

Holy Communion

at St Paul's, Ashgrove

Pentecost 23

2020



GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

P: **Welcome**

P: **Hymn** Praise with Joy the World's Creator (TiS 179)

Note that hymns are only sung in the 9am service

P: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

P: The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

LA: We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land where we gather today - the Yuggera and Ugarapul people. We celebrate their culture and pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

LA: In Matthew 24, Jesus said, "Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming." (v42,44)

LA: [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.**

**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.**

P: Eternal God,
you have taught us that the night is far spent
and the day is at hand:
keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom,
so that when Christ, the bridegroom, comes
we may go out joyfully to meet him,
and with him enter into the marriage feast
that you have prepared for all who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

As NAIDOC Week begins, we join with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sisters and brothers in praying:

God of Holy Dreaming, Great Creator Spirit,
from the dawn of creation you have given your children the good things
of Mother Earth.

You spoke and the gum tree grew.

In the vast desert and dense forest, and in cities at the water's edge, Creation
sings your praise.

Your presence endures as the rock at the heart of our Land.

When Jesus hung on the tree you heard the cries of all your people and
became one with your wounded ones: the convicts, the hunted, the
dispossessed.

The sunrise of your Son coloured the earth anew, and bathed it in glorious
hope.

In Jesus we have been reconciled to you, to each other and to your whole
creation.

Lead us on, Great Spirit, as we gather from the four corners of the earth;
enable us to walk together in trust from the hurt and shame of the past
into the full day which has dawned in Jesus Christ. Amen

(A Thanksgiving for Australia, APBA p218)

Joshua 24.1-3a, 24.14-25

¹ Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ² And Joshua said to all the people, 'Thus says the Lord , the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. ³ Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac; ¹⁴ 'Now therefore revere the Lord , and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord . ¹⁵ Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord , choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord .' ¹⁶ Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; ¹⁷ for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸ and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord , for he is our God.' ¹⁹ But Joshua said to the people, 'You cannot serve the Lord , for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. ²⁰ If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.' ²¹ And the people said to Joshua, 'No, we will serve the Lord !' ²² Then Joshua said to the people, 'You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord , to serve him.' And they said, 'We are witnesses.' ²³ He said, 'Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord , the God of Israel.' ²⁴ The people said to Joshua, 'The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.' ²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

For the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 78.1-7

¹ Give heed to my teaching, O my people:
incline your ears to the words of my mouth;
² **For I will open my mouth in a parable:
and expound the mysteries of former times.**
³ What we have heard and known:
what our forebears have told us,
⁴ **We will not hide from their children,
but declare to a generation yet to come:
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
his mighty and wonderful works.**
⁵ He established a law in Jacob

and made a decree in Israel:
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach their children,
**6 That future generations might know,
and those yet unborn:
that they in turn might teach it to their children;**
⁷ So that they might put their confidence in God:
and not forget his works, but keep his commandments,

1 Thessalonians 4.9-18

⁹ Now concerning love of the brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰ and indeed you do love all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, beloved, to do so more and more, ¹¹ to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we directed you, ¹² so that you may behave properly towards outsiders and be dependent on no one. ¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

For the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

LA: Hymn Inspired by Love and Anger (TiS 674)

Gospel Reading

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 25 beginning at verse 1

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 25.1-13

¹ 'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ When

the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." ⁷ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." ⁹ But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." ¹⁰ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹ Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." ¹² But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." ¹³ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

Sermon

Silence

LA: 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.**

LA: THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

...

As we look toward Remembrance Day on Wednesday, we pray:

God of love and liberty,
We bring our thanks today for the peace and security we enjoy.
We remember those who in time of war faithfully served their country.
We pray for their families, and for ourselves whose freedom was won at such a cost.
Make us a people zealous for peace, and hasten the day when nations shall not lift
up sword against nation neither learn war any more.
This we pray in the name of the one who gave his life for the sake of the world:
Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen

(APBA, p204)

LA: 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.**

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

LA: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your
God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all

your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

**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.**

P: 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.

P: We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.

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

All may exchange a sign of peace, maintaining 1.5m separation and without touching.

P: Hymn O Jesus, I Have Promised (TiS 595)

Note that we cannot pass collection bowls around at this time. There is a box at the back of the building to receive your offerings. Alternatively, please consider giving electronically through your bank. St Paul's bank details are BSB: 704901 Acc NO: 00004420

P: 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 men and women 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.'

**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.**

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.

Special Covid-19 Guidelines: Please come forward to receive communion (bread only). Maintain 1.5m separation as you move forward. Queue close to the pew – not in the centre of the isle – in one line. Sanitise hands. Receive the bread while standing and return to your seat.

While others are receiving communion you may wish to listen or quietly sing along to the communion while remaining seated.

Communion Hymn (Not announced): You are my hiding place (TiS 754)

Living God,
in this holy meal you fill us with new hope.
May the power of your love,
which we have known in word and sacrament,
continue your saving work among us,
give us courage for our pilgrimage,
and bring us to the joys you promise.

**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.**

Announcements

Please stand for the blessing:

P: May the God of creation
warm your heart like the campfires of old;
bring wisdom and peace as shown to the first peoples of this land;
Let the light of God show us the right path
and make us stand tall like the big river gums
drawing life from the ever-flowing waters.

(Source: Uncle Vince Ross)

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

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

P: Hymn **God Gives us a Future** (TiS 687)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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