



**St John the Divine**  
*Eucharist Service*  
**20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 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

Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.

*Matthew 22.21*

Hymn: O God beyond all praising

by Michael Perry (b.1942-1996) - tune: Thaxted  
© Mrs B Perry/Jubilate Hymns, CCL No 632290

- O God beyond all praising,  
we worship you today  
and sing the love amazing  
that songs cannot repay;  
for we can only wonder  
at every gift you send,  
at blessings without number  
and mercies without end:  
we lift our hearts before you  
and wait upon your word,  
we honour and adore you,  
our great and mighty Lord.**
- Then hear, O gracious Saviour,  
accept the love we bring,  
that we who know your favour  
may serve you as our king;  
and whether our tomorrows  
be filled with good or ill,  
we'll triumph through our sorrows  
and rise to bless you still:  
to marvel at your beauty  
and glory in your ways,  
and make a joyful duty  
our sacrifice of praise.**

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,  
whose beauty is beyond our imagining  
and whose power we cannot comprehend:  
show us your glory,  
as far as we can grasp it,  
and shield us from knowing more than we can bear,  
until we may look upon you without fear,  
through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*The Gospel passage describes Jesus being confronted by groups who want to denounce him for speaking against God, only to find themselves thwarted by his deeper wisdom. The Old Testament reading that has curiously been associated with this Gospel passage reveals God as using the Babylonian king Cyrus for God's own purposes, even though Cyrus does not know God.*

First reading - from the New Testament

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah 45.1-7

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
whose right hand I have grasped  
to subdue nations before him  
and strip kings of their robes,  
to open doors before him—  
and the gates shall not be closed:  
I will go before you  
and level the mountains,  
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze  
and cut through the bars of iron,  
I will give you the treasures of darkness

and riches hidden in secret places,  
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,  
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.  
For the sake of my servant Jacob,  
and Israel my chosen,  
I call you by your name,  
I surname you, though you do not know me.  
I am the Lord, and there is no other;  
besides me there is no god.  
I arm you, though you do not know me,  
so that they may know, from the rising of the sun  
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;  
I am the Lord, and there is no other.  
I form light and create darkness,  
I make weal and create woe;  
I the Lord do all these things.

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 22.15-33

**Glorify to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

The same day some Sadducees came to him, saying there is no resurrection; and they asked him a question, saying, 'Teacher, Moses said, "If a man dies childless, his brother shall marry the widow, and raise up children for his brother." Now there were seven brothers among us; the first married, and died childless, leaving the widow to his brother. The second did the same, so also the third, down to the seventh. Last of all, the woman herself died. In the resurrection, then, whose wife of the seven will she be? For all of them had married her.'

Jesus answered them, 'You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"? He is God not of the dead, but of the living.' And when the crowd heard it, they were astounded at his teaching.

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: *There is a Redeemer*

*by Melody Green (b.1946) - tune: There is a Redeemer*  
© 1982, Ears to Hear Music/Birdwing Music/BMG Songs Inc/  
EMI Christian Music Publishing, CCL No 632290

- 1. There is a Redeemer,  
Jesus, God's own son,  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Holy one.  
Thank you, O my Father,  
for giving us your Son,  
and leaving your Spirit  
till the work on earth is done.**
- 2. Jesus, my Redeemer,  
name above all names,  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
O for sinners slain.  
Thank you, O my Father,  
for giving us your Son,  
and leaving your Spirit  
till the work on earth is done.**
- 3. When I stand in glory,  
I will see his face,  
and there I'll serve my king for ever,  
in that holy place.  
Thank you, O my Father,  
for giving us your Son,  
and leaving your Spirit  
till the work on earth is done.**

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 are the God of the living,  
and you call each of us into relationship with 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: Great is your faithfulness

by Thomas O Chisholm (1866-1960) alt. - tune: Faithfulness  
© 1923/1951, Hope Publishing Co, CCL No 632290

- 1. Great is your faithfulness, O God my Father,  
in you no shadow of turning we see;  
you never fail and your love is unchanging:  
as you have been you for ever will be.  
*Great is your faithfulness,  
great is your faithfulness,  
morning by morning new mercies we see;  
all we have needed your hand has provided:  
great is your faithfulness, Lord God, to me.***
- 2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in unspoken witness  
to your great faithfulness, mercy and love.  
*Great is your faithfulness,  
great is your faithfulness,  
morning by morning new mercies we see;  
all we have needed your hand has provided:  
great is your faithfulness, Lord God, to me.***
- 3. Pardon for sin and a peace that's enduring,  
your living presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow –  
these are the blessings your love will provide.  
*Great is your faithfulness,  
great is your faithfulness,  
morning by morning new mercies we see;  
all we have needed your hand has provided:  
great is your faithfulness, Lord God, to me.***

#### BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among 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, except for some very specific, officially permitted reasons, such as the live-streamed Sunday service.*

*If anyone needs to come on site for any reason, then you have to be given written permission by Fr John beforehand.*

*The Parish's **Annual Meeting** is scheduled for 2pm Sunday 29th November. **Nominations** are called for the electable positions of churchwarden, parish councillor, and incumbency committee member, to be emailed or posted to Fr John by 1st November.*

*Applications to be put on the **Electoral Roll** need to also be received by 1st November.*

*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*

The latest issue has the details about how to nominate, and how to apply for being included in the electoral roll.

**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*