



St John the Divine

Eucharist Service

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday 27th 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

Come, let us return to the Lord, that we may live before him.

Hosea 6.1a, 2b

Hymn: *Holy Spirit, go before us*
by Elizabeth J Smith (b.1956) - tune: *Nettleton*
© E J Smith, CCL No 632290

- Holy Spirit, go before us,
every mind and heart prepare
for good news of life in Jesus,
for the joyful hope we share.
Gently lead the lost to safety,
gently teach them Wisdom's way,
till they come to seek you gladly,
till we find the words to say.**
- Holy Spirit, come and help us,
give us words to speak of Christ.
Teach us how to tell all people:
deepest darkness can be light!
Help us tell how faithful God is,
and how Jesus sets us free;
take our words, and make them gospel,
so that many may believe.**
- Holy Spirit, stay to show us
how to serve as Christ served us.
May our words of love be grounded
in love's actions, first and last.
Your good news is news of justice,
and the strong befriend the weak
in your service, till compassion
builds the peace the nations seek.**

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.

Grant, O merciful God,

that your people may have that mind

that was in Christ Jesus,

who emptied himself, and took the form of a servant,
and in humility became obedient even to death.

For you have highly exalted him

and bestowed on him the name

that is above every name, Jesus Christ, the Lord;

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, in everlasting glory. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Over these four Sundays, we are working through the four chapters of the letter to the Philippians: chapter two is the main focus for today. An appropriate short Gospel reading has been chosen to highlight Jesus' teaching on the importance of humility, which provides a context for Paul's praise for the humility exercised by the Son of God.

First reading - from the New Testament

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Philippi,
2.1-3.1a:

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labour in vain. But even if I am being poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you— and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me. I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be cheered by news of you. I have no one like him who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. All of them are seeking their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But Timothy's worth you know, how like a son with a father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. I hope therefore to send him as soon as I see how things go with me; and I trust in the Lord that I will also come soon.

Still, I think it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus— my brother and co-worker and fellow-soldier, your messenger and minister to my need; for he has been longing for all of you, and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. He was indeed so ill that he nearly died. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, so that I would not have one sorrow after another. I am the more eager to send him, therefore, in order that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. Welcome him then in the Lord with all joy, and honour such people, because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for those services that you could not give me. Finally, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord.

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 18.1-5

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.'

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: Lord, you are the light of life to me
by Brian Richard Hoare (b.1935) - tune: Fairmead
© Hope Publishing Co., CCL No 632290

- 1. Lord, you are the light of life to me;
when darkness hides my path,
you help me see.
Shine on me, O Lord, that now and all my days
your light may lead me on, guiding my ways.**
- 2. Lord, you are the rock on which I stand,
stable and strong in you, held by your hand;
keep me safe, O Lord, in weakness let there be
your loving, firm embrace upholding me.**

3. **Lord, you are the truth that sets me free;
only in you is found true liberty.
Teach me then, O Lord, in all things to pursue
your good and perfect will, growing like you.**
4. **Lord, you are the Lamb of God who died,
suffering for love of me, scorned, crucified.
Love me still, O Lord; let others daily see
your selfless, serving love flowing through me.**
5. **Lord, you are the King who ever reigns;
earth's rulers rise and fall: your throne remains.
Rule my life, O Lord; I yield myself anew
your name to glorify, living for you.**

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,
through the teaching and example of your Son,
you show us your way of humility
as the way to truly engage with others.

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: Brother, sister, let me serve you
by Richard Gillard (b.1953) - tune: *Servant Song*
© Integrity Music, CCL No 632290

- 1. Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**
- 2. We are pilgrims on a journey
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**
- 3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you
speak the peace you long to hear.**
- 4. I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.**
- 5. When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.**
- 6. Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

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

Service excerpts:

- *A Prayer Book for Australia* © 1995 The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation
- *Common Worship* © 2006 The Archbishops' Council

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from *The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Anglicised Edition*, copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and are used by permission. All rights reserved.

CCLI Streaming Licence No. 129545

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*

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*