



St John the Divine

Eucharist service

14th Sunday after Pentecost

29th August 2021

WELCOME!

Welcome to our worship and community life at St John the Divine, and 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

Jesus said, 'It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.'

John 6.63

Hymn: A mighty fortress is our God

Martin Luther (1483-1546) - tune: Ein Feste Burg

public domain, this version: Lutheran Book of Worship 1978, CCL No 632290

**1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.**

**The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
with craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight -
on earth he has no equal.**

**2. No strength of ours can match his might!
we would be lost, rejected.**

**But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.**

You ask who this may be?

**The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored -
he holds the field victorious.**

**3. Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threatening to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpower us.**

**Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!**

**His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.**

**4. God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.**

**Were they to take our house,
goods, honour, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

My sisters and brothers,
as we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ
in word and sacrament,
let us call to mind and confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are everlasting.

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Remember not the sins of my youth
or my transgressions,
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,
according to your steadfast love.

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

O keep my soul and deliver me;
let me not be put to shame,
for I have put my trust in you.

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.

Everliving God,

by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:

hear the prayers we offer for all your faithful people,
that in the ministry to which you have called them
each may serve you in holiness and truth;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John 6.56–71

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus said: 'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.' Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.' Jesus answered them, 'Did I not choose you, the twelve? Yet one of you is a devil.' He was speaking of Judas son of Simon Iscariot, for he, though one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn: [This day God gives me](#)

James Quinn (b.1919) alt. - tune: Bunessan

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CCL No 632290

**1. This day God gives me
strength of high heaven,
sun and moon shining,
flame in my hearth,
flashing of lightning,
wind in its swiftness,
depths of the ocean,
firmness of earth.**

**2. This day God sends me
strength to sustain me,
might to uphold me,
wisdom as guide.
Your eyes are watchful,
your ears are listening,
your lips are speaking,
friend at my side.**

**3. God's way is my way,
God's shield is round me,
God's host defends me,
saving from ill.
Angels of heaven,
drive from me always
all that would harm me,
stand by me still.**

**4. Rising, I thank you,
mighty and strong One,
King of creation,
giver of rest,
firmly confessing
threeness of persons,
oneness of Godhead,
Trinity blest.**

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians 6.10-24

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus will tell you everything. He is a dear brother and a faithful minister in the Lord. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, to let you know how we are, and to encourage your hearts.

Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Sermon

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Response:

Lord our God, 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

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to him through faith, heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

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

Hymn: Lord, be my vision
*tr. from 8th cent Irish, Mary Byrne (1880-1931) &
Eleanor Hull (1860-1935) - tune: Slane
this version © Jubilate Hymns, CCL No 632290*

- 1. Lord, be my vision, supreme in my heart,
bid every rival give way and depart:
you my best thought in the day or the night,
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.**
- 2. Lord, be my wisdom and be my true word,
I ever with you and you with me, Lord:
you my great father and I your true child,
once far away, but by love reconciled.**
- 3. Lord, be my breastplate, my sword for the fight:
be my strong armour, for you are my might;
you are my shelter, and you my high tower
raise me to heaven, O Power of my power.**
- 4. I need no riches, nor earth's empty praise:
you my inheritance through all my days;
all of your treasure to me you impart,
high King of heaven, the first in my heart.**
- 5. High King of heaven, when battle is done,
grant heaven's joy to me, bright heaven's sun;
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

The altar is prepared.

Wise and gracious God,
you spread a table before us;
nourish your people with the word of life
and the bread of heaven.

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.

All thanks and praise, glory and honour,
be yours at all times, in every place,
holy and loving Father, true and living God.
We praise you that through your eternal Word
you brought the universe into being
and made us in your own image.
You have given us this earth to care for and delight in,
and with its bounty you preserve our life.
We thank you that you bound yourself to the human race
with the promises of a gracious covenant
and called us to serve you in love and peace.
Above all, we give you thanks for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ:
born as one of us, he lived our common life
and offered his life to you
in perfect obedience and trust.
By his death he delivered us from sin,
brought us new life,
and reconciled us to you and to one another.
Therefore with angels and archangels,
with apostles, and prophets,

with holy women and men of every age,
we proclaim your great and glorious name:
**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.**

Holy God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine,
and we pray that we who eat and drink them
in obedience to our Saviour Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
may be partakers of his body and blood,
and be made one with him and with each other
in peace and love.

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.

As we eat and drink this holy sacrament,
renew us by your Spirit
that we may be united in the body of your Son
and serve you as a royal priesthood
in the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Receive our praises, Father,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom and in whom,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you 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.**

SENDING OUT GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray.
Gracious God,
we thank you that in this sacrament
you assure us of your goodness and love.
Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
and help us to grow in love and obedience
that we may serve you in the world
and finally be brought to that table
where all your saints feast with you for ever.

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: Lord of lords and King eternal
Jack Winslow (1882-1974) - tune: St Helen
© Mrs J Tyrrell, CCL No 632290

- 1. Lord of lords and King eternal,
down the years in wondrous ways
you have blessed our land and guided,
leading us through darkest days.
For your rich and faithful mercies,
Lord, accept our thankful praise.**
- 2. Speak to us and ev'ry nation,
bid our jarring discords cease;
to the starving and the homeless
bid us bring a full release;
and on all this earth's sore turmoil
breathe the healing of your peace.**

- 3. Love that binds us all together
be upon the Church outpoured;
shame our pride and quell our factions,
smite them with your Spirit's sword;
till the world, our love beholding,
claims your pow'r and calls you Lord.**
- 4. Brace the wills of all your people,
who in ev'ry land and race
share the secrets of your kingdom,
share the treasures of your grace;
till the summons of your Spirit
wakes new life in ev'ry place.**
- 5. Saviour, by your mighty passion
once you turned sheer loss to gain,
wresting in your risen glory
vict'ry from your cross and pain;
now, O Saviour, dead and risen,
in us triumph, live, and reign.**

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 remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

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Sermon Series: Ephesians

Today we have the final sermon in the series - The armour of God (Ephesians 6.10-24)

As we are engaging with the entire text, rather than just select passages, we are omitting the usual Old Testament and Psalm readings during this time.

Note that due to observing the feast day of Mary on 15 August, the set collect and readings are now one week behind. This will be brought back in line on Sunday 12 September.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sun 29 th Aug	<u>14th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10am Eucharist - <i>live-stream only</i>
Mon 30 th Aug	-
Tue 31 st Aug	5.30pm <i>community meal: TDRM</i> 7.30pm <i>Vestry meeting (Zoom)</i>
Wed 1 st Sep	10.30am Graham Dennis funeral - <i>live-stream only</i> 5.30pm <i>community meal: Winter Shelter</i> 7pm <i>Kindergarten Committee (Zoom)</i> (postponed from last week)
Thu 2 nd Sep	-
	Note: if the current lockdown extends, the events marked * below will not take place
Fri 3 rd Sep	<u>Vicar's day off</u> 7.30pm * <i>Al Anon meeting</i>
Sat 4 th Sep	7am * <i>AA meeting</i> 7pm * <i>Lai Christian Church service</i>
Sun 5 th Sep	<u>15th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8am * <i>Eucharist</i> 10am <i>Eucharist</i> 8pm * <i>AA meeting</i>

NOTICES

Current Covid restrictions

All face-to-face meetings, groups and services are prohibited. Five people can live stream or video a service, and you can travel more than 5km to do so. However, it must be the same five people each time.

Funerals are limited to ten mourners, plus those leading the service.

No weddings can occur, other than for end-of-life or deportation emergencies.

Masks must be worn, other than the one person speaking/singing to camera. Church offices cannot be used as workplaces, other than by clergy who live directly onsite. Visits to aged care facilities and hospitals are not generally allowed other than for end of life. Care visits are allowed, including beyond 5km, which could include pastoral visits where essential. Essential food provisions must be takeaway or delivery only.

QR codes must be used by anyone attending to broadcast a service or for a funeral.

Work permits are required for volunteers and are to be signed by the Vicar.

Only permitted work activity can be done on-site. Therefore, church offices cannot be open for general work. Only clergy living directly on-site can work in the church facilities. Collecting mail from an external letterbox and security checks are permitted.

The Deer's Cry

There is an 8th century prayer called St Patrick's Breastplate (or Lorica), which was associated with the 5th century missionary and bishop, Patrick.

Parts of the prayer are used in various versions in many hymns, songs, and prayers. One contemporary version is named The Deer's Cry, in reference to the story of Patrick and fellow monks quietly singing the prayer as they passed by those lying in wait to ambush him: those wanting to kill him only saw some wild deer walking past, and so St Patrick and his group were kept safe.

I arise today through the strength of heaven
Light of sun, radiance of moon
Splendour of fire, speed of lightning
Swiftness of wind, depth of the sea
Stability of earth, firmness of rock

I arise today through God's strength to pilot me
God's eye to look before me
God's wisdom to guide me
God's way to lie before me
God's shield to protect me

From all who shall wish me ill
Afar and a-near
Alone and in a multitude
Against every cruel, merciless power
That may oppose my body and soul

Christ with me, Christ before me
Christ behind me, Christ in me
Christ beneath me, Christ above me
Christ on my right, Christ on my left
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down
Christ when I arise, Christ to shield me

Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me

I arise today

It is a lovely Celtic-style invocation to start the day with, reminding us that the God of all creation is present, and desires to protect us from all that might harm our souls.