



St John the Divine

Eucharist Service

5th Sunday in Lent

21st March 2021

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

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hymn: Jesus calls us here to meet him

John Bell (b.1949) & Graham Maule (b.1958) - tune: Gaelic Air
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CCL No 632290

- 1. Jesus calls us here to meet him
as, through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
praise the Son who calls us friends;
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.**
- 2. Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of Life and Lord of All,
sharer of our flesh and frailness
saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.**
- 3. Jesus calls us to each other:
found in him are no divides.
Race and class and sex and language
such are barriers he derides.
Join the hand of friend and stranger;
join the hands of age and youth;
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.**

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

Sentence

'This is the covenant I will make with them,' says the Lord God: 'I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be my people.'

Jeremiah 31.33

Let us pray

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse 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.**

O God, our Redeemer,
in our weakness we have failed
to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope:
renew us by your Holy Spirit,
that we may follow your commands
and proclaim your reign of love;
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 the prophecy of Jeremiah 31.31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

Psalm 119.9-16

- ⁹ How shall the young keep their path pure:
unless they hold to your word?
- ¹⁰ **I have sought you with my whole heart:
let me not stray from your commandments.**
- ¹¹ I have treasured your words in my heart:
that I might not sin against you.
- ¹² **Blessed are you, Lord God:
O teach me your statutes.**

¹³ With my lips I have been telling:
all the judgements of your mouth;

¹⁴ **And I find more joy in the way of your commands:
than in all manner of riches.**

¹⁵ I will meditate on your precepts:
and give heed to your ways;

¹⁶ **For my delight is wholly in your statutes:
and I will not forget your word.**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 5.5-14

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son,

today I have begotten you';

as he says also in another place,

'You are a priest for ever,

according to the order of Melchizedek.'

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

About this we have much to say that is hard to explain, since you have become dull in understanding. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food; for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.

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

Hymn: Christ bids us break the bread

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926) - tune: Franconia

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- 1. Christ bids us break the bread
and share the cup he gave,
in token of the blood he shed
for those he died to save.**
- 2. It was for us he came,
to bear, by human birth,
a crown of thorn, a cross of shame,
for every child of earth.**
- 3. Our hearts his word obey,
in thankfulness and love:
we feed on Christ by faith today
and feast with him above.**
- 4. O Christ once lifted up
that we might be forgiven,
we take the bread and drink the cup
and share the life of heaven.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John 12.20-33

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say— "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

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: Now the green blade rises

John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872-1958) alt.

tune: Noël Nouvelet

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**1. Now the green blade rises
 from the buried grain,
 wheat that in the dark earth
 many days has lain:
 love lives again,
 that with the dead has been:
 Love has come again,
 like wheat that springs up green.**

**2. In the grave they laid him,
 Love whom hate had slain,
 thinking that he never
 would wake again,
 laid in the earth,
 like grain that sleeps unseen.
 Love has come again,
 like wheat that springs up green.**

**3. Up he sprang at Easter,
 like the risen grain,
 he who for the three days
 in the grave had lain,
 raised from the dead
 my living Lord is seen:
 Love has come again,
 like wheat that springs up green.**

**4. When our hearts are wintry,
 grieving, or in pain,
 then your touch can call us
 back to life again –
 fields of our hearts
 that dead and bare have been:
 Love has come again,
 like wheat that springs up green.**

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.

**We do not presume
to come to your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in 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: *This is the truth we hold*
Basil Ernest Bridge (b.1927) - tune: Little Cornard
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*Note: this hymn connects with the reading from Jeremiah, when
the Lord anticipates a new covenant and writing his law on
each person's heart so that each may respond personally - this
hymn describes that response.*

- 1. This is the truth we hold,
source of the joy we share,
hope that can make us bold
trusting the name we bear:
that 'Christ has died' and 'Christ is risen,
in Christ shall all be made alive'.**
- 2. This is the song of praise
echoing down the years,
true for the present days,
through all our doubts and fears:
that 'Christ has died' and 'Christ is risen,
in Christ shall all be made alive'.**
- 3. Christ is the living bread,
Christ is the word to speak,
Christ is the way to tread,
Christ is the goal to seek;
for 'Christ has died' and 'Christ is risen,
in Christ shall all be made alive'.**
- 4. One in the faith we share,
out in his name we go;
Jesus awaits us there,
longing that all should know
that 'Christ has died' and 'Christ is risen,
in Christ shall all be made alive'.**

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

Parish newsletter

No newsletter was issued for last week - one is expected to be published this next week.

Palm cross making

Come & join us making palm crosses in the Fellowship Room, 10am Saturday 27 March. No previous experience needed - instruction will be offered. The crosses will be sanitised ahead of the service.

Lent season

The Lent Course groups are meeting:

- *in Joan Sweet's home at 11am on Saturdays*
- *downstairs in the All Saints & All Souls Chapel at 7.30pm on Wednesdays*

... using the study book 'Awakening my faith' by Bp Jeremy Greaves, leading us through the Year B Gospel readings.

Sun 28 Mar - Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

*Mark 11.1-11 - Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem
Mark 15.1-39 - Pilate agrees to crucify Jesus, and the soldiers carry out their orders.*

Thu 1 Apr - Maundy Thursday - 7.30pm

Jesus washes disciples' feet at the Last Supper

Fri 2 Apr - Good Friday - 9.30am

Commemoration of the death of Christ

Sat 3 Apr - Holy Saturday - 7.30pm

Service of Light & Easter Vigil (no eucharist)

Part A: Anticipating the resurrection

Sun 4 Apr - Easter Day - 9.30am

Renewal of baptismal vows & Eucharist

Part B: Celebrating the resurrection

[Daylight Savings ends]