

Simple Table Services

for

Holy Week 2020

Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

Easter Day

Compiled in response to this time of isolation caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the suspension of public worship in church buildings.

Overview: Simple Table Services for Holy Week 2020

These simple table services are offered in response to the 2020 context of isolation imposed because of the Coronavirus and the suspension of public services of worship.

These are simple table services designed to observe the sacred time of Holy Week focusing on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day.

They seek to transform the experience of isolation into a time of 'holy presence'.

The services are built around:

- **Normality:** the table at which you normally eat — adding symbols of Holy Week as the week progresses.
- **Preparation:** careful, simple and intentional preparation for a meal
- **Gathering:** opening prayer — consciously drawing together the dispersed Parish community around your table
- **Scripture:** reading a pertinent part of Jesus' story in Holy Week
- **Eating and Reflecting:** eating reflectively and responding to the passage
- **Prayer:** prayer-time — for healing; for family; for members of parish community, etc.
- **Connecting:** intentional connection outside your home.

These services provide a basic format for use by individuals and families. Users are encouraged to use them as they are in their patterned simplicity, or to creatively shape them according to your home circumstances. You may want to include some music at various points: youtube can be a place for accessible and appropriate music.

- You are encouraged to use these table services for your private/family observance of Holy Week.
- and
- You are also encouraged to connect with the worship of the Church by accessing one of the live streaming of Holy Week Liturgies on the internet.

Palm Sunday

- ***the table at which you normally eat***

The table is the everyday altar of life-giving food.

Place a simple cloth on the table.

Pick a variety of leaves and/or palm fronds from your garden.

Scatter them over the table

- ***careful, simple and intentional preparation for a meal***

Plan a simple breakfast for this day.

Give thought to the presentation of your meal.

Make it pleasing to your eye.

Invite, in your mind, five people from the Parish to your breakfast.

- ***opening prayer — consciously drawing together the dispersed Parish community around your 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**

- ***reading a pertinent part of Jesus' story in Holy Week***

Read the Palm Sunday Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

- ***eating reflectively and responding to the passage***

Engage in some quiet conversation and sharing, responding to the Gospel passage.

If there are children present some careful *open questions* (*what/who/how/when/where/why*) may facilitate the conversation.

If you are alone you might like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

- ***prayer-time (concluding with the Collect for the Day *)***

Offer short one sentence prayers — e.g. for healing of the world; for those affected by coronavirus; for family; for members of the parish and wider community, for the life and ministry of the Church, for self, etc.

**Almighty and everlasting God, in your tender mercy towards us
you sent your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our
flesh,
and to suffer death upon the cross,
that all should follow the example of his great humility,
mercifully grant that we may follow the example of his patience,
and also be partakers of his resurrection;**

- ***intentional connection beyond your home***

After the Table Service, make contact via phone, email, letter, Messenger, Skype, Zoom, etc with a person who is on your heart and mind at this time. It might be one of the people you invited to your meal, or a member of your family, or someone who doesn't have family, or a friend, etc, etc.

Let God guide you to the person with whom you connect.

Contact the person.

Start a conversation: 'I was thinking of you.....'

Maundy Thursday

- ***the table at which you normally eat***

Place some leaves/palm fronds in a vase/float bowl. (Palm Sunday)

Place a bowl of water and towel.

Place a cup and plate.

- ***careful, simple and intentional preparation for a meal***

Plan a simple evening meal.

Arrange your table simply

Invite, in your mind, five people from the Parish to your meal.

- ***opening prayer — consciously drawing together the dispersed Parish community around your table***

Be still and silent.

Visualise those you have invited, in your mind, 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**

- ***reading pertinent parts of Jesus' story in Holy Week***

Read the Maundy Thursday Gospel: John 13:1-15

Pause

Intentionally wash your hands, using the bowl and towel, thinking of
Jesus' washing the disciples feet — of Jesus washing your feet!

(In this time of care, you may elect to have a small bowl and paper towel
for each person to wash their hands.)

Pause

Read the following Maundy Thursday Gospel: Luke 22:14-20

Pause

- ***eating reflectively and responding to the passages***

This may be a time for quiet conversation and sharing, responding to the Gospel passages.

If there are children present some careful *open questions* (*what/who/how/when/where/why*) may facilitate the conversation.

If you are alone you might like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

- ***prayer-time (concluding with the Collect for the Day *)***

Offer short one sentence prayers — e.g. for healing of the world; for those affected by coronavirus; for family; for members of the parish and wider community, for the life and ministry of the Church, for self, etc.

**Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal
Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment,
to love one another as he loved them:
write this commandment in our hearts,
and give us the will to serve others as he was servant of all,
who gave his life and died for us,
yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,**

- ***intentional connection beyond your home***

After the Table Service, make contact via phone, email, letter, Messenger, Skype, Zoom, etc with a person who is on your heart and mind at this time. It might be one of the people you invited to your meal, or a member of your family, or someone who doesn't have family, or a friend, etc, etc.

Let God guide you to the person with whom you connect.

Contact the person.

Start a conversation: 'I was thinking of you.....'

Good Friday

- ***the table at which you normally eat***

Place some leaves in a vase/float bowl (Palm Sunday)

Place a small towel and bowl/a plate with a piece of bread (Maundy Thursday)

Place a cross. (You may like to hand fashion a cross.)

- ***careful, simple and intentional preparation for a meal***

Plan a simple lunch

Invite, in your mind, five people from the Parish to your lunch.

- ***opening prayer — consciously drawing together the dispersed Parish community around your table***

Be still and silent.

Visualise those you have invited, in your mind, 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**

- ***reading a pertinent part of Jesus' story in Holy Week***

Read from the Good Friday Passion Gospel: John 19:1-30

(A longer form is John 18:1 - 19:42)

- ***eating reflectively and responding to the passage***

This might be the time for some quiet conversation and sharing, responding to the Gospel passage.

If there are children present some careful *open questions* (*what/who/how/when/where/why*) may facilitate the conversation.

If you are alone you might like to write some key thoughts down for further reflection.

- ***prayer-time (concluding with the Collect for the Day *)***

Offer short one sentence prayers — e.g. for healing of the world; for those affected by coronavirus; for family; for members of the parish and wider community, for the life and ministry of the Church, for self, etc.

**Almighty God, look with mercy on this your family,
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed
and to be given into the hands of sinners
and to suffer death upon the cross;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.**

- ***intentional connection beyond your home***

After the Table Service, make contact via phone, email, letter, Messenger, Skype, Zoom, etc with a person who is on your heart and mind at this time. It might be one of the people you invited to your meal, or a member of your family, or someone who doesn't have family, or a friend, etc, etc.

Let God guide you to the person with whom you connect.

Contact the person.

Start a conversation: 'I was thinking of you.....'

Easter Day

- ***the table at which you normally eat***

As one arrangement for Holy Week, place some leaves/palm fronds (Palm Sunday), a small towel and bowl/a cup and plate (Maundy Thursday), a cross (Good Friday), and a stone and some bright flowers (Easter Day).

- ***careful, simple and intentional preparation for a meal***

Plan a simple celebratory breakfast.

Invite, in your mind, five people from the Parish to your breakfast.

- ***opening prayer — consciously drawing together the dispersed Parish community around your table***

Be still and silent.

Visualise those you have invited in your mind 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**

- ***reading a pertinent part of Jesus' story in Holy Week***

Read the Easter Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

- ***eating reflectively and responding to the passage***

This might be the time for some quiet conversation and sharing, responding to the Gospel passage.

If there are children present some careful *open questions* (*what/who/how/when/where/why*) may facilitate the conversation.

If you are alone you might like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

- ***prayer-time (concluding with the Collect for the Day *)***

Offer short one sentence prayers — e.g. for healing of the world; for those affected by coronavirus; for family; for members of the parish community, etc.

**Holy God, whose risen Son opened the disciples' hearts
to understand the Scriptures that told of his death and resurrection:
grant us the peace of the living Lord,
that our eyes may be opened
to recognise him in the breaking of the bread,
and to follow him wherever he leads;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

***Christ is risen! Alleluia!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

- ***intentional connection beyond your home***

After the Table Service, make contact via phone, email, letter, Messenger, Skype, Zoom, etc with a person who is on your heart and mind at this time. It might be one of the people you invited to your meal, or a member of your family, or someone who doesn't have family, or a friend, etc, etc.

Let God guide you to the person with whom you connect.

Contact the person.

Start a conversation: 'I was thinking of you.....'

* *In acknowledgement, the Collects are from 'A Prayer Book for Australia' (Copyright 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. All rights reserved.)*