



St John the Divine
Eucharist service
3rd Sunday of Easter
23rd April 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

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Welcome and notices

Hymn: TIS 216 Rejoice, the Lord is King
tune: Gopsal

Rejoice, the Lord is King;
Your Lord and King adore;
Let all give thanks, and sing,
And triumph evermore;
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice.
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus the Saviour reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When he purged our stains,
He took his seat above:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice.
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given;
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice.
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
He sits at God's right hand,
Till all his foes submit,
And bow to his command,
And fall beneath his feet:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice.
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope;
Jesus the judge shall come,
And take his servants up
To their eternal home:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice.
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Sentence

Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2. 38-39

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.

O God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of the bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in his redeeming work;
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 Acts 2:14a, 36-41

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah,* this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers,* what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

May your word live in us,

and bear much fruit to your glory.

Psalm 116

- ¹ I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.
- ² **Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**
- ³ The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
- ⁴ **Then I called on the name of the LORD:
'O LORD, I pray, save my life!'**
- ¹¹ I said in my consternation,
'Everyone is a liar.'
- ¹² **What shall I return to the LORD
for all his bounty to me?**
- ¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD,
- ¹⁴ **I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.**
- ¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his faithful ones.
- ¹⁶ **O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your serving-maid.**
You have loosed my bonds.
- ¹⁷ I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the LORD.
- ¹⁸ **I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,**

A reading from 1 Peter 1:13-25

Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply* from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. For

'All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,
but the word of the Lord endures for ever.'
That word is the good news that was announced to you.

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

Hymn: TIS 382 Now the Green Blade Rises
tune: Noël Nouvelet

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.*

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.*

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.*

When our hearts are wintry,
Grieving, or in pain,
Then your touch can call us
Back to live again –
Fields of our hearts
That dead and bare have been:
*Love has come again,
Like wheat that springs up green*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke 24:13-35

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles* from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad.* Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth,* who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.* Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of

those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah* should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us* while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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 our Passover Lamb has been offered for us,
therefore we come to celebrate the festival.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a
sincere and a true heart.

**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

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and
said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then they were glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

And also with you. Alleluia.

Offertory hymn: TIS 254 O changeless, God for ever new
tune: St Botolph

O changeless Christ, for ever new,
who walked our earthly ways,
still draw our hearts as once you drew
the hearts of other days.

As once you spoke by plain and hill
or taught by shore and sea,
so be today our teacher still,
O Christ of Galilee.

As wind and storm their Master heard
and his command fulfilled,
may troubled hearts receive your word,
the tempest-tossed be stilled.

And as of old to all who prayed
your healing hand was shown,
so be your touch upon us laid,
unseen but not unknown.

In broken bread, in wine outpoured,
your new and living way
proclaim to us, O risen Lord,
O Christ of this our day.

O changeless Christ, till life is past
your blessing still be given;
then bring us home, to taste at last
the timeless joys of heaven.

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.

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.

And now we give you thanks
that you raised him to life triumphant,
and exalted him in glory.

By his victory over death,
the reign of sin is ended,
a new day has dawned,
a broken world is restored
and we are made whole once more.

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.

Please come forward to receive communion or a blessing.

SENDING OUT GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray.

Eternal God, giver of life,
in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord.
May we who celebrate this holy feast
walk in his risen light
and bring new life to all creation.

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.**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Almighty God,
who redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ,
who raised us to newness of life
through the waters of baptism,
and has brought us out of slavery
into everlasting freedom,
give you joy and peace in faith
and bring you to your eternal inheritance;
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 the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hymn: TIS 393 Christ is alive with joy we sing
tune: Vulpus

Christ is alive, with joy we sing;
We celebrate our risen Lord,
Praising the glory of his name.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

He is the grain of wheat that died,
Sown in distress and reaped in joy,
Yielding a harvest of new life.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

He is the grain of wheat that died,
Sown in distress and reaped in joy,
Yielding a harvest of new life.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

He is the sun which brings the dawn:
He is the light of all the world,
Setting us free from death and sin.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

He is the vine set in the earth,
Sharing our life, from birth to death,
That we might share in God's own life.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

He is the bread that comes from God,
Broken to feed us in our need,
Given to bring eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Christ is alive, with joy we sing;
We celebrate our risen Lord,
Praising the glory of his name.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

NOTICES

Welcome to our Locum Vicars

Revd Lawrence Anbalagan will be with us today and next Sunday and Wednesdays. Please welcome him as he kindly assists us.

Revd Stewart will return in May.

St John's TDRM Team – Thank You

Thank you to our team members who offered to cook extra casseroles last Tuesday. St John's was able to provide another delicious and generous meal for the guests at TDRM a second week in a row. Well done, everyone! Our next cooking date is not until June, however we are still on duty in the kitchen on May 9th. Please see Cathy if you are interested in becoming involved in this ministry.

Parish Kindergarten representative needed

The St John's Kindergarten is seeking a parish representative. Please talk to one of the Wardens if you are interested in this significant ministry.

Parish roles and tasks

A list of the many tasks which go to make the church run will be displayed on the notice board and parishioners are encouraged to look for something that suits their interest and skills.

There are **vacancies on the Parish Council**... please speak to one of the members of the Council if you are interested.

The Patronal Festival will be celebrated on 7th May with one service only at 10am. Everyone is welcome and a shared feast is scheduled after the service. Please indicate what you can bring on the sign-up sheet in the foyer.

LOOKING AHEAD

- 6th May St John's Kindergarten Open Day
- 7th May St John's Patronal Festival & Commissioning of Parish Council
- 14th May Parish Network Ministry meeting after the 10am service
- 21st May Bishop Paul Barker visits to preach and celebrate. Meeting to follow



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THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sun 23 rd April	<u>3rd Sunday in Easter - Rev'd Lawrence Anbalagan</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist 8pm AA meeting
Mon 24 th April	10.30am AI Anon meeting
Tue 25 th April	1pm AA meeting 5.30pm community meal: TDRM
Wed 26 th April	10am Eucharist 5.30pm community meal: Winter Shelter 7.30pm NA meeting
Thu 27 th April	10.30am Croydon Grove 10.30am AA meeting 7.30pm AA meeting
Fri 28 th April	-
Sat 29 th April	7.00am AA meeting 10.30am Focus on Faith & Friendship 1.00 – 4.30pm Lai Christian Church – extra service 6.00pm Lai Christian Church
Sun 30 th April	<u>4th Sunday in Easter - Rev'd Lawrence Anbalagan</u> 8am Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist 8pm AA meeting