



Welcome to our worship and community life at St John the Divine. All are welcome to come forward to make your communion with God, receiving either the sacrament, or a blessing if you prefer. The Liturgy of the day could be sung or said.

All stand when the bell rings.

[The sanctuary party will process towards the Altar with music provided by the Organist. The opening hymn will be sung once the sanctuary party has assumed their seats.]

## **GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

### **[EA] Opening Hymn: TiS 143 – Immortal invisible**

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.
  
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, but ruling in might;  
your justice like mountains high soaring above,  
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
  
3. You give life to all, Lord, to both great and small,  
in all life now living, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on a tree,  
then wither: but ever unchanged you will be.
  
4. Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;  
of all your rich graces this grace, Lord, impart--  
take the veil from our faces, the veil from our heart.
  
5. All praise we would render: reveal to our sight  
what hides you is only the splendour of light;  
and so let your glory, Almighty, impart,  
through Christ in the story, your Christ to the heart.

[C]The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Sentence of the day

[EA] My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. [Luke 2.30-32]

[EA] 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**

**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.**

## Collect of the day

[C] Let us pray:

Christ our cornerstone, you were recognised at your presentation in the temple as a sign of hope for the world, but also as a stumbling-block for many: help us so to present ourselves for your service, that, in sharing your scandal, we may become a people acceptable to you. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

*[Please be seated for the Readings]*

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### **THE 1<sup>ST</sup> READING – Malachi 3.1-4**

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

May Your word live in us. **And bear much fruit to Your glory.**

## **PSALM 84**

<sup>1</sup> How lovely is your dwelling-place :

O Lord God of hosts!

**<sup>2</sup> My soul has a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord :  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

<sup>3</sup> The sparrow has found her a home,  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young :  
even your altar, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

**<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who dwell in your house :  
they will always be praising you.**

<sup>5</sup> Blessed is the man whose strength is in you :  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion;

**<sup>6</sup>Who, going through the valley of dryness,  
finds there a spring from which to drink :  
till the autumn rain shall clothe it with blessings.**

**<sup>7</sup>They go from strength to strength :  
they appear, every one of them, before the God of gods in Zion.**

**<sup>8</sup>O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer :  
give ear, O God of Jacob.**

**<sup>9</sup>Behold, O God, him who reigns over us :  
and look upon the face of your anointed.**

**<sup>10</sup>One day in your courts is better than a thousand :  
I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.**

**<sup>11</sup>For the Lord God is a rampart and a shield,  
the Lord gives favour and honour :  
and no good thing will he withhold  
from those who walk in innocence.**

**<sup>12</sup>O Lord God of hosts :  
blessed is the man who puts his trust in you.**

### **THE EPISTLE – Hebrews 2.14-18**

**<sup>14</sup>Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.**

**May Your word live in us. And bear much fruit to Your glory.**

## [EA] Gradual Hymn: **We come to your feast**

Text and music by Michael Joncas, 1951, ©1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

1. We place upon your table a gleaming cloth of white:  
the weaving of our stories, the fabric of our lives;  
the dreams of those before us, the ancient hopeful cries,  
the promise of our future: our needing and our nurture  
lie here before our eyes. **[Refrain]**

**Refrain:** We come to your feast, we come to your feast:  
the young and the old, the frightened, the bold,  
the greatest and the least.  
We come to your feast, we come to your feast  
with the fruit of our lands and the work of our hands,  
we come to your feast.

2. We place upon your table a humble loaf of bread:  
the gift of field and hillside, the grain by which we're fed;  
we come to taste the presence of him on whom we feed,  
to strengthen and connect us, to challenge and correct us,  
to love in word and deed. **[Refrain]**
3. We place upon your table a simple cup of wine:  
the fruit of human labor, the gift of sun and vine;  
we come to taste the presence of him we claim as Lord,  
his dying and his living, his leading and his giving,  
his love in cup outpoured. **[Refrain]**
4. We gather 'round your table, we pause within our quest,  
we stand beside our neighbors, we name the stranger "guest."  
The feast is spread before us; you bid us come and dine:  
in blessing we'll uncover, in sharing we'll discover  
your substance and your sign. **[Refrain]**

*[Please remain standing for the gospel]*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke 2.22-40**

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;  
<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’ <sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’ <sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

[For] the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

[Please be seated for the sermon / reflections.]

## Sermon / Reflections

### **THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

[EA] Let us stand and 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 [Intercession]**

[EA] Let us pray for the world, the church and one another

The prayers conclude with:

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 for ever. Amen.**

### **PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER**

[EA] God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. [John 3.16]

[EA] Let us pray:

**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 is us. Amen.**

### **CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION**

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

*[Silence may be kept]*

[EA] 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.**

[C] 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**

[C] Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.  
**We meet in his name and share his peace.**

[C] The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*[All may exchange a sign of peace]*

[EA] Offertory Hymn: **TiS 599 – Take my life & let it be**

1. Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
  
2. Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.
  
3. Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.
  
4. Take my silver and my gold,  
nothing, Lord, would I withhold.  
Take my intellect, and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will and make it thine:  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

6. Take my love: my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure-store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

#### Offertory prayer

[C] 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**

[C] [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.**

Loving God,

we thank you for this world of wonder and delight.

You have given it to us to care for,  
so that all your creatures may enjoy its bounty.

Lord our God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

We thank you that when we turned away from you.

you sent Jesus to live and work as one of us,  
and bring us back to you.

He showed us how to love you  
and set us free to love and serve one another.

Lord our God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

We thank you that on the cross

Jesus took away our sin,  
all that keeps us from each other and from you.  
He frees us from hate and fear,  
from all that destroys love and trust.  
Lord our God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

And so with everyone who believes in you,

with all the saints and angels,  
we rejoice and praise you, 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.]**

And now we thank you,

for these gifts of bread and wine,  
may we who receive them,  
as Jesus said,  
share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread

and gave you thanks.

He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said,

‘Take and eat. This is my body given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.’

After supper he took the cup

and gave you thanks.

He shared the cup with them and said,

‘This is my blood poured out

so that sins may be forgiven.

Do this in remembrance of me.’

[Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:]

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

You have gathered us together

to feed on Christ

and to remember all he has done for us:

Fill us with your Spirit  
that we may follow Jesus  
in all we do and say,  
working for justice and bringing your peace  
to this world that you have made.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.**

*[The wine will be administered in two chalices. The taller chalice will be for 'sipping' and the shorter chalice for 'dipping/intinction'!]*

[Sung/said]

**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.

### **PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION**

[C] 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.

[C] Most loving God,  
**you send us into the world you love. Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit.**

*[Notices, if any by one of the Wardens]*

## [EA] Closing Hymn : TiS 44 – How lovely is Your dwelling place

1. How lovely is your dwelling-place,  
O Lord of hosts, to me;  
my thirsting soul longs eagerly  
within your courts to be.
2. Beside your altars, Lord of all,  
the swallows find a nest;  
happy are those who dwell with you  
and praise you without rest,
3. and happy those whose hearts are set  
upon the pilgrim ways:  
you are the water when they thirst,  
their guide towards your face.
4. How blest are they that in your house  
for ever give you praise:  
one day with you is better spent  
than thousands in dark ways.
5. The Lord will hold back no good thing  
from those who justly live;  
to all who trust, the Lord of hosts  
will all his blessings give.

[C] 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.**

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

---

### Worship Roster for today

**8AM.** E.A. Rosemary Callow, **R1&R2.** Clive Mattingley, **Intercessor.** Fr Sam, **Cr.** Andrew Bell, **C.M.** Andrew Bell, **W.** Lyn Lynch;

**10AM.** E.A. Steven Sim, **R1.** Carol Dorian; **R2.** Judy Carter, **Intercessor.** Jenny Harris, **Cr.** Naomy Nesimnahan, **C.M.** Naomy Nesimnahan, **W.** Elizabeth Sanderson & Carol Dorian; **Counters.** Ken Hutton & Gecille Hindson

---

**E.A:** Eucharistic Assistant, **C.M.:** Communion Minister, **Cr.** Crucifer, **R:** Reader, **W:** Welcomers



*Thank you for joining in our worship today. We offer an after-service 'cuppa' in our meeting room next to the foyer after Sunday Services – you are invited to join us.*

## NOTICES

### **Special Parish Meeting**

There will be a Special Parish Meeting on **Sunday, 15 February 2026** after the combined service for the purpose of:

1. Tabling and adopting the audited financial accounts of the Parish for the year ended Sep 2025.
2. To appoint The Field Group as auditors for the Year ending Sep 2026.

All those on the Electoral Roll at the time of 2025 APM are invited to attend.

### **Wednesday Services commence**

Please note that Wednesday Services will commence this week on 4 February 2026 at 10AM.

### **Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday service will be held on Wednesday, 18 February 2026 at 10AM and 7PM.

#### **Roster for next week: 8-Feb**

**8AM E.A.** Helen Duncan, **R1&R2.** Sonia Shaw, **Intercessor.** Fr Sam, **Cr.** Norm Stephens, **C.M.** Norm Stephens, **W.** Jean Jolley & Noel Hardy

**10AM E.A.** Helen Duncan, **R1.** Jenny Harris; **R2.** Connie Killey, **Intercessor.** Elizabeth Sanderson, **Cr.** Joel Shambrook, **C.M. ?, W.** Cheryl Yon & Norma Fitzgerald; **Counters.** Mark Duncan & Joel Shambrook

## PARISH DIRECTORY

Address	5 Toorak Ave, Croydon VIC 3136
Office	03 9723 5099
	Tues, Wed, 9am -12pm
Email	<a href="mailto:office@stjohndivine.org.au">office@stjohndivine.org.au</a>
Website	www.stjohndivine.org.au - also on Facebook
Vicar	Fr. Sathi (Sam) Anthony (BD, MTh) 0400 248 347 please leave a message when calling Email: <b>sathianthony@optusnet.com.au</b>

*Banking details for those who wish to make a direct deposit to support our programs and for your regular offering:*

**Westpac: BSB # 033-044, St. John's General Account # 251582**

**Please email notices to Parish Office by Wednesday 9AM**

## THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

<b>The Presentation of Christ in the Temple</b>				
Sun	1-Feb	8:00	am	Said Eucharist
		10:00	am	Sung/Said Eucharist
Mon	2-Feb	10:30	am	<i>Al Anon (fellowship room)</i>
		7:00	pm	Parish Council meeting
Tue	3-Feb	5:30	pm	Community meal: TDRM
		7:30	pm	<i>A.A meeting (fellowship room)</i>
Wed	4-Feb	10:00	am	Said Eucharist
		12:00	pm	Mother's Union meeting
		5:15	pm	<i>Community meal: Winter Shelter</i>
		7:00	pm	<i>N.A. meeting (fellowship room)</i>
Thu	5-Feb			
Fri	6-Feb			
Sat	7-Feb	7:00	am	<i>A.A. meeting (fellowship room)</i>
		<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</b>		
Sun	8-Feb	8:00	am	Said Eucharist
		10:00	am	Sung/Said Eucharist

### Permissions

Service excerpts from *A Prayer Book for Australia* © 1995 The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation.

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from *The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Anglicised Edition*, copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and are used by permission. All rights reserved.

Words to hymns reproduced from The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, © 1999, CCL # 632290

CCLI Streaming Licence # 129545