



St John the Divine
Eucharist Service
**Last Sunday after Epiphany -
Transfiguration**
14th February 2021

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

It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
2 Corinthians 4.6

Hymn: Jesus, on the Mountain Peak

Brian Wren (b.1936) - tune: St Albinus

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1. **Jesus, on the mountain peak,
stands alone in glory blazing.
Let us, if we dare to speak,
join the saints and angels praising:
Alleluia!**
2. **Trembling at his feet we saw
Moses and Elijah speaking.
All the Prophets and the Law
shout through them their joyful greeting:
Alleluia!**
3. **Swift the cloud of glory came,
God, proclaiming in its thunder,
Jesus as his Son by name!
Nations, cry aloud in wonder:
Alleluia!**
4. **Jesus is the chosen One,
living hope of every nation;
hear and heed him, everyone;
sing, with earth and all creation,
Alleluia!**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

By the mercies of God,
let us confess our sins
and present ourselves as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to him,
which is our spiritual worship.

Silence is kept.

Lord Jesus, illuminate the darkness in our hearts:
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love:
Christ, have mercy
Christ, have mercy

Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to hear your living word:
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.

Almighty God,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us faith to perceive his glory,
that being strengthened by his grace
we may be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
through the same 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

As we come to the end of the season of Epiphany - which started with the wise men following the light of the star to Bethlehem - the revised Church calendar gives us the opportunity to celebrate the Transfiguration of Christ. This theme of Christ being the light of the world is foreshadowed by the dramatic story of the prophet Elijah being taken up in God's glory, effected by means of a chariot of fire and horses of fire. The focus of the psalm following is 'God has shone out in glory'. Paul writes to the Church about 'the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.' And the Gospel is Mark's account of Jesus being transfigured by the light of God's glory.

A reading from 2 Kings 2.1-12:

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.' Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as

you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, ‘Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?’ And he answered, ‘Yes, I know; be silent.’ Then Elijah said to him, ‘Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.’ But he said, ‘As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.’ Elisha said, ‘Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.’ He responded, ‘You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.’ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, ‘Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!’ But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

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

Psalms 50.1-6

- ¹ The Lord our God, the Mighty One, has spoken:
 and summoned the earth,
 from the rising of the sun to its setting in the west.
- ² **From Zion, perfect in beauty:
 God has shone out in glory.**
- ³ Our God is coming, he will not keep silent:
 before him is devouring fire,
 and tempest whirls about him.
- ⁴ **He calls to the heavens above:
 and to the earth, so he may judge his people.**
- ⁵ ‘Gather to me my faithful ones:
 those who by sacrifice made a covenant with me.’
- ⁶ **The heavens shall proclaim his righteousness:
 for God himself is judge.**

A reading from 2 Corinthians 4.3-12:

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness’, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to

despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

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 9.2-9

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!’ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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.

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

God has made us one in Christ.

He has set his seal upon us and,

as a pledge of what is to come,

has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

cf. 2 Corinthians 1.22

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hymn: Be still, for the presence of the Lord

David J Evans (b.1957) - tune: Be Still

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1. **Be still,
for the presence of the Lord,
the holy One, is here;
Come bow before Him now
with reverence and fear:
in Him no sin is found —
we stand on holy ground.
Be still,
for the presence of the Lord,
the holy One, is here.**
2. **Be still,
for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
with splendor He is crowned;
how awesome is the sight —
our radiant King of light!
Be still,
for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.**
3. **Be still,
for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place:
He comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister His grace —
no work too hard for Him,
in faith receive from Him.
Be still,
for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.**

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.

You anointed him as Messiah,

the light of the nations,

and revealed him as the hope

of all who thirst for righteousness and peace.

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.

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.
 God of the nations,
 we thank you for nourishing us with this holy sacrament.
 Guide us by your presence,
 that we may bring your light
 to those who dwell in darkness,
 and establish your justice in the earth.

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: Be thou my vision

*tr. Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931) - tune: Slane
 versified Eleanor Henrietta Hull (1860-1935) alt.*

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 CCL No 632290

1. **Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
 naught be all else to me, save that thou art -
 thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**
2. **Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
 I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou my great Father, thy child let me be;
 thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.**
3. **Be thou my armour, my sword for the fight,
 be thou my dignity, thou my delight;
 thou my soul's shelter and thou my high tower;
 raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.**
4. **Riches I scorn and the world's empty praise,
 thou my inheritance, now and always;
 thou and thou only the first in my heart;
 high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.**
5. **High King of heaven, after victory won,
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
 Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
 still be my vision, O ruler of all.**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

May Christ the Son of God be manifest to you,
 that your lives may be a light to the world;
 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.

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NOTICES

Latest Covid regulation update

The new stage 4 lock-down decision for Victoria has meant the following changes for 14 & 17 February:

- Sunday 8am service is cancelled
- Sunday 10am service is live-streamed only (no in-person congregation allowed)
- Ash Wednesday 10am service is live-streamed only (no in-person congregation allowed)
- Ash Wednesday 7pm service is cancelled

Unless we hear otherwise, we currently expect to resume 'normal' services (8am & 10am etc) on Sunday 21 Feb.

The Lent Course groups are still currently on track (Joan Sweet's home 11am from Sat 20, & downstairs chapel at 7.30pm from Wed 24.)

Parish Council will meet via Zoom on Mon 15 Feb.

Parish newsletter

After a longer break than expected, last week's newsletter has been emailed out. For those who rely on post, it will be printed along with next week's newsletter, and posted out early next week.

If you would like to receive the newsletter, please let us know.

(We did receive an emailed request on 24 Dec from Jill & Peter, but any 'reply' to that email is rejected, and we have no other contact details, so if you could email us from another address or call us directly, that would help.)