

Holy Communion at St Paul's, Ashgrove Lent 4, 2025

Welcome

The Kingdom of God has come near!
We repent and believe the Gospel.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.



Acknowledgement of Country

While he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. *Luke 15: 21*

[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.**

Undignified God,
spirit of dangerous feasts,
inviting the unclean to your table:
find us in the far country
of hopelessness and greed;
free us from the prison
of resentment and envy
and bring us back to life;
through Jesus Christ, the friend of sinners. **Amen.**

Joshua 5: 2-12

² At that time the Lord said to Joshua, 'Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites a second time.' ³ So Joshua made flint knives, and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath-haaraloth. ⁴ This is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the warriors, had died during the journey through the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt. ⁵ Although all the people who came out had been circumcised, yet all the people born on the journey through the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt had not been circumcised. ⁶ For the Israelites travelled for forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, the warriors who came out of Egypt, perished, not having listened to the voice of the Lord. To them the Lord swore that he would not let them see the land that he had sworn to their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. ⁷ So it was their children, whom he raised up in their place, that Joshua circumcised; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way. ⁸ When the circumcising of all the nation was done, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed. ⁹ The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away from you the

disgrace of Egypt.' And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. ¹⁰ While the Israelites were encamped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

Psalm 32

- ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!
- ² Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- ³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.
- ⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- ⁶ Therefore all the faithful
will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
**when the great waters overflow,
they shall not reach them.**
- ⁷ You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- ⁸ "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.
- ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
**who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."**
- ¹⁰ Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
- ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke chapter 15 beginning at verse 11.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 15: 11-32

¹¹ Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." ²² But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" ³¹ Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' '

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

Sermon – <https://www.stpaulsashgrove.org.au/sermons/>

Silence

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.

Crucified Lord,
Exalted in humiliation,
We look to you for life:
In our illnesses and wounds, we look to you for healing;
In our despair, we look to you for hope;
In our shame, we look to you for acceptance;
In our rejection, we look to you for love,
In our sin, we look to you for forgiveness,
In our hurting world, we look to you for a new way forward
Into peace and kindness, sufficiency and solidarity,
Until we see your kingdom come,
And your will done on Earth as in heaven. Amen.

**God of the nations,
whose sovereign rule brings justice and peace,
have mercy on our broken and divided world.
Shed abroad your peace in the hearts of all
and banish from them the spirit that makes for war,
that all races and peoples may learn to live
as members of one family
and in obedience to your law,
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**God who made our home,
And made your home with us,
Yet often had no place to lay your head,
Have mercy today on all who have no home.
Provide shelter and protection,
A future and a hope,**

To all whose beds tonight will be unsafe, unstable or exposed.
Grant wisdom and compassion,
To everyone with power or resources
To provide housing solutions,
So that all may live in peace
And share with equity and thanksgiving
The good things you provide
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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

God seeks truth and love in our inner being,
in our relationships,
And in all the institutions of our world.

Silence

Let us then return to the one who made and loves us,
Asking for a clean heart and a new spirit,
For ourselves, for the church and for the world.

Where spiritual pain is numbed instead of being healed,
Lord, have mercy.
When desperate people are given false hope,
Christ, have mercy.
For all that distracts people from your invitation to life,
Lord, have mercy.

When the church attracts people to itself instead of to you,
Lord, have mercy.
When your people preach wrath instead of love,
Christ, have mercy.
When we limit the extent of your grace,
Lord, have mercy.

When we love pleasure and hide from you,
Lord, have mercy.
When we bask in our salvation instead of expressing it in good works,

Christ, have mercy.

Whenever we judge instead of loving,

Lord, have mercy.

**In your mercy, turn us from the path of destruction,
And return us to the path of life. Amen.**

God, who is merciful and gracious, grant you
Freedom where sin has trapped you,
Healing where sin has wounded you,
And strength where sin has weakened you.
Receive forgiveness and return to your communities
As ambassadors of healing and reconciliation. Amen

Jesus is our peace. Through his body he has formed one reconciled humanity. (Eph 2:14-16)

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

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

*The collection bowl will be passed around during this song to support the ministry of St Paul's.
Most members give electronically through their bank, instead. St Paul's bank details are Name:
Ithaca-Ashgrove Anglican Parish BSB: 704901 Acc No: 00004420*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept all we have, all we give, and all we are,
As we dedicate all to your glory
and the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

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.

...As we sing together the eternal song:

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.

...Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

...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 in remembrance that Christ died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Please come forward to receive the bread and wine. Gluten free wafers are available (please ask). If you prefer not to receive communion, please come forward for a blessing (keep your hands behind your back). You are welcome to kneel at the communion rail. If you prefer to stand, please stand in the middle section. For the safety of all in the community we ask you to:

- *Use hand sanitiser before receiving the bread and wine*
- *NOT intinct (dip the bread in the wine)*
- *Take wine only if you are free from symptoms and from anxiety about drinking from the common cup. Be assured that Christ is present in you and for you as you receive the bread alone.*

God of compassion and mercy,
With this bread and wine
You sustain us
For our Lenten pilgrimage.
In the strength of this meal
May we walk with courage
The road of self-giving love,
In the footsteps of Christ. Amen

**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 and turn to face the back for the blessing

Blessing

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ST PAUL'S NOTICEBOARD

Upcoming events

- TODAY **Icecream Sunday** – join us for family church at 9am followed by icecream!
- Mon 7 April **Book Club**, 7.30pm in the Crypt - All welcome. *In the Margins* by Gail Holmes.
- Fri 4 April **Taize** (6pm in the church) followed by a meal at a local restaurant - please contact Rev Pam or John Hynd if you are interested in joining.
- Sat 5 April **Practically Spiritual**, 8.30am in the Crypt - a group that meets once a month to reflect on theological books. Please chat to Revd Kathy.
- Sun 13 April **The Road to The Cross: a musical journey through Passiontide**, 2.00pm, St Augustine's Anglican Church, tickets available through the Bach Society of Queensland, www.bachsocietyqld.org.au
- Thu 17 April **6pm Maundy Thursday** meal and foot-washing, followed by Eucharist.
- Fri 18 April **8:30am Good Friday** service
- Sat 19 April **7pm Easter Vigil**
- Sun 20 April **8:30am Easter Celebration**
- Sat 26 April **Westside Orchestra Concert – Westside Weddings**, 5pm – tickets available [here](#)
- Sat 31 May **Seeker's Day 1** – for more information at www.anglicanchurchsq.org.au/vocations



BOOKFEST DATES:

FRIDAY 19 September - extended hours from 4- 9 pm with extra emphasis on street food.

SATURDAY 20 September - reduced hours of 8.30 am - 1pm

Jubilee Terrace Playgroup – Weekly on a Friday from 9.30-11.30am during school terms. \$4 per week to cover cost. Registered Playgroup with Play Matters.

Bible Study and Morning Prayer every Wednesday morning during school terms. **Prayer** from 9:05am and **Bible Study** from 9.45. Everyone welcome!

Youth Connect: We are working with a few of other Anglican churches to host gatherings for young people. Please ask Rev Margaret for details.

For your prayers

Baby Nora (and her parents Lucius and Bronwyn and grandparents Ian and Liz), John H, Rob and Andrea, Maureen M, Tabi (Jules's niece), Cherilee, Ian and Kirsty, Georgia, Sue J, Noel and Wayne. Pray for the continuing recovery of Charlie (Elizabeth S niece), Cheryl and Sam. We also give thanks for Rev Jack in his ministry to several parishes in the Diocese. Please pray for our friends at LAMB and surrounds, and for the country.

If you would like to donate electronically to St Paul's our bank account details are:

Ithaca-Ashgrove Anglican Parish, BSB: 704901, Acc No: 00004420

Contact: Rev Dr Margaret Wesley, margaret.wesley@anglicanchurchsq.org.au, 0424 214 924.

Rev Margaret's non-contact days are Monday and Thursday.

Parish Office, parish.office@stpaulsashgrove.org.au, 07 3366 2320 (open Wed and Fri mornings).