



## St John the Divine

*Eucharist service*

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

19<sup>th</sup> March 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)*

### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

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

*Welcome*

Hymn: TiS217 Love divine, all loves excelling

*Charles Wesley (1707-88) alt. - tune: Blaenwern (TiS590)*

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- 1. Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown:  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.**
- 2. Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave:  
thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.**
- 3. Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be,  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.**

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

### Sentence

'I am the light of the world,' says the Lord; 'those who follow me will have the light of life.'

*John 8.12*

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.**

Let us pray.

Gracious God,

in order that we children of earth  
might discern good from evil  
you sent your Son to be the light of the world:  
as the light of Christ shines upon us,  
may we learn what pleases you,  
and live in truth and goodness;  
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the first book of Samuel 16.1–13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the

heart. 'Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one. 'Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one. 'Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these. ' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here? 'And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep. 'And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here. 'He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one. 'Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

### Psalm 23

- <sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd:  
 therefore can I lack nothing.
- <sup>2</sup> **He will make me lie down in green pastures:  
 and lead me beside still waters.**
- <sup>3</sup> He will refresh my soul:  
 and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.
- <sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
 I will fear no evil:  
 for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.**
- <sup>5</sup> You spread a table before me  
 in the face of those who trouble me:  
 you have anointed my head with oil,  
 and my cup shall be full.
- <sup>6</sup> **Surely your goodness and loving-kindness  
 will follow me all the days of my life:  
 and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus  
 5.8–14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,  
 'Sleeper, awake!  
 Rise from the dead,  
 and Christ will shine on you.'

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

Hymn: SP304 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
*Rusty Edwards (b.1955) - tune: Nettleton (TIS392)*  
 © Hope Publishing Co., 1987, CCL No 632290

1. **Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
 with a liberating light.  
 Praise the One who frees the prisoners,  
 turning blindness into sight.  
 Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
 healing every dread disease,  
 calming storms and feeding thousands  
 with the very bread of peace.**
2. **Praise the One who blessed the children  
 with a strong yet gentle word.  
 Praise the One who drove out demons  
 with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
 Praise the One who brings cool water  
 to the desert's burning sand;  
 from this well comes living water,  
 quenching thirst in every land.**
3. **Praise the one true love incarnate,  
 Christ, who suffered in our place.  
 Jesus died and rose for many  
 that we may know God by grace.  
 Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
 seeing what our God has done.  
 Praise the one redeeming glory.  
 Praise the One who makes us one.**

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St  
 John 9.1–41

### **Glorify to you Lord Jesus Christ**

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. 'When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam '(which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' 'Some were saying, 'It is he. ' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him. 'He kept saying, 'I am the man. 'But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' 'He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight. 'They said to him, 'Where is he?' 'He said, 'I do not know.' They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see. 'Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath. 'But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' 'And they were divided. So

they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened. 'He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself. 'His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner. 'He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see. 'They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from. 'The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing. 'They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him. 'Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he. 'He said, 'Lord, I believe. 'And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind. 'Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

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*

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

*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: TiS145 The king of love my shepherd is  
*Henry Williams Baker (1821-77) - tune: Dominum Regit Me*  
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- 1. The king of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
and he is mine for ever.**
- 2. Where streams of living water flow  
my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow  
with food celestial feedeth.**
- 3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home rejoicing brought me.**
- 4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.**
- 5. Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and O what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!**
- 6. And so through all the length of days  
thy goodness faileth never:  
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house for ever.**

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.**

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.

*Please come forward to receive communion or a  
blessing.*

## 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: TiS210 O for a thousand tongues to sing  
*Charles Wesley (1707-88) alt. - tune: Lyngham*

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- 1. O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of our God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!**
- 2. Jesus! The name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
such music in the sinner's ears  
is life, and health, and peace.**
- 3. He breaks the power of cancelled sin,  
he sets the prisoner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean,  
his blood availed for me.**
- 4. He speaks, and listening to his voice  
new life the dead receive,  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.**

- 5. Hear him, you deaf; his praise, you dumb,  
your loosened tongues employ;  
you blind, behold your Saviour come;  
and leap, you lame for joy!**
- 6. My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honours of your name.**

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.**

### Permissions

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## NOTICES

Please welcome Rev'd Stewart Taplin who is our locum priest while Fr John is on sick leave.

Fr John is to return to duty on March 20<sup>th</sup> and conduct his final services during this coming week at the usual times:

- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 10am
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 8am and 10am

Fr John will then take his remaining annual leave before his induction as the Rector of the Parish of Drouin in April.

The parish will formally farewell Fr John at his final service at 10am on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March. If you would like to make a contribution to his farewell gift please put it in the offertory plate in a marked envelope. Alternatively, you may give it directly to Jenny Harris, vicar's warden.

Please keep Fr John in your prayers as he and Phillippa prepare for their move to Drouin.





### Jams & Sauces for Sale

Roger & Jenny Heath have been busy making delicious jams and sauces which can be purchased after the services.

All profits go towards the parish.

### TDRM – Thank you!

The St John's TDRM team served a wonderful meal on Tuesday evening and it was once again a terrific team effort!

The evening was well attended with more than 30 guests sitting down to the meal together – and they were all very appreciative of the delicious and generous meal the team had prepared.

Thank you to the cooks, the servers and hosts, the kitchen helpers and the dish washers! In total 14 parishioners contributed to making Tuesday evening a special one. As always it was a pleasure and a privilege to work alongside the other wonderful TDRM volunteers and take part in this important mission where people come together to be fed in many different ways. Well done everyone!

Our next cooking date is Tuesday 11th April (the Tuesday after Easter Day) so please put that into your dairies.

If you would like information about how to become involved in The Dining Room Mission, please see Cathy or contact the parish office.

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



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 individually or to contact Joan Sweet if you would like to join the Saturday morning study group.

A small number of study booklets have been printed for those of you who do not have the internet or are having trouble accessing the emails. Please speak to one of the Wardens if you need one of these.

### Nametags

Please remember to wear your nametags! We have become a bit relaxed about this recently, but it is of great assistance to our locums as well as newcomers.

If you do not have a name tag or need a replacement, please let us know.

**Synod Representatives** - 2 members of the congregation are still needed - to be elected by April 22

### Mothers' Union Lady Day Annual Cathedral Service

You are warmly invited to attend the Festival Choral Eucharist for The Mothers' Union for Lady Day on **Sunday 26 March at 4pm**. Bishop Kate Prowd will preach, and the Dean will preside. All welcome! For further information, contact the Precentor, Heather Patacca: [precentor@stpaulscathedral.org.au](mailto:precentor@stpaulscathedral.org.au)



One of our parishioners, Jenny Wakefield, is performing in My Fair Lady, being presented at the Alexander Theatre in Clayton.

If you would like to join a group of parishioners attending the matinee on Saturday April 1st at 2pm, please contact the office or see Cathy.

Transport will be arranged for those who need it.

### THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<u>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist 8pm AA meeting
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10.30am AI Anon meeting
Tue 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	1pm AA meeting 5.30pm community meal: TDRM
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	10am Eucharist 5.30pm community meal: Winter Shelter 7.30pm NA meeting
Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	10.45am BUPA 10.30am AA meeting 7.30pm AA meeting
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	-
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7am AA meeting 10.30am Focus on Faith & Friendship – Lenten Study 7pm Lai Christian Church
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<u>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – Fr John's final service &amp; farewell</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Eucharist 8pm AA meeting