

Welcoming
Growing
Sharing



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA
where love comes to life

Sunday 13 April 2025

A king on a donkey

Scripture

[Luke 19:28–38](#)

Reflection

Can you imagine it? The commander of the Roman legion rides into Jerusalem with all the pomp and pageantry to which they were accustomed – riding on a donkey! The onlookers would have held their stomachs to stifle a collective guffaw, snickering at such a sight. Yet Jesus, whom the crowds praise as ‘king’, does just that. Rides into Jerusalem on a donkey – and a young, little one at that!

It’s curious that the Christian church marks the beginning of this week, Holy Week, with the event we know as Palm Sunday. Even the gospels other than Luke don’t place this event at the beginning of this week. But there’s something significant about marking Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem and the welcome he receives at the beginning of this week.

For the rest of the week in our devotions, we will turn to the Gospel of John. One of the themes of his account of the Passion story is that of Jesus as king, especially in his trial before Pilate and his crucifixion. But what kind of king?

Among some Christians today, there is a strong emphasis on Jesus as king. You can see it in a lot of modern Christian songs. Jesus rules, he sits on the throne, and all power belongs to him. For me, personally, that puts him out of reach. The Jesus the crowds proclaim as king is betrayed, ridiculed, beaten, bloodied and crucified. He is the king who comes not on a stallion but on a donkey. As we go into Holy Week and relive the events, here, at the start, we are reminded of who this Jesus really is. He is the king on a donkey, and a donkey was considered a ‘beast of burden’ – a carrier of heavy loads.

A verse from the prophet Isaiah has come to mean a lot to me in recent years. Isaiah 53:4 says, ‘Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows’. That’s my king. Not far off, but right there alongside me in all my experiences. The king, riding on a donkey.

by Pastor Jim Strelan

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are my king. You sit on the right, ruling side of God. But I thank you that you are not way up there, somewhere away from me and my life – you are alongside me, sharing my burdens, and there for me. Thank you. Amen.

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WE PRAY
13 April 2025

Loving God:

- † We thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus. Help us to live in gratitude for his sacrifice, reflecting his love and grace in all that we do.
- † Trusting in your power to heal and restore, we place David S, and all those we know to be in need of your unwavering presence, in your loving hands.
- † For the upcoming ordinations of those answering your call to serve as pastors in the LCA NZ, we pray for encouragement, confidence and joy for;
 - Justin Allen (Papunya NT) - Mark Tung (Auckland NZ)
 - Adam Morris (Aberfoyle Park SA) - Sue Westhorp (Box Hill Vic)
 - Abraham Poulson (Utju NT) - Tanya Wittwer (Adelaide SA)
 - Maria Rudolph (Perth WA)
- † Father, our Saviour laid down his life for every one of us. We pray for;
 - all affected by natural disasters in Australia, DR Congo, Indonesia, Myanmar, PNG, Philippines, Thailand
 - those who are suffering from ongoing conflict in Ethiopia, Haiti, Israel and Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine

Guide us, Lord, as we pray for:

- † The leaders you have appointed over the LCA NZ, churchwide: LCA Bishop, Paul Smith, Assistant Bishop, Stephen Schultz, and the College of Bishops and locally District Bishop, Andrew Brook.
- † All pastors and parishes, principals and schools of the LCA NZ, especially those in our South West Metro zone.
- † Pastoral Care Workers of the South Western School Ministry Team. We give thanks and praise for Sam McIver and the Seacliff Primary community. *How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news! (Romans 10:14-15)*
- † The students, families, teachers and staff of Immanuel Primary and Immanuel College. We pray your blessings over College Principal, John Thompson, Principal IPS, Bec Clements, College Chaplain, Pastor Simon Cooper and Director of Boarding, Ujith Perera. Work your purposes through them as they set their eyes on you.
- † The chaplains you have called to serve the defence forces, hospitals, Police, prisons, and universities in the SA/NT District and their coordinator, Heidi Smith.
- † The leaders you have appointed over our country: Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, State Premier, Peter Malinauskas and all our local government leaders.
- † Healing, strength and comfort as we pray alongside Barb and Brian K, David S, Elle E, Jennifer H, Tim S, their families and carers. You have the power to move in our lives and through our circumstances.

COME ALONG TO HANDMADE ON THE 13TH OF APRIL!

Diffusion Productions will be showing their new short film, 'Listen'. This film has been made by local Adelaide Christians and is an interpretation of the story of Samuel hearing the call from God in the night as read in 1 Samuel. The filmmakers will be sharing a bit about their journey in making the short film and also leading discussion around ideas brought up through the film.

There will be nibbles and drinks available from **5pm at the St John's Lutheran Church Ministry Centre (15 Marlborough St, Malvern)** and we hope to see you there!

FRIENDS OF LUTHERAN ARCHIVES-Thursday 24 April 7:30pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 139 Archer Street, North Adelaide

Elizabeth Buck's Memories of Koonibba Mission. All welcome. Supper, \$5 donation.

Livestream on FoLA YouTube channel; <https://www.youtube.com/>

[@friendsoflutheranarchives9644/live](https://www.youtube.com/@friendsoflutheranarchives9644/live)



ELECTION DAY BBQ FUNDRAISER-Saturday 3 May

Immanuel Primary School

Helpers required to run a BBQ and raise funds for ILC.

Please put your name on the roster in the foyer or contact Heather 0408 168 922.

JOIN ALWS IN CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF SERVICE-Saturday 3 May

Walk My Way @ ALC, North Adelaide

Together, let's give thanks to God for 75 years of Lutheran service through ALWS and commit to changing the future for 75,000 vulnerable children impacted by poverty and war. ALWS Walk My Way Registrations are essential. Register now at

www.alws75.org.au or call 1300 763 407.

51st LCA SA-NT DISTRICT CONVENTION OF SYNOD-17&18 May

Convention of Synod is a coming together of congregational lay delegates, church leaders, officials and clergy, primarily to conduct the business of the Lutheran Church of Australia, South Australia – Northern Territory District. It is the District's Annual General Meeting. Thank you, Trevor, for generously volunteering your time as ILCs rep.

LUTHERAN CARE 2025 LENTEN APPEAL-40 Days: Kindness in Action

With a rapidly increasing number of people needing support right now, we are hoping the local SA community can rally around their neighbours to help break the cycle of hardship and give hope to families who need it the most. Envelopes available from the Welcome Table or visit the website for more information [https://](https://www.lutherancare.org.au/lenten-appeal/)

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ST PAUL'S COMMUNITY CARE CENTRE-Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00-2:00

St Paul's LC, 48 Brighton Road, Glenelg

Non-perishable food, bathroom, kitchen and laundry items as well as volunteers urgently needed.

ILC PRAYER GROUP-Thursdays & Sundays 9:00

You're invited to join in prayer on Thursdays and/or Sundays before worship in the Prayer Chapel. Please leave any **prayer requests** in the gold box on the Welcome Table.

If you have any **feedback**, you can leave a note in the locked wooden box on the Welcome Table. Paper and pens provided, and your message can be anonymous.

PARISH VACANT

Ann Goodwin - ILC Office Administrator

Email: agoodwin@immanuel.sa.edu.au

Phone: 8375 1755

Chris Schutz—Nurture Team Leader

christine.r.schutz@gmail.com

Phone: 0439 899 590

COMING UP at ILC

Sunday 13 April	9:30am	Worship without Holy Communion-6th Sunday in Lent -Palm Sunday
Thursday 17 April	9:00am 7:00pm	Prayer in the Prayer Chapel- <i>all welcome</i> Worship with Holy Communion-Pastor Malcolm Pech -Maundy Thursday
Friday 18 April	9:30am	Worship without Holy Communion-Pastor Malcolm Pech-Good Friday
Sunday 20 April	9:30am	Worship with Holy Communion-Pastor Malcolm Pech -Easter Sunday

REGULAR ELECTRONIC GIVING (REG)

Fill and lodge a Direct Debit Request Form (available from the office), giving the LLL authority to transfer a specific amount from your bank account to ILC's REG account.

Account Name: NOVAR GARDENS IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH REG A/C

BSB: 704942

Account No: 100100643



LCA Child Safety Standards for Congregations

What does ILC do to keep our children and vulnerable people safe?

LCA Child Safety Standards for Congregations:

<https://www.lca.org.au/ministry-support/child-safety-standards/>

LCA Policies and Procedures:

<https://www.lca.org.au/services-resources-training/policies/>

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah 50:4-9

Psalms 118:1,2,19-29

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 19:28-40

Israel's Sin and the Servant's Obedience

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good

Imitating Christ's Humility

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King