

Sunday Liturgy of the Word

@ Home

GATHER

- Prepare by tidying the room, finding a Bible and crucifix and lighting a candle as a reminder of God's presence.
- Take a moment to allow what is in your heart to rise, and offer your thoughts to the loving care of the Lord.
- Make the sign of the cross.
- Sing or listen to '[Hosanna, Son of David](#)' or '[My God, My God \(Psalm 22\)](#)'.

PRAY FOR MERCY

For the times when we have not loved God as God loves us.
Lord, have mercy.

For the times when we have not forgiven as God forgives us.
Christ, have mercy.

For the times when we have not been thankful for all God's gifts.
Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and lead us to life everlasting. *Amen.*

READ

(Visit universalis.com for readings at Mass, including unabridged gospel.)

First reading Isaiah 50:4–7

Responsorial psalm Psalm 21(22):8–9, 17–20, 23–24
R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Second reading Philippians 2:6–11

Gospel acclamation Philippians 2:8–9
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.

GOSPEL (ABRIDGED)

When the soldiers had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews'. At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right side and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said, 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. '

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' That is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and

see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit. At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'

—Matthew 27:33–41, 45–54

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REFLECT

(See also melbournecatholic.org.au/lent/.)

For adults

In Matthew's passion narrative, we witness Jesus' intense, single-minded determination to do God's will; this trust in the Father is put to the ultimate test on Calvary. Jesus, the most beautiful, grace-filled human being God ever created, must also face death. As death closes in on him, he prays to the Father a psalm of lament: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Psalm 21:1).

- How can we find trust in God when things go horribly wrong?
- How do we find God present in our darkness?

For children

- Today we remember that Jesus' great love brings him to the cross. What words do you say when you're in trouble, need help or are afraid?
- Jesus' words to his Father tell God that Jesus is feeling alone as he dies on the cross. I wonder what God the Father would say to Jesus to comfort him.

PRAY

The Creed ...

For ourselves, the world and the church

Loving Father, as we journey with Jesus during his passion and death, we pray for our faith community. May we come to a deeper understanding and acceptance of what that means for us. Lord hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the sick and the suffering that they may be healed. We pray for those who have died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace with Christ. Lord hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Take a moment to offer your own prayers to God ...

Our Father ...

The blessing

May God bless and keep us. May God's face shine on us. May God be kind to us and give us peace.

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