



St John the Divine

Eucharist Service

Ash Wednesday

17th February 2021

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

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

Hymn: *Word of God, renew your people*
Bernadette Farrell (b.1957) - tune: *Word Of God*
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- 1. Word of God, renew your people,
make us now your living sign.
Recreate us for your purpose
in this place and in this time.**
- 2. Word of hope and Word of healing,
make us ...**
- 3. Word of peace and Word of justice,
make us ...**
- 4. God alone the power we trust in,
make us ...**

Sentence

Return to the Lord your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Joel 2.13

Sisters and brothers in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

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

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Gracious God,
out of your love and mercy
you breathed into dust the breath of life,
creating us to serve you and one another:
call forth our penitence and acts of love,
and strengthen us to face our mortality,
so that we may look with confidence for your salvation;
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

A reading from Isaiah 58.1-12:

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practised righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgements,
they delight to draw near to God.

'Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?'

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today

will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,

a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,

a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you,

the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;

you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,

the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

if you offer your food to the hungry

and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

then your light shall rise in the darkness

and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually,

and satisfy your needs in parched places,

and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden,

like a spring of water,

whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;

you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;

you shall be called the repairer of the breach,

the restorer of streets to live in.

May your word live in us,

and bear much fruit to your glory.

Psalm 51.1-17

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God,
in your enduring goodness:
according to the fulness of your compassion
blot out my offences.
- 2 **Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness:
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- 3 For I acknowledge my rebellion:
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 **Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your eyes:
so you will be just in your sentence
and blameless in your judging.**
- 5 Surely in wickedness I was brought to birth:
and in sin my mother conceived me.
- 6 **You that desire truth in the inward parts:
O teach me wisdom in the secret places
of the heart.**
- 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8 **Make me hear of joy and gladness:
let the bones which you have broken rejoice.**
- 9 Hide your face from my sins:
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 10 **Create in me a clean heart, O God:
and renew a right spirit within me.**
- 11 Do not cast me out from your presence:
do not take your holy spirit from me.
- 12 **O give me the gladness of your help again:
and support me with a willing spirit.**
- 13 Then will I teach transgressors your ways:
and sinners shall turn to you again.
- 14 **O Lord God of my salvation,
deliver me from bloodshed:
and my tongue shall sing of your
righteousness.**
- 15 O Lord, open my lips:
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- 16 **You take no pleasure in sacrifice, or I would give it:
burnt-offerings you do not want.**
- 17 The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit:
a broken and contrite heart, O God,
you will not despise.

A reading from 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10:

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

‘At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.’

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every

way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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 Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus said: ‘Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

‘So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.’

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

Homily

SELF-EXAMINATION AND CONFESSION

Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

God the Father,
have mercy on us.
God the Son,
have mercy on us.
God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy on us.
Trinity of love,
have mercy on us.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.
Lord, have mercy.

We have been deaf to your call to serve,
as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you, Lord ...
... all our past unfaithfulness:
the pride, hypocrisy and impatience of our lives.
Lord, have mercy.

... our self-indulgent appetites and ways,
and our exploitation of other people.
Lord, have mercy.

... our anger at our own frustration
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.
Lord, have mercy.

... our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts
and our dishonesty in daily life and work.
Lord, have mercy.

... our negligence in prayer and worship
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.
Lord, have mercy.

Accept our repentance, Lord ...
... for the wrongs we have done,
for our blindness to human need and suffering,
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.
Accept our repentance, Lord.

... for all false judgements,
for uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbours
and for our prejudice and contempt towards those who
differ from us.
Accept our repentance, Lord.

... for our waste and pollution of your creation
and our lack of concern for those who come after us.
Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.
Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
that we may show your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his
resurrection.**

Silence is kept.

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Dear friends in Christ, I invite you to receive these ashes with me, as a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

God our Father,
you create us from the dust of the earth:
grant that these ashes may be for us
a sign of our penitence
and a symbol of our mortality;
for it is by your grace alone
that we receive eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

The priest receives the imposition of ashes on behalf of all in the parish, and on behalf of all who participate in this service in whatever way they can.

Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

The Lord enrich you with his grace,
and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers,
and absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.
Amen.

THE PEACE

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Hymn: From the deep places, hear my cry
Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926) - tune: Breslau
© Hope Publishing Co, CCL No 632290

1. **From the deep places, hear my cry,**
those hidden depths of guilt within:
O God of mercy, God Most High,
keep no account of all my sin.
2. **Before your glory none can stand,**
no mortal eye behold your face:
extend to me your kingly hand,
the sovereign touch of saving grace.
3. **O Lord, in whom all needs are met,**
draw near in love to me, I pray,
for on your word my hopes are set,
as watchmen wait for coming day.
4. **As watchmen wait till dawn appears,**
so God's redeeming love is shown;
to shed, unailing through the years,
the dew of blessing on his own.

After the altar has been prepared:

Risen Lord and Saviour,
present among us with the wealth of your love.
Cleanse us from sin and give us the faith
to offer our praise and grow in your grace. **Amen.**

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.

It is indeed right and good
to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds
we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels
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

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.

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.

Almighty God,
you have given your only Son to be for us
both a sacrifice for sin
and also an example of godly life.
Give us grace
that we may always most thankfully receive
his inestimable gifts,
and also daily endeavour
to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**God of our pilgrimage,
you feed us with the bread of heaven.
Refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn: From ashes to the living font

Alan Hommerding (b.1956) - tune: New Britain
© World Library Publications, 1994, CCL No 632290

- 1. From ashes to the living font
your Church must journey, Lord,
baptised in grace, in grace renewed
by your most holy word.**
- 2. Through fasting, prayer, and charity,
your voice speaks deep within,
returning us to ways of truth
and turning us from sin.**
- 3. From desert to the mountaintop
in Christ our way we see,
so, tempered by temptation's might
we might transfigured be.**
- 4. For thirsting hearts let waters flow
our fainting souls revive;
and at the well your waters give
our everlasting life.**
- 5. From ashes to the living font
your Church must journey still,
through cross and tomb to Easter joy,
in Spirit-fire fulfilled.**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
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

Resuming 'in-person' services

We will resume our normal service schedule as soon as we are allowed to worship in-person again. While (and whenever) regulations prevent us from congregating physically in our sacred space, assume that the Sunday 10am service will be live-streamed.

Lent course

The Lent Course groups are still currently on track to start meeting:

- *in Joan Sweet's home at 11am on Saturdays from 20 Feb*
- *in the downstairs chapel (All Saints & All Souls Chapel) at 7.30pm on Wednesdays from 24 Feb*

We will use the study book 'Awakening my faith' by Bp Jeremy Greaves, leading us through the Year B Gospel readings. Books are now available - even for those who are not joining a group.