



St John the Divine

Eucharist Service

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday 20th September 2020

Welcome to our live-streamed service, linked from our parish website: 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

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2.8-9

Hymn: The kingdom of God is justice and joy
by Bryn Rees (1911-1983) alt. - tune: Paderborn
© 1973 Alexander Scott, CCL No 632290

- 1. The kingdom of God is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.**
- 2. The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,
the captives are freed, the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened instead of despair.**
- 3. The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.**
- 4. God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,
and all things cry 'Glory!' to God all in all.**

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.

Ever loving God,
you bring to completion all good works begun by you:
inspire us to proclaim Christ in all circumstances,
so that by sharing in his life and suffering
others may come to believe,
and the harvest of righteousness be produced
for your glory and praise,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Over these next four Sundays, the lectionary gives us the opportunity to work through the four chapters of the letter to the Philippians, and so chapter one is the main focus for today. An appropriate short Gospel reading has been chosen to highlight how God can use unfortunate circumstances - like blindness, or Paul's imprisonment - to enact blessing.

First reading - from the New Testament

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Philippi,
chapter 1:

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with
the bishops and deacons:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly
praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,
because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day
until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began
a good work among you will bring it to completion by the
day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way
about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for
all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my
imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the
gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you
with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my

prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

I want you to know, beloved, that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ; and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear.

Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defence of the gospel; the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true; and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will result in my deliverance. It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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 John 9.1-3

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.'

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: *We are your people*
by Brian A Wren (b.1936) - tune: Whitfield
© 1999 Hope Publishing Co, CCL No 632290

- 1. We are your people;
Spirit of grace,
you dare to make us
to all our neighbours,
Christ's living voice, hands and face.**
- 2. Joined in community,
treasured and fed,
may we discover
gifts in each other,
willing to lead and be led.**
- 3. Rich in diversity,
help us to live
closer than neighbours,
open to strangers,
able to clash and forgive.**
- 4. Glad of tradition,
help us to see
in all life's changing,
where you are leading,
where our best efforts should be.**

**5. Give, as we venture
justice and care
(peaceful, resisting,
waiting or risking)
wisdom to know when and where.**

**6. Christ, as we serve you
in different ways,
may all we're doing
show that you're living,
meeting your love with our praise.**

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 bless us
with your transformative power,
and in bringing to completion
all good works begun by you.

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: I know that my Redeemer

by Hallgrim Pjetursson (1614-74) tr. Charles V Pilcher
(1879-1961) - tune: Crüger
translation © F E V Pilcher, CCL No 632290

- 1. I know that my Redeemer
lives crowned upon the throne;
Lord over earth and heaven
he saves, and he alone;
he conquered death by dying
upon the accursed tree,
and from his death sprang glorious
eternal life for me.**
- 2. I think upon my Saviour,
I trust his power to keep,
his mighty arm enfolds me
awaking and in sleep.
Christ is my rock, my courage;
Christ is my soul's true life;
and Christ (my heart still knows it)
will bear me through the strife.**
- 3. In Jesus' name I'm living;
in Jesus' name I'll die;
I'll fear not though life's vigour
from death's cold shadow fly.
O grave, where is your triumph?
O death, where is your sting?
Come when you will, and welcome!
secure in Christ I sing.**

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.

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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*

Note: last week's newsletter was only emailed out late on Friday evening. Printed copies for posting will only be made this next week, and included with the next newsletter.

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