



## St John the Divine

### Eucharist Service

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Welcome to our live-streamed service, linked from our parish website: [www.stjohndivine.org.au](http://www.stjohndivine.org.au)

#### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

#### Sentence

If you, O Lord, should note what we do wrong, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

*Psalm 130.3-4*

Hymn: God is love, let heav'n adore him;

*by Timothy Rees (1874-1939) alt. - tune: Abbot's Leigh*

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- 1. God is love, let heav'n adore him;  
God is love, let earth rejoice;  
let creation sing before him,  
and exalt him with one voice.  
God, who laid the earth's foundation,  
he who spread the heavens above,  
and who breathes through all creation  
God is love, eternal Love.**
- 2. God is love, and gently enfolding  
all the world in one embrace,  
with unfailing grasp is holding  
every child of every race.  
And when human hearts are breaking  
under sorrow's iron rod,  
then they find that selfsame aching  
deep within the heart of God.**
- 3. God is love, and, though with blindness  
sin afflicts our human hearts,  
God's eternal lovingkindness  
holding, guiding, grace imparts.  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
o'er us final triumph gain;  
God is love, so love for ever  
o'er the universe must reign.**

#### PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

We have too often failed to respond to Christ's call  
to live his way of sacrificial love,  
fearing the cost and being blind to the blessing.  
As we prepare to offer thanks and praise for that love  
shown to us, let us call to mind our sins.

*Silence is kept.*

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:  
fill us with your Spirit.  
Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our  
faith:  
fill us with your Spirit.

Christ have mercy

**Christ have mercy**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:  
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy**

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### GLORIA AND COLLECT

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Let us pray.

O God,  
you call your Church to witness  
that in Christ we are reconciled to you:  
help us so to proclaim the good news of your love,  
that all who hear it may turn to you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*The story of Joseph reassuring his brothers of his forgiveness of their betrayal provides an introduction to Jesus' parable of the need to have a forgiving heart.*

#### First reading - from the Old Testament

A reading from Genesis 50.15-21:

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and

your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

May your word live in us  
**And bear much fruit to your glory.**

*Gospel reading*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew 18.21–35

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Then Peter came and said to Jesus, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your sister or brother from your heart.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord,  
**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Sermon*

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,  
who made and loves all that is.  
We believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was born, lived, died and rose again,  
and is coming to call all to account.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,  
and brings all things to their true end.**

This is our faith, the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

*Response:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith  
we may by your grace receive,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Christ is our peace.

He has reconciled us to God  
in one body by the cross.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Hymn: 'Forgive our sins as we forgive'  
by Rosamond E Herklots (1905-87) - tune: Erin  
© Oxford University Press, CCL No 632290

- 1. 'Forgive our sins as we forgive'  
you taught us, Lord, to pray,  
but you alone can grant us grace  
to live the words we say.**
- 2. How can your pardon reach and bless  
the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs and will not let  
old bitterness depart?**
- 3. In blazing light your cross reveals  
the truth we dimly knew,  
what trivial debts are owed to us,  
how great our debt to you.**
- 4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls  
and bid resentment cease;  
then, bound to all in bonds of love,  
our lives will spread your peace.**

Blessed be God,  
by whose grace creation is renewed,  
by whose love heaven is opened,  
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary  
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross

and rising to new life,

he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,

and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And now we give you thanks because you teach us  
not to withhold forgiveness for others  
and to be generous with mercy  
as you are merciful towards us.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you  
for these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and wine,  
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,  
we who eat and drink them  
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Drink from this, all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant  
shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:  
proclaiming his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming again,  
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,  
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice  
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,  
unite us in the body of your Son,  
and bring us with all your people  
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom, and in whom,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
we worship you, Father,  
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us,  
we are confident to pray,

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

As this broken bread was once many grains  
which have been gathered together and made one  
bread:

**so may your Church be gathered  
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for  
you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life.  
Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for  
you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with  
thanksgiving. **Amen.**

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for  
you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life.  
Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed  
for you, and be thankful. **Amen.**

#### POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for feeding us  
with the spiritual food of the body and blood  
of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love,  
and that we are living members of Christ's body.

Father,

**we offer ourselves to you  
as a living sacrifice  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

Hymn: *There's a wideness in God's mercy*  
by Frederick W Faber (1814-63) alt. - tune: *Daily Daily*  
public domain, CCL No 632290

**1. There's a wideness in God's mercy  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in his justice,  
which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heav'n;  
there is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgement giv'n.**

2. **For the love of God is broader  
than the scope of human mind,  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.  
But we make his love too narrow  
by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify his strictness  
with a zeal he will not own.**
3. **There is plentiful redemption  
in the blood that has been shed;  
there is joy for all the members  
in the sorrows of the Head.  
If our love were but more simple,  
we should take him at his word;  
and our lives would be all gladness  
in the joy of Christ our Lord.**

#### BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The love of the Lord Jesus  
draw you to himself,  
the power of the Lord Jesus  
strengthen you in his service,  
the joy of the Lord Jesus  
fill your hearts;  
and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and those whom you love and pray for,  
now and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

#### Permissions

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#### NOTICES

*Under the **Stage 4 Covid-19 regulations**, please note that no one is currently permitted to be in the church at all, except for some very specific, officially permitted reasons, such as the live-streamed Sunday service. Not even for admin, cleaning or planned maintenance.*

*If anyone needs to come on site for any reason, then you have to be given written permission by Fr John beforehand - otherwise both you and the parish would be liable for large fines.*

*Our **weekly newsletter** is being distributed via email or post, to every household. This has detailed news, and includes the readings, sermon, and some prayers. If you are a member of the parish and are not yet receiving this directly - or would like to become a member in order to receive it - please contact me directly, or through the parish office at [office@stjohndivine.org.au](mailto:office@stjohndivine.org.au)*

**Offertory:** *Thank you to all those who are managing to send their offertories to the Parish Office, or directly into the parish bank account: 'St John's - general account' BSB: 033044 Account: 251582*