
ST THEODORE'S, TOORAK GARDENS

**PALM SUNDAY
13 APRIL 2025**



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/or receive anointing for healing at the back. Due to Covid precautions, intinction (dipping) into the wine is prohibited.

If you do not wish to drink the wine, we invite you to pause briefly before the chalice to acknowledge the sacramental presence.

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, but this cannot be guaranteed.

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 to join our mailing list.

The service commences outside on the lawn.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we gather in worship, we acknowledge the Kaurua People as the traditional owners and custodians of this land.

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

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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 (LUKE 19.28-40)

Hosanna in the highest.

²⁸ After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.
²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it." ' ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' ³⁴ They said, 'The Lord needs it.' ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying,

'Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' ⁴⁰ He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'

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: CP 128 "ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOUR"

*All glory, laud, and honour
to thee, 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 comest,
our king and blessed one.
All glory, laud, and honour ...
- 2 The company of angels
are praising you on high,
and mortal fol and all things
created make reply:
All glory, laud, and honour ...
- 3 The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went:
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present:
All glory, laud, and honour ...
- 4 To thee before thy passion,
they sang their hymns of praise:
to thee now high exalted
our melody we raise:
All glory, laud, and honour ...
- 5 Thou didst accept their praises,
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King.
All glory, laud, and honour ...

Tune: St Theodulph
Music: M Teschner (c. 1613)
Words: Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821)
tr J M Neale (1818-1866)
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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

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 backwards.

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.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 2.5-11

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.

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.

Tune: Winchester New
Music: Adapted from a chorale in
Musicalisches Hand-Buch, Hamburg
(1690)
Words: H H Milman (1791-1868)
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THE PASSION GOSPEL (LUKE 23.1-49)

The Passion Gospel is very long so you are invited to sit now, and then stand before the final paragraph.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

¹ Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. ² They began to accuse him, saying, 'We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.' ³ Then Pilate asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' He answered, 'You say so.' ⁴ Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, 'I find no basis for an accusation against this man.' ⁵ But they were insistent and said, 'He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.'

⁶ When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷ And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. ⁹ He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹ Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. ¹² That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

¹³ Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. ¹⁵ Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶ I will therefore have him flogged and release him.'

¹⁸ Then they all shouted out together, 'Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!' ¹⁹ (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) ²⁰ Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; ²¹ but they kept shouting, 'Crucify, crucify him!' ²² A third time he said to them, 'Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.' ²³ But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. ²⁵ He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

²⁶ As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸ But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." ³¹ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?'

³² Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?' ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' ⁴² Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' ⁴³ He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

Please stand if you wish.

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷ When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent.' ⁴⁸ And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. ⁴⁹ But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

SERMON

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

I ask you to pray for the peace of Jerusalem,
and for all the nations of the world.

Pray for enemies to be reconciled and for justice to be done.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

I ask you to pray for candidates for baptism and confirmation,
and for Christians everywhere.
Pray for courage and integrity in following the way of the cross.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

I ask you to pray for all who offer their gifts to Christ,
and for those who have betrayed his trust in them.
Pray for love and loyalty in all our relationships.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

I ask you to pray for the sick and all prisoners,
and for people preparing to die.
Pray for healing, freedom, and hope.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

I ask you to pray for the forgiveness of
our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Pray for pardon and peace.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

I ask you to give thanks for St Theodore all the saints,
and for the resurrection light that shines on them.
Remember those who have died.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

The prayers are followed by a time of silence for reflection.

Holy God,
hear the prayers of your Church.
Forgive our sins,
and send us the grace we need
to be faithful followers of our crucified and risen Lord,
for we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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: CP 112 "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 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.

3 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.

4 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.

Tune: Love Unknown
Music: John Ireland (1879-1962)
Words: Samuel Crossman (1624-1683)
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BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now united on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth
into 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.**

Holy and gracious God,
all creation rightly gives you praise.
All life, all holiness, comes from you
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
whom you sent to share our human nature,
to live and die as one of us,
to reconcile us to you,
the God and Father of all.

Hear us, merciful Lord;
through Christ accept our sacrifice of praise;
and, by the power of your Word and Holy Spirit,
sanctify this bread and wine,
that we who share in this holy sacrament
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

Who, when his hour had come,
on the night before he went up to the cross
to make full atonement for the sins of the whole world,
offering once for all his one sacrifice of himself,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying,
'Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

† Therefore, in obedience to his command,
we commemorate and celebrate
his saving passion and death,
his mighty resurrection and ascension into heaven
and we eagerly await his coming again in glory.

We thank you that by your grace alone
you have accepted us in Christ;
and here we offer you a spiritual sacrifice,
holy and acceptable in your sight.

Through Christ, receive this our duty and service,
and grant that we who eat and drink these holy gifts
may, by your Holy Spirit,
be one body in Christ,
and serve you in unity and peace.

In your grace and mercy,
bring us to the joy of your eternal kingdom
with all the company of the redeemed.
May we praise you in union with them,
and give you glory through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father eternal,
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

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies,
it remains just a single grain;
but if it dies it bears much fruit.
If we have died with him, we shall live with him.

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

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last.

(Luke 23.46)

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.

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

Grant, merciful Lord,
to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that they may be cleansed from all their sins
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Christ our Lord.
And the blessing of God almighty.
† the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

NOTICES

THE DISMISSAL

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN TIS 357 "WHEN HIS TIME WAS OVER"

- 1 When his time was over the palms lay where they fell.
As they ate together he told his friends farewell.
Jesus, though you cried out for some other end,
love could only choose a cross
when our life began again.
 - 2 Secretly they planned it, with money changing hands;
in the quiet garden a kiss betrayed their man.
Priests and elders tried him. Soldiers crowned him king.
We were in the crowd that day
when our life began again.
 - 3 Women wept to see him; he said, 'Don't weep for me.'
Many laughed and mocked him: 'Forgive them, they don't see.'
Jesus, please forgive me, you know what I am;
I was one who nailed your hands
when our life began again.
 - 4 There was one who asked you, 'Remember me this day.'
Jesus, when I'm dying, remember me that way;
when my life is over, be with me, my friend,
like the thief upon the cross,
when our life began again.
- Tune: Wakefield Street
Music: Robin Mann (1949-)
Words: Robin Mann (1949-)
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POSTLUDE: MOORE: HYMN PRELUDE ON "LIFT HIGH THE CROSS"

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Where there is a † in the liturgy, you are invited to make a sign of the cross if you wish. When the Gospel is read and we say “† Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ”, you are invited to make three tiny signs of the cross, on the forehead, on the lips and on the chest. This symbolises the Word of God in our minds, our words and our hearts.

DESIGN

Imagine the self as a canyon in the making,
once solid, and then, ongoingly,
made more spacious, shaped by water,

by wind, by forces beyond its control.
Whatever is sacred, I feel it in canyons,
these earthen temples to surrender —

such holy architecture
with their deep and ancient silence,
with their steep and crumbling walls.

How sacred the angle of light
as it enters from the rim and slants
through the belly of air.

Sacred, too, the shadows,
like those most secret parts of ourselves
that never see light.

When I think of the self as a canyon,
it is easier to believe I, too,
can be made more spacious

through surrender, the shape of my life
an ever-changing record of where I resist
and where I release,

oh this practice I am still learning
to trust, this erosion of self
into reverence.

—Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer