



# PALM SUNDAY

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.

Philippians 2.10-11

**29 March 2026**  
**SUNDAY OF THE PASSION**

## GATHERING AND PREPARATION

Setting – Christ Church Mass – Philip Mathias (1954- ) TIS 757

*The service begins outside the Cathedral for the blessing of the palms. Palm crosses are distributed as the people assemble.*

**Introit** *Hosanna to the Son of David* – Kevin Mayhew (1938-44) arr R Eather

### **Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country**

Blessed is the one 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.

*All may hold up their palms for the 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;

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Palm Sunday Gospel**

Matthew 21:1–11

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**Hosanna in the highest.**

<sup>1</sup> When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will

send them immediately.'

<sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup> '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.'

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;

<sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

<sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

<sup>9</sup> 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!'

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?'

<sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

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

## THE PROCESSION

*The procession begins:*

Let us praise Jesus our Messiah

as did the crowd who welcomed him to Jerusalem.

Let us proceed in peace.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## Processional Hymn

TIS 333 *All glory, praise and honour*

ST THEODULPH

Melchior Teschner 1584-1635

(Fine after last verse)

(Da Capo)

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

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

**The company of angels  
are praising you on high,  
and we and all creation  
exultant make reply.**

**The people of the Hebrews  
with palms before you went:  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before you we present.**

**To you before your passion  
they sang their hymns of praise:  
to you now high exulted  
our melody we raise.**

**Their praises you accepted:  
accept the prayers we bring,  
who in all good take pleasure,  
our good and gracious king.**

Theodulph of Orleans, (d. 821)  
*Tr. John Mason Neale, (1818–66) alt.*

*After the congregation has entered the Cathedral:*

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 for ever. **Amen.**

*Prayer of the Day*

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.**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### First Reading

Isaiah 50.4-9a

<sup>4</sup> 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.  
<sup>5</sup> The Lord God has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backwards.  
<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 up 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.

Hear the word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 31.9-18** (Chant – Tonus Peregrinus (Plainsong adapted))

Choir

*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.*

## **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 was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of 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.

Hear the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel**

Matthew 26.14-27.66

***Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.***

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross.

Therefore God has raised him on high and given him a name above all other names.

***Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.***

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Due to the length of this reading, the congregation is invited to sit for the majority of the reading and then to stand as Jesus is led out to be crucified.*

*After the Gospel, the reader says*

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 all candidates for baptism and confirmation,  
and for the church preparing to welcome them:  
that the faith of Christ may gather us together at the foot of  
the cross, 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.**

### THE GREETING OF PEACE

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.*

### THE OFFERTORY

#### Offertory Hymn

TIS 528 *The Son of God proclaim*

VINEYARD HAVEN

Richard Dirksen 1921-2003



**The Son of God proclaim,  
the Lord of time and space;  
the God who bade the light break forth  
now shines in Jesus' face –  
hosanna, hosanna,  
now shines in Jesus' face.**

**He, God's creative Word,  
the church's Lord and Head,  
here bids us gather as his friends,  
and share his wine and bread –  
hosanna, hosanna,  
we share his wine and bread.**

**Behold his out stretched hands,  
though all was in his power  
he took the towel and basin then,  
and serves us in this hour -  
hosanna, hosanna,  
he serves us in this hour.**

**The Lord of life and death  
with wondering praise we sing;  
we break the bread at His command,  
and name him God and King -  
hosanna, hosanna,  
we name him God and King.**

**We take this cup in hope;  
for he, who gladly bore  
the shameful cross, is risen again  
and reigns for evermore –  
hosanna, hosanna,  
he reigns for evermore.**

*Basil Ernest Bridge (1927 – 2021)*

*The gifts of the people are brought to the Lord's Table.*

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.'  
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

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.

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**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**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.**

### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND COMMUNION

*The presider breaks the bread, then says*

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.**

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in  
remembrance that he died for us,  
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

## Agnus dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

*All the children of God have a place at God's Table.*

*Those who prefer to receive a personal blessing rather than Holy Communion are invited to simply cross their arms in front of them. Gluten-free wafers are available on request.*

## Communion Anthem – Jesus Christ the apple tree

– Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987) arr. R Eather

### THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

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.**

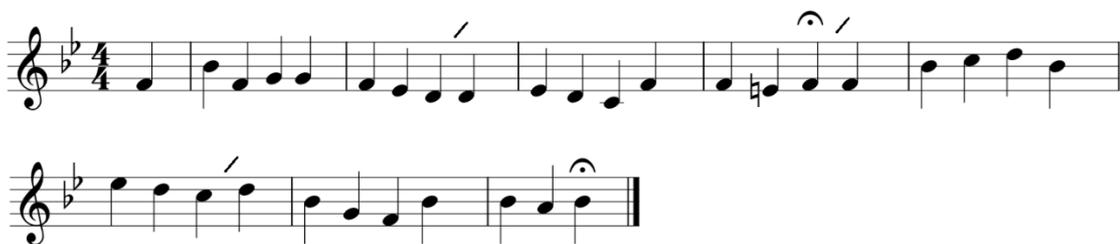
## Notices

### Mission Hymn

*TIS 348 Ride on, ride on in majesty*

WINCHESTER NEW

Melody German c.1690 adapted W H Havergal



**Ride on, ride on in majesty;  
hark, all the tribes hosanna cry!  
O Saviour, meek, pursue your road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty;  
in lowly pomp ride on to die;  
O Christ, your triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty;  
the wingèd squadrons of the sky  
look down with sad and wondering eyes  
to see the approaching sacrifice.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty;  
your last and fiercest strife is nigh;  
the Father on his sapphire throne  
awaits his own anointed Son.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty,  
in lowly pomp ride on to die;  
bow your meek head to mortal pain,  
then take, O God, your power and reign!**

Henry Mart Milman 1791 - 1868 *alt.*

### **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. **Amen.**

#### *The Deacon:*

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

**Organ Postlude** Sarabanda from 12 Inventions for Organ  
– Marius Monnikendam (1896-1977)

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**Cathedral Parish Directory**  
[www.graftoncathedral.org.au](http://www.graftoncathedral.org.au)

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<b>Cathedral OpShop</b>	Ms Linda Butler	02 6642 2844

**Cathedral Prayer**

**Living and eternal Christ bless the ministry of this Cathedral as a place of pilgrimage, prayer and discovery. May our doors always be open to pilgrims, may our hearts always be open to one another, and may our minds always be open to new truth. Draw us deeply into the mystery of your life, your death and your resurrection, now and always. Amen.**

**Prayers for those in need**

Joy Baldwin Sue Cotter Gail Gilmore Amy McArde Betty Gilbert	Ruth Kingsley Roy Ford Mervyn Kingsley Brian Fowler Lynelle Lichon	John McFarlane Francis TeTana Kathryn Lentfer Kevin Vaughan Colin Clague	Aneta Jones Grace Clague Kahla Clague Patrick Fleming
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**Remembering those who have died**

**Recently Departed:** Coleen Flynn, Patricia Sharman, Harold Stewart & Ted Mair  
**Year's Mind:** Pat King, Robyn Bancroft, Joy Creasey, Robert Poole, Kath Taylor,  
 Laurie Hogan, Ken Sparks, Brian Brown & Marcella Karubun

## Around the Parish this Week

<b>Today</b>	<p><b>Sixth Sunday in Lent - Palm Sunday</b>  <b>9.00am – Cathedral Live &amp; Online:</b>  <a href="http://www.graftoncathedral.org.au">www.graftoncathedral.org.au</a></p>
<b>Birthdays this week</b>	Jenny Vaughan & John McFarlane
<b>Weekdays</b>	<p><b>Morning Prayer</b> 8.30am Mon - Fri at the Cathedral &amp;/or via Zoom  <b>Evening Prayer</b> 5.15 Wed, Thurs &amp; Fri <b>Zoom only</b></p> <p>Simply use the link on the Cathedral web page <b>CALENDAR</b> to access via Zoom</p> <p><b>Cathedral Office</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>9.00am–5.00pm(9-3 Fri)</b></span>  <b>Cathedral Bookshop</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>9.30am–3.30pm(Tues-Fri)</b></span>  <b>Cathedral OpShop</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>10.00am–4.00pm (Mon – Fri)</b></span>  <span style="float: right;"><b>9.00-12.00 (Sat)</b></span>  <b>Wednesday Worship</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>at 10.00 am</b></span></p> <p>Please ensure that we have your email address and mobile number so we can reach out to you with information, news and pastoral support. If you need pastoral care or other support, please call either Dean Naomi or Deacon Grant.</p>
<b>Next Sunday</b>	<p><b>Easter Day</b>  <b>9.00am – Cathedral Live &amp; Online:</b>  <a href="http://www.graftoncathedral.org.au">www.graftoncathedral.org.au</a></p>
<b>Bank Details For direct deposit</b>	<p><b>The Anglican Parish of Grafton</b>  <b>BSB: 705 077 Acc: 00033630</b>          Any donations gratefully received for the ongoing maintenance of the Cathedral and furthering our ministry</p>

2026

# Easter Services



**Maundy Thursday -**  
 Eucharist with foot washing – April 2, 7.00 PM  
 The Watch - April 2, 8.00 PM

**Good Friday Stations of the Cross–** April 3, 9.00 AM  
**Saturday Children’s Easter Vigil Family Service -** April 4, 6.00 PM  
**Easter Sunday Eucharist–** April 5, 9.00 AM

**Lenten Studies -** Cathedral Bookshop, Wednesdays 10.45  
**Taize -** Wednesday 4 March & 1 April 8.30 AM





**CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL  
GRAFTON**  
open doors ... open hearts ... open minds ...