, Gweneth, Jo and Ginne , Matthew, Kathryn and Keiran, Ruth, Jean N, Georgia, Pat V, Brenda, Joanie, Jan, Jac B; Eileen, Ursula P, Nicholas & Ben; Sue & Frank G, Emily and her family; 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, was just thinking of you and decided to call.

