



## St John the Divine

*Sung Eucharist*

5th Sunday after Epiphany

5th February 2023

### 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](http://www.stjohndivine.org.au)*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hymn: TiS622 Holy Father, God of might

*Richard Connolly (b.1927) alt. - tune: Catherine*

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CCL No 632290

- Holy Father, God of might,  
throned amid the hosts of light,  
take our life, our strength, our love,  
King of earth and heaven above.**
- Hear the songs your people raise,  
songs of joyful thanks and praise,  
calling all created things  
to adore you, King of kings.**
- Christ, be with us as we go,  
let this blind world see and know,  
burning in our lives, the sight  
of its only saving light.**
- So will all exalt your name,  
and your kingship all proclaim,  
heaven and earth in unity  
praise the blessed Trinity.**

### Sentence

'Is not this the fast that I choose,' says the Lord: 'to loose the bonds of injustice, and to let the oppressed go free?'

*Isaiah 58.6*

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.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

### 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.

Faithful God,

you have appointed us your witnesses,  
to be a light that shines in the world:  
let us not hide the bright hope you have given us,  
but tell everyone your love,  
revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord,  
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

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah 58.1–9a

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.

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

Psalm 112

- 1 O praise the Lord. Blessed are they that fear the Lord:  
and greatly delight in his commandments.
- 2 **Their children shall be mighty in the land:  
an upright race who will be blessed.**
- 3 Riches and plenty shall be in their house:  
and their righteousness shall stand for ever.
- 4 **Light arises in darkness for the upright:  
gracious and merciful are the righteous.**
- 5 It goes well with those who act generously and lend:  
who guide their affairs with justice.
- 6 **Surely they shall never be moved:  
the righteous shall be held  
in everlasting remembrance.**
- 7 They will not fear bad tidings:  
their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.
- 8 **Their hearts are confident and will not fear:  
they will see the downfall of their enemies.**
- 9 They give freely to the poor:  
their righteousness stands for ever,  
their head is uplifted in glory.
- 10 **The wicked shall see it and be angry:  
they shall gnash their teeth and consume away;  
and the hope of the wicked shall fail.**

A reading from Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth  
2.1–13

When I came to you, sisters and brothers, I did not come  
proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or  
wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you  
except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to  
you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My  
speech and my proclamation were not with plausible  
words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit  
and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human  
wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is  
not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who  
are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom,  
secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages  
for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood  
this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the  
Lord of glory. But, as it is written,  
'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him' —  
these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit;  
for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of  
God. For what human being knows what is truly human  
except the human spirit that is within? So also no one  
comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of  
God.

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the  
Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the  
gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these  
things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught  
by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are  
spiritual.

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

Hymn: TiS686 Lord Jesus, we belong to you

*John Wilfred Kleinig (b.1942) - tune: Cooke Plains*

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1. **Lord Jesus, we belong to you,  
you live in us, we live in you;  
we live and work for you –  
because we bear your name.**
2. **Help us receive each other, Lord,  
for you receive the least of us  
and come to us in them -  
because we bear your name.**
3. **Let us acknowledge those as friends  
who use your name to right a wrong,  
but have not joined us yet -  
because we bear your name.**
4. **Let nothing that we do or say  
offend the weak so that they fall  
and lose their faith in you –  
because we bear your name.**
5. **Keep us from missing out on life;  
give hands that help, and single sight,  
and feet that walk your way -  
because we bear your name.**
6. **You are the salt that cleanses us,  
so clean us out, and make us fit  
for common life with you -  
because we bear your name.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
St Matthew 5.13–20

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Jesus said: 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has  
lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no  
longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled  
under foot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot  
be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the  
bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to  
all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine  
before others, so that they may see your good works and  
give glory to your Father in heaven.

'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the  
prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For  
truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one  
letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law  
until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one  
of the least of these commandments, and teaches others  
to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of  
heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will  
be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'

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

*Sermon*

#### NICENE CREED

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit  
and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge  
the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. 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.**

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, 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.**

#### THE GREETING OF PEACE

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there shall be no end.

*cf Isaiah 9.6,7*

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

Offertory hymn: TiS474 [Here in this place](#)  
*Marty Haugen (b.1950) - tune: Gather Us In*  
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- 1. Here in this place new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away,  
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**
- 2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery;  
we are the old, who yearn for your face;  
we have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.**
- 3. Here we will take of the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt of the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven light years away,  
but here in this space, the new light is shining,  
now is the kingdom, now is the day.  
Gather us in, and hold us for ever;  
gather us in, and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

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.

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

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 gifts of God for the people of God.  
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.

## THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

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. **Amen.**

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: TiS626 Lord of creation, to you be all praise!

*Jack Copley Winslow (1882-1974) alt. - tune: Slane*

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CCL No 632290

**1. Lord of creation, to you be all praise!**

**Most mighty your working,  
most wondrous your ways!**

**Your glory and might are beyond us to tell,  
and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.**

**2. Lord of all power, I give you my will,**

**in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfil.**

**Your bondage is freedom; your service is song;  
and, held in your keeping,  
my weakness is strong.**

**3. Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind:**

**rich truth that surpasses our knowledge to find,  
what eye has not seen and what ear has not heard  
is taught by your Spirit  
and shines from your word.**

**4. Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart;**

**I praise and adore you for all you impart,  
your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,  
your presence to shield me, whatever betide.**

**5. Lord of all being, I give you my all;**

**if ever I leave you I stumble and fall;  
but, led in your service your word to obey,  
I'll walk in your freedom to the end of the way.**

### 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 remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

### THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<u>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist 8pm AA meeting
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.30am AI Anon meeting
Tue 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1pm AA meeting 5.30pm community meal: TDRM
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10am Eucharist 5.30pm community meal: Winter Shelter 7.30pm NA meeting
Thu 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10.30am AA meeting 11am Park Lane communion 7.30pm AA meeting 7.30pm Parish Council
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	-
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7am AA meeting 10.30am Focus on Faith & Friendship 7pm Lai Christian Church
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<u>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist 11.20am Parish Network Team 8pm AA meeting

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## NOTICES

### Sung Eucharist services resume

From today we are resuming the Sung Eucharist for the Sunday 10am services, using the Mathias setting.



### Lent course: *Christ's Costly Gift of Reconciliation*

Ash Wednesday is on 22 February. The recommended Lent course for this year has been prepared by CTBI - Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. It is sent as a weekly email on Wednesdays, starting on Ash Wednesday. The course can be subscribed to here:

<https://ctbi.org.uk/lent-study-2023/>

Parishioners are encouraged to undertake this either individually or with the Saturday morning group meeting at Joan Sweet's home.

### My Fair Lady

One of our parishioners, Jenny Wakefield, is performing in the well-known musical *My Fair Lady*, being presented at the Alexander Theatre in Clayton. Five performances will be held over 30 March to 2 April, and tickets can be bought online here: <https://www.monash.edu/performing-arts-centres/event/my-fair-lady/>

Salt is valuable for the way it flavors everything around it. Likewise, salt crystals are gradually reshaped and crumbled by water and earth. Light is changed by the shadow of everything that passes near it, and it is not more valuable than shadow. To say that we are salt and light is to say that we impact and are impacted by everything around us. We are exquisitely relational.

- Nichola Torbett

*Jesus said to those who follow him:*

*'You are the salt of the earth ...  
You are the light of the world.'*

*These are spiritual truths that he invites us to reflect on with him.*

*Nichola Torbett is a preacher in the United Church of Christ, USA - and here are some of her reflections.*

*Torbett sees these truths as supporting the fundamental truth that 'We are ... relational beings' - exquisitely so.*