

# Passion (Palm) Sunday (a) 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023

## Greeting

*presider: Ki te ingoa o te Matua, ✠ o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu:  
The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, whose table we share,  
be with us.*

*all: **And with your spirit***

## Commemoration of the LORD's entrance into Jerusalem

*commentator: Friends in Christ,  
since the beginning of Lent  
we have been preparing,  
by works of charity and self-sacrifice,  
to celebrate our LORD's Paschal mystery.  
Today we come together  
to begin this solemn celebration  
in union with the whole Church throughout the world.  
Jesus entered in triumph into his own city, Jerusalem,  
to complete his work: to suffer, to die and to rise again.  
With lively faith and devotion,  
let us recall this entry, which led to our salvation,  
and follow in his footsteps.  
United with him in his suffering on the cross,  
may we share his resurrection and new life.*

## Blessing of the branches

*( pause for silent prayer )*

*presider: Merciful GOD,  
increase the faith of those who place their hope in you,  
and listen kindly to our prayers,  
that we who carry these branches [palms] today  
in honour of Christ, the triumphant King,  
may live in him to bear abundant fruit,  
for he lives and reigns for ever and ever.*

*( the sprinkling of branches with holy water in silence )*

## Gospel Reading: Matthew 21 : 1 – 11 ( read by the presider )

*commentator: On this day the Church celebrates Christ's entrance into Jerusalem to  
accomplish his Paschal mystery. The memorial of this event is included in  
every Mass this day with an entrance procession into the church.  
Passion Sunday therefore begins with acclamations of praise:  
holding branches of victory, the assembled people sing Hosanna.  
The commemoration of the LORD's entry into Jerusalem is a rite rather  
than a pageant. The mood becomes more sombre at the Liturgy of the  
WORD when one of the Gospel accounts of the Passion of the LORD is  
proclaimed:*

presider: *Acclaiming Jesus, like the people of Jerusalem, let us go forth in peace:*

all: ***In the name of Christ***

*( procession with the palms into the Church )*

### **Opening Prayer**

presider: *( Kia inoi tatou: ... ) O GOD of eternal glory,*

*You anointed Jesus, Your servant,*

*to bear our sins,*

*to encourage the weary,*

*to raise up and restore the fallen.*

*Keep before our eyes*

*the splendour of the Paschal mystery of Christ,*

*and, by our sharing in the passion and resurrection,*

*seal our lives with the victorious sign*

*of his obedience and exaltation.*

*We ask this through Christ, our liberator from sin,*

*who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,*

*holy and mighty GOD for ever and ever:*

all: ***Amen.***

### **Introduction to the first reading:** *( Isaiah 50 : 4 – 7 )*

commentator: *Isaiah's task is to reinterpret the reality of exile. The prophet plants the seed of an alternative imagination of reality. It is a reality that remains outside the control of the empire's managers. The poetry appeals to the power of a new WORD from GOD.*

### **Introduction to the second reading:** *( Philippians 2 : 6 – 11 )*

commentator: *For Paul, Jesus' death and resurrection extends the tradition of life in the shape of death and power in the form of suffering, found in the poetry of Isaiah's servant songs and the psalmist's laments. The Christian community announces that the One who was of the same stuff as the Supreme Being became a servant, "taking the form of a slave – and humbler: . . ." Because he freely endured such an existence, he was "exalted"!*

### **Gospel Acclamation:**

all: ***Praise to you, LORD Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!***

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

***Therefore GOD raised him on high and gave him a name***

***above all other names!***

***Praise to you, LORD Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!***

### **Introduction to the gospel reading:** *( Matthew 26 : 14 – 27 : 66 )*

commentator: *The passion account in Matthew emphasises the action of an outsider whose faith-filled actions – more than any other person's have the capacity to gain life, and give life where the world offers no life!*

*( Let us sit for the reading of the Passion account )*

### **Homily Notes** presider:

- *Of all the stories of Holy Week that offer newness and hope, the story of Jesus' suffering and death in the gospel passages from Matthew*

*(Passion Sunday) and John (Good Friday) climax the Lenten readings about outsiders.*

- *Jesus' faith-filled actions - more than any other person's – have the capacity to gain life and give life when the old world offers no life! The texts function to make an alternative world available.*
- *The gospel passage tells of a dramatic confrontation between the powers of death and powers for life. Representatives of the old dying world arrest Jesus. He had recently celebrated a Passover meal with his disciples. Under the form of bread and wine, he had given the disciples himself.*
- *The memorial action of sharing his body and blood as food and drink is the sign of a disciples' unity with all those without credentials who live in a community of hope, that is prepared to relinquish control through their own sacrifice.*
- *Like the suffering ones in the texts, the modern Christian community constantly prays and meditates upon the meaning of the scriptures so as to receive from the Holy God, the offer of an alternative, life-giving, incarnated Word which will enliven and "comfort the weary"!*

### **Creed / Statement of Faith**

**Intercessions - 00<sup>th</sup> Week Ordinary Time [ Sun 00<sup>th</sup> – Sat 00<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2022 ]**

*invitation to pray:*

*commentator: Friends in Christ, let us pray for our needs and the needs of our world:*

1: *For the Christian community; that we may join Christ in letting go of control and power, and allow the Spirit of GOD to sustain and renew us:  
- (pause) - LORD, hear our prayer:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

2: *For leaders of government; that GOD will help them to follow the example of Jesus, in making service of those in need, a guiding principle of their work:  
- (pause) - LORD, hear our prayer:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

3: *For those who are experiencing loss in their lives; that GOD will sustain them through loss of homes, animals, livelihood or relationships, accompany them through their loss and lead them into new life:  
- (pause) - LORD, hear our prayer:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

4: *For peace in Ukraine: that the Passion of Christ will break down the barriers in the hearts of opponents and open new levels of honesty of dialogue, between Russia and Ukraine:  
- (pause) - LORD, hear our prayer:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

5: *Healer of the sick, we pray to you for: . . (see parish newsletter)  
Bless them for they share in Christ's passion through their suffering.  
May they be blessed with courage and patience:  
- (pause) - LORD, hear our prayer:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

6: *O GOD, whose mercy is never withheld from those who call upon you in hope, look kindly on your servants who have died confessing your name, including those who have died recently . . . and those whose anniversaries occur about now: . . . (see parish newsletter)  
Number them among your saints:  
- (pause) - LORD, hear our prayer:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

*Concluding Prayer:*

*commentator: O GOD, our Father, we ask You to hear our prayers.  
Keep us faithful to the way of Your beloved Son.  
We ask this through the same Jesus Christ  
our LORD, now and always:*

*all: **Amen***

## Prayer over the Gifts

*presider: ( Kia inoi tatou: ... ) LORD,  
through the passion of Your only-begotten Son  
draw near to us with Your forgiveness,  
that we who can merit nothing of ourselves  
may, through the unique sacrifice of Christ,  
experience the healing power of Your mercy.  
Grant this through Jesus Christ our LORD:*

*all: **Amen***

## Preface

*presider: The Lord be with you.*

*all: **And also with you.***

*presider: Lift up your hearts.*

*all: **We lift them up to the LORD.***

*presider: Let us give thanks to the LORD our GOD.*

*all: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*presider: It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal GOD.  
Though he was sinless,  
he suffered willingly for sinners;  
though innocent,  
he accepted condemnation to save the guilty.  
By his dying he washed away our sins;  
by rising again from the dead  
he won justification for us all.  
And so, with all the angels and saints,  
we sing the joyful hymn of your praise:*

*all: **Holy holy holy!***

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### Memorial Acclamation

*( the Eucharistic Prayer ends with the great 'AMEN' )*

### Introduction to the LORD's Prayer

*commentator: With trust in GOD, who nourishes us in the hour of need,  
let us pray as Jesus taught us:*

*all: **Our Father, . . .***

*presider: Deliver us, LORD, we pray, from every evil;  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that by the help of Your mercy,  
we may be always freed from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope*

*and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

*all: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, now and for ever. Amen.***

### **Sign of Peace**

*presider: LORD Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:  
'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you'.  
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church  
and grant us the peace and unity of your Realm,  
where you live, now and always:*

*all: **Amen.***

*presider: The peace of the LORD be with you:*

*all: **And with your spirit.***

*commentator: Let us offer each other an appropriate sign of peace:*

### **Lamb of GOD**

*all: **Lamb of GOD, You take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us (x2)  
Lamb of GOD, You take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.***

*presider: LORD Jesus Christ, Son of the living GOD,  
who by the will of the Father  
and the work of the Holy Spirit,  
through your death gave life to the world;  
free us by this your most holy Body and Blood  
from all our sins and from every evil:  
keep us always faithful to your commandments  
and never let us be parted from you.*

*all: **Amen***

*presider: Behold the Lamb of GOD. Behold him who takes away the sins of  
the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.*

*all: **LORD, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.***

### **Holy Communion**

*presider: Ko te Tinana o te Karaiti:  
( Ko nga Toto o te Karaiti: )*

### **Prayer after Communion**

*presider: ( Kia inoi tatou: ... ) LORD,  
You have fed us with this holy food  
and, through the death of Your Son,  
have inspired us to hope  
for what our faith promises;  
lead us by his resurrection  
to the haven we so earnestly desire.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our LORD: all: **Amen.***

*( an opportunity for announcements/notices etc. . . . )*

### **Dismissal**

*commentator: We are sent; in the name of the GOD,  
Father of all outsiders;  
in the name of Jesus,  
Glory of GOD the Father;  
in the name of the Spirit,  
Comforter of the weary;  
To show Christ's power  
for life in the world,  
in order that  
the powers of death  
might be seen for what the truly are -  
- a distortion  
rather than a welcome release!  
The obedience to God's will  
that Jesus showed  
and the trust demanded of Him,  
are all the more impressive  
when it is realized  
how powerful the enemy (of death)  
he encounters!  
May we be rescued  
from our fear of dying  
and from the endless precautions  
we take against death;  
May the story of Jesus show us –  
that acceptance of GOD's will  
in the face of our vulnerability  
is transformative!  
We pray in his name,  
until we gather again:*

*all: **Amen***

### **The Blessing**

*presider: Kia whakapaingia koutou e te Atua kaha rawa,  
e te Matua, e te Tamaiti ✠ e te Wairua Tapu.*

*all: **Amene***

*commentator: The Mass has ended, go in peace.*

*all: **Thanks be to GOD***

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