



St John the Divine

Eucharist Service

1st Sunday in Lent

21st February 2021

Welcome to our live-streamed service, linked from our parish website: www.stjohndivine.org.au

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Welcome

Hymn: *Forty days and forty nights*

George Hunt Smyttan (1822-70) & Francis Pott (1832-1909) alt.
tune: Heinlein - © The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd,
1999, CCL No 632290

- 1. Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild,
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled:**
- 2. Let us your endurance share
and from earthly greed abstain,
with you watching unto prayer,
with you strong to suffer pain.**
- 3. And if Satan on us press
flesh or spirit to assail,
victor in the wilderness,
grant we may not faint or fail.**
- 4. Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by your side,
that with you we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.**

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.

Sentence

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.

Mark 1.15

Let us pray

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleans the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the commandments which God gave his people Israel.

- 1 I am the Lord your God; you shall have no other gods but me.
- 2 You shall not make an idol of anything and worship it.
- 3 You shall not make wrong use of the name of the Lord your God.
- 4 Remember the Lord's day and keep it holy.
- 5 Honour your father and mother.
- 6 You shall not commit murder.

7 You shall not commit adultery.

8 You shall not steal.

9 You shall not give false evidence.

10 You shall not covet the possessions of others.

Lord, have mercy on us: and write your law in our hearts by your Holy Spirit.

**Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

Let us pray.

God of the new and eternal covenant,
as the forty days of the great flood
swept away the world's corruption
and watered new beginnings of righteousness and life:
grant to us, who are washed clean and born again
in the saving flood of baptism,
the wellspring of your grace,
that your gift of new life may flourish once again;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Mark's gospel account is very brief in describing Jesus' baptism, temptation, and the starting his ministry. So the other readings remind us of the 'baptism' that God gives the world, through the great flood in Noah's time, with the covenanted promise of new life that results from that. We are reminded that Noah, his family and their livestock were all isolated upon the wildness of the great flood before being delivered into new found safety. This iconic metaphor is re-enacted by Jesus himself: after his immersion in the cleansing water, he finds himself likewise isolated in the wilderness. And it is only once he achieves a new found stability in his relationship with God is Jesus then able to complete his fundamental shift from carpenter to Christ.

A reading from Genesis 9.8-17:

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the

sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

May your word live in us,
and bear much fruit to your glory.

Psalm 25.1-10

- ¹ In you, O Lord my God, have I put my hope:
in you have I trusted, let me not be ashamed,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- ² **Let none who wait for you be put to shame:
but let those that break faith
be confounded and gain nothing.**
- ³ Show me your ways, O Lord:
and teach me your paths.
- ⁴ **Lead me in the ways of your truth, and teach me:
for you are the God of my salvation.**
- ⁵ In you have I hoped all the day long:
because of your goodness, O Lord.
- ⁶ **Call to mind your compassion
and your loving-kindness:
for they are from of old.**
- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth,
nor my transgressions:
but according to your mercy think on me.
- ⁸ **Good and upright is the Lord:
therefore will he direct sinners in the way.**
- ⁹ The meek he will guide in the path of justice:
and teach the humble his ways.
- ¹⁰ **All the paths of the Lord are faithful and true:
for those who keep his covenant
and his commandments.**

A reading from 1 Peter 3.18-22:

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

May your word live in us,
and bear much fruit to your glory.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark 1.9-15

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was

coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

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

Sermon

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us 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 forever. Amen.**

RECONCILIATION WITH GOD

Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your heavenly Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Mark 11.25

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

Pause to bring to mind times where we have separated ourselves from God, from others, from creation, and from our inner selves.

Let us now ask for mercy, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word,
and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness
to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

RECONCILIATION WITH EACH OTHER

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

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory hymn: Christ, when for us you were baptized

Francis Bland Tucker (1895-1984) - tune: Jackson

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- 1. Christ, when for us you were baptized,
God's Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove, and yet
as urgent as a flame.**
- 2. God called you his beloved Son,
called you his servant true:
sent you his kingdom to proclaim,
his holy will to do.**
- 3. Straightway and steadfast until death
you then obeyed his call,
freely as Son of Man to serve
and give your life for all.**
- 4. Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord,
your cross on us be signed,
that likewise in God's service we
may perfect freedom find.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.

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.

He was tempted in every way as we are,
yet he did not sin.

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.

By his grace we are able
to triumph over every evil,
and to walk in the way of his love.

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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

**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.**

**We do not presume
to come to your table, merciful Lord,
trusting on our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.**

**We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs
under your table.**

**But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen.**

Come, let us take this holy sacrament of the body and
blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and
feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

SENDING OUT GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray.
God of mercy,
may we who have shared in this holy meal
know your forgiveness in our lives,
bring reconciliation to others,
and be a sign of your wholeness in this broken world.

**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: Love will be our Lenten calling
Elizabeth J Smith (b.1956) - tune: Picardy
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CCL No 632290

- 1. Love will be our Lenten calling,
love to shake and shatter sin,
waking every closed, cold spirit,
stirring new life deep within,
till the quickened heart remembers
what our Easter birth can mean.**
- 2. Peace will be our Lenten living
as we turn for home again,
longing for the words of pardon,
stripping off old grief and pain,
till we stand, restored and joyful,
with the Church on Easter day.**
- 3. Truth will be our Lenten learning:
hear the Crucified One call!
Shadowed by the Saviour's passion,
images and idols fall,
and, in Easter's holy splendour,
God alone is all in all.**

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself,
that you may find in him crucified
a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sin forgiven;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

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

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NOTICES

Latest Covid regulation update

Church services can resume face to face with the 2sqm rule where QR codes are operating [which we have at St John's.] Masks must be worn indoors and outdoors, apart from the one person leading/singing at that time.

Weddings and funerals can occur as previously under the same density rules for church services.

Only five visitors can be at a private home, inside or out, so this may affect small groups or home meetings.

Public gatherings are limited to twenty people but this does not apply to community groups, church meetings or religious services. However, such groups must be on church property and not in public places.

Lent course

The Lent Course groups have started meeting:

- in Joan Sweet's home at 11am on Saturdays
- in the downstairs chapel (All Saints & All Souls Chapel) at 7.30pm on Wednesdays from 24 Feb

We are using the study book 'Awakening my faith' by Bp Jeremy Greaves, leading us through the Year B Gospel readings. Books are available in the foyer - even for those who are not joining a group - cost: \$10.50.

Encounter Group

All members are invited to a meeting to discuss the group's to be held at Ora D'oro, 16-28 Hewish Rd, Croydon at 10.30am on Monday February 22nd. This will be an informal gathering over coffee and cake from the cafe's excellent selection.

Enquiries re location or transport or input are welcome. Please let me know if you are able to attend as confirmation of final numbers is required by Sunday 21st. Looking forward to seeing you.

Pat Draper

Rosters

We are looking for people to sign up for our usual rosters as we gradually move back to 'normal' operations. We once again need people to do readings, intercessions, welcoming, offertory counters, and setting up & clearing away (the pre- and post-service duties usually done by lay readers and acolytes).

Other duties are being reviewed in the light of the reduced Covid regulations, and will be resumed when these can be appropriately managed.