



Preparation

To help you focus, prepare a worship space. Suggestions include:

- *Cover a table with a jacket/coat*
- *Add a cross and/or candle*
- *Cut some branches and place around the room (if you can't get palm branches, any will do – as only John mentions palms).*
- *Turn off your phone, radio, TV and other distractions.*
- *Take a few moments to sit quietly. Take three deep breaths to help you focus and prepare.*
- *You might like to process around your house holding the branches before the service, or as you say the opening Psalm or singing the opening song, walking towards your 'altar' or place for worship.*

Devotional Service

You can use this service in your home as a family, by yourself, or call a friend/family member and go through it together. Nominate someone to be the leader, or take it in turns. (QR codes can be scanned with your phone to make it easier to play songs from a hard copy.)

Or join us Sundays on Zoom at 9:30am NSW time. Either:

- *Enter or click this link: zoom.us/j/519257802 , OR*
 - **Ring (02) 8015 6011 and enter meeting ID: 519 257 802 #**
(If line is busy, phone (03) 7018 2005 or (08) 7150 1149)
-

God, the Father, Son & Holy Spirit call us in

²⁵ Lord, save us!
Lord, grant us success!

Lord, save us!

²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you.

²⁷ The Lord is God,
and he has made his light shine on us.
With branches in hand, join in the festival procession
up to the horns of the altar.

Lord, save us!

²⁸ You are my God, and I will praise you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

Lord, save us! (Psalm 118:25-29)

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

Hosanna (AT 211, TIS 724)

- *[For recorded music: click, scan or enter the following link on your computer/phone/tablet www.sixmaddens.org/?p=12979 (NB: both instrumental and vocal versions available),*
- *Read or sing through the words without music, or*
- *Play live at home.]*



1
Hosanna, hosanna
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna, hosanna
Hosanna in the highest!

*Lord, we lift up your name
with hearts full of praise;
be exalted, O Lord my God!
Hosanna in the highest!*

2
Glory, glory
Glory to the King of kings!
Glory, glory
Glory to the King of kings!

Carl Tuttle; 1985 Shadow Spring Music (Admin.
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Theme Verse

Jesus was in the centre of the procession, and the people all around him (Matthew 21:9, NLT)

Something to Consider

As we process through the current turmoil and chaos, is Jesus the centre of our lives?

Lord Have Mercy

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

*thank you for making us
the centre of your mission.*

*Help us to centre our lives on you,
no matter what happens.*

Amen.



Matthew 21:1-17 (NLT) Jesus' Triumphant Entry

As Jesus and the disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the town of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. ²“Go into the village over there,” he said. “As soon as you enter it, you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone asks what you are doing, just say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will immediately let you take them.”

⁴This took place to fulfill the prophecy that said,

⁵“Tell the people of Jerusalem,

‘Look, your King is coming to you.

He is humble, riding on a donkey—
riding on a donkey’s colt.’”

⁶The two disciples did as Jesus commanded. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt to him and threw their garments over the colt, and he sat on it.

⁸Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹Jesus was in the centre of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting,

“Praise God for the Son of David!

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Praise God in highest heaven!”

¹⁰ The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as he entered. “Who is this?” they asked.

¹¹ And the crowds replied, “It’s Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

¹² Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out all the people buying and selling animals for sacrifice. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves. ¹³ He said to them, “The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves!”

¹⁴ The blind and the lame came to him in the Temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵ The leading priests and the teachers of religious law saw these wonderful miracles and heard even the children in the Temple shouting, “Praise God for the Son of David.”

But the leaders were indignant. ¹⁶ They asked Jesus, “Do you hear what these children are saying?”

“Yes,” Jesus replied. “Haven’t you ever read the Scriptures? For they say, ‘You have taught children and infants to give you praise.’” ¹⁷ Then he returned to Bethany, where he stayed overnight.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

We praise you, Jesus Christ.

Dwelling in the Word

Discuss or think about the following questions in relation to the passage we have just read.

- What stood out to you? Was there a particular word, phrase or thought that jumped out?
- Are there any questions you have? What are some possible answers?
- What do you think it might have been like to be part of that crowd?

Devotional Message

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, speak to us through your word and your Holy Spirit. Your word is truth (John 17:17). Amen.

14 years ago I was involved in a Kairos prison ministry program. After parking my car in the carpark for the first time, I noticed a sign that caught my attention. It said something like, “Safety Always, not just Safety First.”

Until then, I had always been taught, ‘Safety First’ by various organisations. But this sign made me realise that safety wasn’t simply the first thing to check off the list. It was something we ought to continually be conscious of.

For example, with just a ‘Safety First’ approach, once I had checked my safety and the safety of those around me, then I could just move onto the next thing on my list. I could get stuck into the task at hand.

But a ‘Safety Always’ mentality means that safety is not something I just check off my list. It’s something I need to be aware of all the time, every minute of the day, throughout every task I undertake. Not just before we start a task, but also the whole time we are doing the task – and when we are finished too.

The same philosophy is true of our life with Jesus. Some people consider life with Jesus as a Jesus-first mentality. In Matthew 6, after telling his followers not to worry, Jesus says,

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness
(Matthew 6:33, ESV)

Watching the way we live sometimes, it’s as if this means just starting the week by going to church, and then doing whatever we like with the rest of our week. It seems like some people think this means starting a meeting with a prayer and then behaving however you like for the rest of the meeting. It’s like we have remembered God and his kingdom first (check), now we are free to do whatever we like. When we behave like this we (perhaps rightly) are called ‘hypocrites’.

While the word ‘first’ is a literal translation from the Greek words of Jesus, the context tells us something different. Jesus actually meant it in terms of seeking the Father’s kingdom and righteousness always. He is calling us to approach life with a Jesus-always mentality, not just a Jesus-first mentality. Some of the versions that are more of a paraphrase pick up this thought. For example the NLT says,

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously
(Matthew 6:33, NLT)

“Above all else” means ‘continually’. “Live righteously” means that we make a life of being righteous, not just the first part of the day or week. Another paraphrase says,

Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions.
(Matthew 6:33, MSG)

The word ‘Steep’ reminds me of brewing tea. While the tea bag is in the cup, the water is infused with the flavours, aromas and colours of the tea. Likewise, our lives are to be infused with the flavours and aromas of Jesus’ love for you and me. Jesus wants to colour our lives and this world with his amazing grace and mercy. The best way to do that is by Jesus being at the centre of our lives.

So rather than thinking of the Christian life as a list with Jesus at number one. I find it better to think of life with Jesus more like a wagon wheel or a bicycle tyre. Have the right tension on the spokes and the wheel will be straight and run smoothly. But if the tension is wrong, the rim will become bent and rub against the brakes. Or even worse, the rim will not be centred around the hub and the journey will be very bumpy.

In life we have many things we are trying to balance. Things like work and rest, family and friends, home and community. These all create tension in our lives. When these become out of balance, life can become bent and bumpy – especially if one of these becomes too close to the centre and focus of our lives.

The bible tells us that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are to be the centre and hub of all that we are and do. If we get this right, everything else will be in their rightful place. With Christ at the centre, life is better. That’s because,

He holds everything together. (Colossians 1:17, NIRV)

Not just the whole of creation, but he holds everything together in our lives also.

I have a special spanner in my shed. It’s called a spoke spanner. I use it to adjust the tension of the spokes on my bicycle rim when it gets out of shape.

In some ways, Jesus is like that spoke spanner. He helps us manage the correct tension between the various aspects of our lives. He also shows us when things are out of kilter and helps us get them back in balance again to make the journey through life much smoother.

On Palm Sunday, Jesus was at the centre of the Crowd. Jesus was the central figure at the last supper. He was the central focus of the arrest that night and the discussions the next day. On Good Friday, of the three crosses, he was on the central one as he bled and died for our sins. What's more, you and I are the central reason he came to earth, died and rose again.

May the Father, Son and Holy Spirit always be at the centre of our lives. And when life gets bent out of shape or wobbly, may we repent and be re-centred of Jesus Christ and his cross.

Confessing our Sin and our Saviour – Introduction

It's easy to keep Jesus the centre and focus of our lives when we are surrounded by people encouraging us to focus on him. But life has so many distractions and demands. So many things that require our attention, that it's easy to lose our focus on Jesus.

Perhaps we've also been living with a Jesus-first rather than a Jesus-always mentality. Either way, life gets bent out of shape.

In today's reading people had turned the temple grounds into a place of profiteering. Jesus came not just to play nice guy. He came to deal with sin. He came to deal with life when it gets out of shape. That's why he removed from the temple those businesses taking advantage of others – and in such an impacting way.

So let's ask him to deal with the sin in our lives. Let's refocus on Jesus Christ and his cross. Let's repent of our contribution to things becoming bent up. And let's ask him to forgive our sin and ask for his guidance to help hold the right tension and get things back in balance.

Confessing our Sin and our Saviour

Father God,

**it is true that in our human nature we are sinners,
and we are in need of repentance and forgiveness.**

We confess our sins,

**whether through action or lack of action,
whether in our thoughts or thoughtlessness,
whether by our attitudes or misunderstandings.**

We ask that you forgive us.

**We thank you that through Jesus Christ's death you do forgive us.
Turn us around so that we can walk in your holy ways again.**

**We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord
and the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Absolution – you are forgiven, absolutely!

Jesus came to forgive our sin

“Praise God for the Son of David!”

Jesus is the Son of God, the only one who can remove our sin,

“Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Praise God in highest heaven!” (Matthew 21:9, NLT)

May we be reassured that our Lord Jesus Christ died and rose again for us – to forgive our sins and straighten out our lives. May we know the reality of this more and more each day. We are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Peace be with us.

Amen.

When our life began again (AT 147, LHS 759, TIS 357)

- *[For recorded music: click, scan or enter the following link on your computer/phone/tablet https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuwkteV_jik,*
- *Read or sing through the words without music, or*
- *Play live at home.]*

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.



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.

Robin Mann 1949–
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Prayer of God's people (the Church)

Theme Verse

Jesus was in the centre of the procession, and the people all around him (Matthew 21:9, NLT)

Something to Consider

As we process through the current turmoil and chaos, is Jesus the centre of our lives?

Take a moment to reflect on what God has been saying to you during today's service.

God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless us

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)
Amen.

Jesus Christ teaches, 'Pray like this': (Matthew 6:9-13)

- *[Sing along with Darryl Kemp to a version used at 'Chapel on the Hill' using this link:
<https://www.facebook.com/darryl.kemp.92/videos/1724507491024456/>*
- *or pray together:]*

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.



Preparing for Maundy Thursday Passover Meal

What was that first Passover like? While we are confined to our homes, Maundy Thursday will be a great opportunity for us to consider what it was like on the first Passover back in Egypt. To help us prepare for that experience you are encouraged to prepare as much as you can of the following:

- **Avoid yeast** as much as possible this week.
- **Read Exodus 11-12.**
- **Oil** to anoint your doorframe(s) - instead of lamb's blood.
- **Roast lamb and vegetables** - for main meal.
- **Cushions** if sitting on the floor.
- **Water** for washing hands.
- **Bitter herbs** (eg **Horseradish, (Romaine) lettuce or silver-beet**) - reminder of bitterness of slavery.
- **Bowl of Salt water** - reminder of tears as slaves.
- **Boiled egg** - reminder of Pharaoh's hardened heart.
- **Charoset/Haroset** (mixture of **chopped nuts, grated apples, cinnamon and sweet red wine**) made to look a bit like mortar with straw used between bricks.
- **Flat bread** (eg **wrap**) - made without yeast due to being in a hurry.
- **Fresh vegetable** (eg **parsley or celery**) - symbol of hope.
- **Red wine** (or **grape juice** etc) in bottle/jug/flask for pouring
- **Desert** - celebration and hope.
- **Candles**
- **Bowl & towel** - to wash each others feet
- Before the meal, get **dressed ready to go on a journey** - eg shoes on, walking stick, perhaps pack a bag, or toiletries bag, and place by the door as if leaving first thing in the morning.

Further instructions in separate booklet included online and at back of Trinity over weekend. **We suggest you try to start your meal about 6:30pm so that after your meal, you can join us for a Maundy Thursday Zoom gathering at 7:30pm** to share your experience and a time of worship.