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**ST THEODORE'S, TOORAK GARDENS**

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**PALM SUNDAY  
24 MARCH 2024**



## **WELCOME**

St Theodore's is an active, caring and supportive community which values liturgy, prayer and preaching to sustain our daily lives, as we seek to foster love, hope and justice to all. You are welcome here as you are, embraced within God's boundless love. It is good to have you here today and we hope that you will feel at home.

## **PRAYING WITH CANDLES AND STONES**

As you enter our church, there are two stations for prayer. One is an invitation to light a candle, symbolising our praying for each other before God. The other is an invitation to drop stones into a bowl of water, symbolising letting go of something (or someone) weighing us down.

## **ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION**

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion and all are welcome to receive prayers for healing at the back, and/or to use the prayer stations. Due to Covid precautions, intinction (dipping) into the wine is prohibited. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

## **LIVE-STREAMING**

Our 9:30am Sunday Service is live-streamed on Facebook Live. During administration of communion, the camera is adjusted so that no one coming forward is visible online.

## **HEARING ASSISTANCE SYSTEM**

We have a Hearing Assistance System available on Wi-Fi, usable with or without hearing aids. Please ask the stewards for assistance.

Please email [office@theodores.org](mailto:office@theodores.org) to join our mailing list.

## LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

This morning begins the Great Week of the Christian Year.  
During Lent we have been preparing  
by works of love and self-sacrifice  
for the celebration of the Lord's death and resurrection.  
With Christians throughout the world,  
we come together this week to call to mind,  
and to express in word and action,  
the centre of the Easter mystery:  
    our Lord's Passover from death to life.  
Christ entered in triumph into the Holy City  
    to complete his work as Messiah:  
    to suffer, to die and to rise to new life.

Today we commit ourselves to walk the way of the cross,  
so that, sharing his sufferings,  
we may be united with him in his risen life.

## BLESSING OF THE PALMS

*The people are asked to raise their palm crosses for blessing.*

Sovereign God,  
we thank you for these branches and crosses of palm.  
By your blessing may they be for us  
signs of the victory of your Son.  
May we who carry them

in his name ever hail him as our Messiah,  
and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **THE PALM GOSPEL (MARK 11:1-11)**

### **Hosanna in the highest.**

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup> and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this: 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' " <sup>4</sup> They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup> some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" <sup>6</sup> They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup> Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup> Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup> Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
<sup>10</sup> Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

<sup>11</sup> Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple, and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

## THE PROCESSION

Let us praise Jesus our Messiah,  
as did the crowds who welcomed him to Jerusalem.

Merciful God,  
as we enter this holy week  
and gather at your house of prayer,  
turn our hearts again to Jerusalem,  
to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ,  
that, united with Christ and all the faithful,  
we may one day enter in triumph the city  
not made with hands,  
the new Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens,  
where, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
Christ lives in glory forever. **Amen.**

Let us proceed in peace.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

### **Processional Hymn: TIS: 333 "All glory, praise and honour"**

*All glory, praise and honour  
to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.*

- 1 You are the king of Israel,  
and David's royal son,  
now in the Lord's name coming,  
our king and blessed one.

- 2 The company of angels  
are praising you on high,  
while we and all creation  
exultant make reply.
  
- 3 The people of the Hebrews  
with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before you we present.
  
- 4 To you before your passion,  
they sang their hymns of praise:  
to you now high exalted  
our melody we raise.
  
- 5 Their praises you accepted:  
accept the prayers we bring,  
who in all good take pleasure,  
our good and gracious king.

Words Theodulph of Orleans  
tr J M Neale © TIS 1999

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we gather in worship we acknowledge the Kaurna People as the custodians of this land.

**May we walk together in harmony in a spirit of reconciliation.**

## 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

*Please be seated*

## MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### First Reading: Isaiah 50.4-9a

<sup>4</sup> The Lord GOD has given me  
a trained tongue,  
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.  
<sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I did not turn backward.  
<sup>6</sup> 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.  
<sup>7</sup> 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;  
<sup>8</sup> he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand in court together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.  
<sup>9</sup> 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.

For the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading: Philippians 2.5-11**

<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be grasped,  
<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
assuming human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a human,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly  
and gave him the name  
that is above every other name,  
<sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

For the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand if you wish*



## Gradual Hymn: CP 129 "Ride on, ride on in majesty!"

- 1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry:  
O Saviour meek, pursue thy road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.
- 2 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die:  
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.
- 3 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
The wingèd squadrons of the sky  
look down with sad and wondering eyes  
to see the approaching sacrifice.
- 4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
The last and fiercest strife is nigh:  
the Father on his sapphire throne  
awaits his own anointed Son.
- 5 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,  
then take, O Christ, thy power, and reign.

Words H H Milman  
© CP 2001

## THE PASSION GOSPEL (MARK 15.1-39)

<sup>1</sup>As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup>Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." <sup>3</sup>Then the chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup>Pilate asked him again, "Have you

no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.”<sup>5</sup> But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

<sup>6</sup> Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. <sup>7</sup> Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder during the insurrection. <sup>8</sup> So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. <sup>9</sup> Then he answered them, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” <sup>10</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. <sup>11</sup> But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. <sup>12</sup> Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” <sup>13</sup> They shouted back, “Crucify him!” <sup>14</sup> Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!” <sup>15</sup> So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>16</sup> Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters), and they called together the whole cohort. <sup>17</sup> And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on him. <sup>18</sup> And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” <sup>19</sup> They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. <sup>20</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

<sup>21</sup> They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. <sup>22</sup> Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). <sup>23</sup> And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup> And they crucified him and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

<sup>25</sup> It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup> The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." <sup>27</sup> And with him they crucified two rebels, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>29</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, <sup>30</sup> save yourself, and come down from the cross!" <sup>31</sup> In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. <sup>32</sup> Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

<sup>33</sup> When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup> At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." <sup>36</sup> And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." <sup>37</sup> Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup> And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup> Now when the centurion who stood facing him saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

## SERMON

*The sermon is followed by a time of silence for reflection.*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The people sit or kneel for the Prayers*

For Christian communities everywhere,  
following the way of the cross this week:  
that the passion of Christ may sustain our faith  
and enliven our witness to the world,  
we pray to you, Living God:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the pastors, teachers, evangelists  
and prophets of the church:  
that the wisdom of Christ may keep them  
grounded in the gospel,  
we pray to you, Living God:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the nations of the world,  
and for the peace of Jerusalem:  
that the kingdom of Christ may come with true peace  
and the forgiveness of our enemies,  
we pray to you, Living God:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the endangered earth,  
where human carelessness and waste  
threaten the environment:  
that the Spirit of Christ may teach us  
how to care for the earth,  
and revive our delight in creation,  
we pray to you, Living God:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the hungry, the homeless and the outcasts of the world:  
that the love of Christ may teach us hospitality, hope,  
and care for the least of our sisters and brothers,  
we pray to you, Living God:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For people whose lives are limited by sickness, grief, or fear:  
that the compassion of Christ may come to them  
with comfort and courage,  
we pray to you, Living God:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who bear the weight of others' troubles:  
that the easy yoke of Christ may lighten their burdens  
and strengthen them for service,  
we pray to you, Living God:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For people offering their lives in loving service:  
that the blessing of Christ may come to them,  
and their gifts be received and remembered with joy,  
we pray to you, Living God:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who deny their faith or betray their friends,  
for all who repent of their sins,  
and for ourselves as we turn and ask for mercy:  
that the forgiveness of Christ  
may come with healing and love,  
we pray to you, Living God:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For people preparing to die:  
that the light of Christ may shine on them  
both now and in the day of resurrection,  
we pray to you, Living God.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*The presider concludes with this prayer*

Living God, you listen when your people cry out to you,  
hearing our prayers and forgiving our sins:  
hear us now, forgive us,  
and send us on in newness of life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## NOTICES

### THE GREETING OF PEACE

*Please stand if you wish.*

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.  
**We meet in his name and share his peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*All may exchange a greeting of peace.*

## Offertory Hymn: TIS 341 "My song is love unknown"

- 1 My song is love unknown,  
my Saviour's love to me,  
love to the loveless shown,  
that they might lovely be.  
O who am I  
that for my sake  
my Lord should take  
frail flesh, and die?
  
- 2 He came from his blest throne  
salvation to bestow:  
but all made strange, and none  
the longed-for Christ would know.  
But O my friend!  
my friend indeed,  
who at my need  
his life did spend.
  
- 3 Sometimes they strew his way  
and his sweet praises sing,  
resounding all the day  
hosannas to their King.  
Then 'Crucify!'  
is all their breath,  
and for his death  
they thirst and cry.

6 In life, no house, no home  
my Lord on earth might have;  
in death, no friendly tomb  
but what a stranger gave.  
What may I say?  
Heaven was his home:  
but mine the tomb  
wherein he lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,  
no story so divine;  
never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like thine.  
This is my friend,  
in whose sweet praise  
I all my days  
could gladly spend.

Words Samuel Crossman  
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## **BLESSING OF THE GIFTS**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness  
we have these gifts to share.  
Accept and use our offerings for your glory  
and for the service of your kingdom.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**



## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty Creator, everliving God.  
We give you thanks and praise for your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.  
He offered the one true sacrifice for sin,  
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.  
The tree of defeat became the tree of victory;  
where life was lost, there life has been restored.  
Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
† Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you  
for these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and wine,  
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,  
we who eat and drink them  
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Drink from this, all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant  
shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:  
proclaiming his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming again,  
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,  
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice  
for the sins of the whole world.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

† Renew us by your Holy Spirit,  
unite us in the body of your Son  
and bring us with all your people  
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom, and in whom,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
we worship you, Father,  
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, as we pray in the words you gave us.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
We who are many are one body,  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

## **Agnus Dei**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**  
**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**  
**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.**

This is the table of communion with the earth,  
in which Christ became incarnate  
So come to this table, those who have much faith  
and those who would like to have more;  
those who have been here often  
and those who have not been for a long time;  
those who have tried to follow Jesus;  
and we who have failed.  
Come.

*Please stand if you wish*

## **Post Communion Sentence**

**Christ became obedient to death, even death on a cross.**

## **Prayer after Communion**

God our help and strength,  
through these holy mysteries  
confirm our faith,  
that by the death and resurrection of your Son  
we may walk in the way of salvation.

Father,  
**we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

## **Prayer of Self-Offering**

Most loving God,  
**you send us into the world you love.  
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage  
in the power of your Spirit.**

## **THE BLESSING**

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself, that you may find in him crucified a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sin forgiven and the blessing of God almighty, † the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

## **THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn: CP 557 “Praise to the Holiest in the height”**

- 1 Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise:  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.
  
- 2 O loving wisdom of our God!  
When all was sin and shame,  
a second Adam to the fight  
and to the rescue came.
  
- 3 O wisest love! that flesh and blood,  
which did in Adam fail,  
should strive afresh against the foe,  
should strive and should prevail;
  
- 4 And that a higher gift than grace  
should flesh and blood refine,  
God's presence and his very self,  
and essence all-divine.
  
- 7 Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise:  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.

Words J H Newman © CP 2001

**POSTLUDE: Moore: Hymn Prelude on “Lift high the Cross”**

Liturgy from *A Prayer Book for Australia* © Broughton Publishing 1995.

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Where there is a † in the liturgy, you are invited to make a sign of the cross if you wish.