



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Luke 23:33-43
An Unexpected King

For Saltbush Communion go to:

<https://vimeo.com/582800387>

Welcome

The God whose expansive love flows through all the universe chooses also to be revealed in the least and the humble. Come, know God in your lives, through Christ. Amen

Gathering Prayer

Gracious and Eternal Creator, you who come in our midst, you who share in our pain, you who transform our lives through your abiding love and your call to us to see you in the least, the hungry, the poor, the imprisoned, the naked, the lost, the grieving and in ourselves. Your reign challenges and changes our world view, to be a people who live compassionate, insightful lives. May we be authentic in our faith, embodying the Christ we serve. In whose name we pray, Amen.

Song

[Immortal, Invisible God only Wise](https://nathandrake.bandcamp.com/track/immortal-invisible-2) Nathan Drake
<https://nathandrake.bandcamp.com/track/immortal-invisible-2>

Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

You are invited to turn to those around you and offer them a word of greeting and peace.

The Word around the Bush

Luke 23:33-43

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Message

From your Scattered Community Minister or another leader within your gathering.

Questions for conversation

What makes your life different in knowing Christ as King? How different is Christ the 'King' to rulers of our world?

How does it make a difference in the life of the church?

Silence

Spend some time in silence sitting still (suggested 5 minutes). Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. Don't worry too much if your mind is filled with other thoughts, allow them to drift away like a feather on the wind.

Prayers for Others

Eternal Presence, Creator God who Reigns with Christ, dwell deeply within us that we would know your truth, your love, your hope, your reign in our lives. That our own lives reflect you and your purposes, your will, refreshing relationships, communities and your creation. As you dwell within us Holy Presence may we know the sacred life you call us to, that we

are made in your image, and we acknowledge your image in all we meet. At this time, we bring you our prayers.

O Christ we open ourselves in prayer for:

Your creation ...

For others we have heard about throughout our world..

For other people we know and are close to ...

For our church and our wider community ...

For ourselves ...

Hear our prayers God of life, hope and compassion.

Music for Reflection:

Holy, Holy, Holy by Malcolm Gordon

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/holy-holy-holy>

Closing Responses & Blessing

Go in faith as images of the Living God!

Know Christ the King in your life and in the world you live.

In all you meet may you see Christ, and may they see the person of Christ in you.

And may God, the eternal loving presence walk alongside you.

God in Christ be your constant guide.

The Holy Spirit nurture, encourage and lead you to truth.

**Bless us and the people we meet along the way
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**