



‘Worship at home’

September 6th 2026

We come to worship God,
who we find in the holy spaces and the
ordinary places of our lives, sometimes in unexpected ways.

As we do so, we are reminded that each of us
Is part of the story of God’s people,
and we find our identity in God, the source of our being.

Opening

Come, let us praise God!

*Sing a new song - a song of God’s
goodness and mercy, faithfulness and love.*

*For God delights in God’s people,
crowning them with honour and glory!*

Let us worship God! based on Psalm 149:1-4

From the time of God’s covenant with Abraham,
the ancient Israelites had known themselves as
God’s chosen people. They were to keep God’s
law and be faithful to God’s ways, and God
would protect and provide for them. Abraham’s
descendants were from Canaan, however, during a time of
famine, many moved to Egypt looking for food. They settled
there for several generations, until a
new Pharaoh felt they were a threat
and took measures to subdue them.



The book of Exodus
takes up the story of
God’s people, with
the call of Moses
from a burning

bush, and the confrontations with Pharaoh.
Today’s Scripture gives instructions to the
Israelites as they prepare to flee from Egypt
and the Pharaoh.



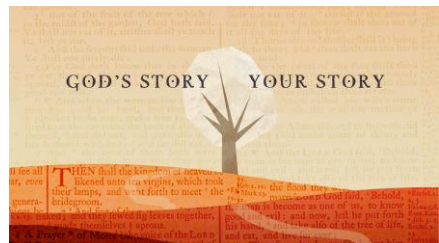
Exodus 12:1-14

The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in Egypt: "This month is to be the first month of the year for you. Give these instructions to the whole community of Israel: On the tenth day of this month each man must choose either a lamb or a young goat for his household. If his family is too small to eat a whole animal, he and his next-door neighbour may share an animal, in proportion to the number of people and the amount that each person can eat. You may choose either a sheep or a goat, but it must be a one-year-old male without any defects. Then, on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, the whole community of Israel will kill the animals. The people are to take some of the blood and put it on the doorposts and above the doors of the houses in which the animals are to be eaten. That night the meat is to be roasted, and eaten with bitter herbs and with bread made without yeast. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled, but eat it roasted whole, including the

head, the legs, and the internal organs. You must not leave any of it until morning; if any is left over, it must be burned. You are to eat it quickly, for you are to be dressed for travel, with your sandals on your feet and your walking stick in your hand. It is the Passover Festival to honour me, the Lord.

"On that night I will go through the land of Egypt, killing every first-born male, both human and animal, and punishing all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood on the doorposts will be a sign to mark the houses in which you live. When I see the blood, I will pass over you and will not harm you when I punish the Egyptians. You must celebrate this day as a religious festival to remind you of what I, the Lord, have done. Celebrate it for all time to come."

Good News Bible



Reflect on your own life. Are there family stories which ground you and form part of your self-identity?

What makes them important for you?



This story of the Israelites escaping from Egypt forms the basis of the Jewish Passover festival.

The instructions are specific: “this month is to be the first month of the year for you”; this is to be a new start. There is to be just enough for each person, and they are to share what they have. They are to make sure there is none left behind, for there is no coming back. There is no time to add yeast and wait for the bread to rise, for they must make haste, without rushing. They are to eat quickly, dressed for travel, with their sandals and walking sticks, ready to move as God calls. This meal marks freedom from slavery and the hope of a new beginning. Each year, as Jewish people re-enact this event, the symbolic acts of eating the lamb, unleavened bread and bitter herbs are reminders of God’s saving actions and embodiments of hope. The celebration of this story is crucial to the Jewish identity as God’s people.



We recall that the institution of the Last Supper has its origins in the Passover festival, when Jesus celebrated this meal with his followers on the night he was betrayed. In re-enacting and celebrating this event, as Holy Communion, Christians find identity and meaning. In the teachings, death and resurrection of Christ, God’s salvation and mercy has been made known for all people. We too are offered freedom from slavery and the hope of a new beginning. In and through Christ, we all become part of the story of God.

As God’s people, we are grounded in the stories that form the foundation of our faith. They are part of our self-identity. Yet we are a pilgrim people, always on the way towards a promised goal. We are grounded in tradition, while dressed for travel and ready to move as God calls. This week marks the beginning of spring in Australia. Soon, as buds blossom and sheep lamb, we will see signs of new life emerge. We are reminded again that Christ gives hope for new beginnings.

What is one thing you hope for in this next season? For yourself? For the people of God?



Prayer

Gracious God, you give meaning to our stories.
We give thanks for the great stories of our faith,
which ground us, teach us, and inspire us.
We give thanks for Christ Jesus, in whom we find meaning
and new ways of interpreting the world.
We give thanks for the promise of new beginnings,
when we look around the see despair and darkness,
when we feel bound and caught, slaves to the world,
or our own expectations, or those of others,
you invite us to be dressed for travel,
with our walking sticks, ready to move on with you.
We ask for wise guidance in our journey
as we seek to best live as your people
together at this time, part of your story.
On this Father's Day, we pray for fathers, grandfathers,
and special people in our lives who have been a part of our
story, and for the privilege of being a part of theirs.
Reveal yourself again to us...
in this place, in those around us, in your Word,
we pray in Christ. Amen

*...the Church is a pilgrim
people, always on the way
towards a promised goal;
here the Church does not
have a continuing city but
seeks one to come. On the
way Christ feeds the Church
with Word and Sacraments,
and it has the gift of the Spirit
in order that it may not lose
the way.* - Basis of Union p 4

Closing:

We walk on as God's people,
a pilgrim people, on our way
to a promised goal. Our story
unfolds, as we recognise we
are a part of God's story of
love. Called by Christ, who
walks beside us, and
empowered by the Holy Spirit
to share the story with
others. We go in peace and
love. Amen.