

Holy Communion at St Paul's, Ashgrove Pentecost 13, 2024 Sunday 18 August



Wisdom
and **Irony**

1 Kings 2-3
Ephesians 5:11-21

St Paul's, Ashgrove
Rev Dr Margaret Wesley

Song: Let There be Light (TiS 447)

The Lord be with you.
And also with you

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

Acknowledgement of Country

Jesus said, 'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.' John 6: 56

**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.**

Divine love,
undaunted by death and fear,
who went to the depths
to bring back life:
in the power of the cross

shape a people of service,
breaking bread
for a hungry world;
through Jesus Christ, the true food.
Amen.

1 Kings 2: 10-12; 3: 3-14

2 ¹⁰ Then David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. ¹¹ The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned for seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. ¹² So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

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3 ³ Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. ⁴ The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt-offerings on that altar. ⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' ⁶ And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?' ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. ¹³ I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honour all your life; no other king shall compare with you. ¹⁴ If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.'

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

Psalm 111

¹ Hallelujah!

**I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.**

² Great are the deeds of the Lord!

They are studied by all who delight in them.

³ O Lord, your work is full of majesty and splendour,
and your righteousness endures for ever.

⁴ You make your marvellous works to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.

⁵ You give food to those who fear you;
you are ever mindful of your covenant.

⁷ The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all your commandments are sure.

⁸ They stand fast for ever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.

⁹ You sent redemption to your people;
**you commanded your covenant for ever;
holy and awesome is your name.**

¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

**those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
the praise of the Lord endures for ever.**

Ephesians 5: 11-21

¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.' ¹⁵ Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰ giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

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

Song: God is Love (TiS 153)

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John chapter 6 beginning at verse 51.
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

John 6: 51-58

⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.' ⁵² The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵ for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.'

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

Sermon - 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.

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 has called us to exercise loving, compassionate leadership in creation.

Silence

Let us attend to the ways we have acted from fear or greed, and commit ourselves once again to following God's call.

**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.**

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
To bring healing and hope. Amen

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.

Song: Make me a Channel of your Peace (TiS 607)

The collection bowl will be passed around to support the ministry of St Paul's. Most members give electronically through their bank. 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.

...and 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 in remembrance of me.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

...all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever.

**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 and rose 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*
- *do not 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.*

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

Song: Lord, What A Cloud of Witnesses!

Lord, what a cloud of witnesses
Surrounds us as we work and pray!
Their faithful, loving service is
An inspiration every day.

Your Spirit gives us memory;
Now give your church clear vision, too.
Reformed, reforming, may we be
A church that seeks to follow you.

We live in towns that others made;
We harvest what we did not sow —
And others sweated, laboured, prayed
To build Christ's church in which we grow.

Tune: Dr. Charles Burney, ca. 1788; in Thomas Williams' *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789 ("Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates") Text: Copyright © 2000 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

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**

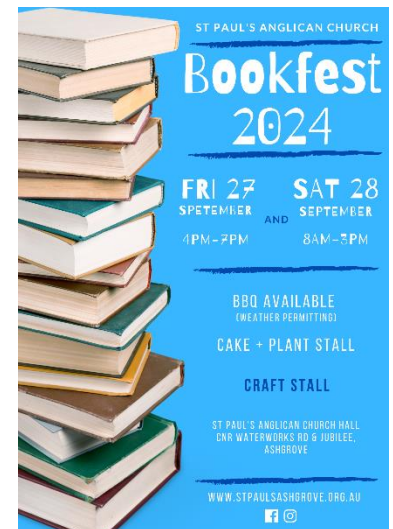
ST PAUL'S NOTICEBOARD

Join us for morning tea after the 9/8.30am service!

We are hoping to have the church open more often, to be a place of peace for our community. If you would like to volunteer to sit in church (read, knit, etc) so we can have the doors open, please let Rev Margaret know.

Upcoming events

- TODAY Combined service - **Parish Council Meeting**, after morning tea
- Sun 25 Aug **Defibrillator training** (after the 9am service) for those wanting to be trained in the use of the device.
- Mon 26 Aug **Book Club** in the Crypt, **7.30pm**. All are welcome. The current book is *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom (author of *Tuesdays with Morrie* and *Five People You Meet in Heaven*)
- Sat 31 Aug **St Francis College Open Day**, 9.30am-12.30pm followed by **Seekers Day**, 1.00-3.00pm
- Wed 4 Sept **Red Bench Unveiling** 1:30 pm, followed by afternoon tea in the Crypt.
- Fri 6 Sept **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 7 Sept **Practically Spiritual**, 8.30am in the Crypt - a group that meets once a month to reflect on theological books. Please chat to Revd Kathy.
- Fri 27 – Sat 28 Sept **Bookfest** - with craft and plant stall! Please email the office with your availability and the activities you prefer to be involved with (books, cakes, craft, BBQ, plants, sales)



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!

For your prayers

Ian and Kirsty, Phoebe, Chris and their families, Rev Shane at St Lucia Parish, Baby Sal and his mother Belle and father George, Georgia, Sue J and Wayne. We hold in our prayers Noel and Joy who are at home or in a nursing home. Pray for the continuing recovery of Maureen M, Rev Jack, Cherilee and Sam.

We also give thanks for Rev Jack and Rev Kathy in their ministry to several parishes in the Diocese. Please pray for our friends at LAMB and surrounds, and for the country. There have been four homes burnt down near Lamb - one was Christian, animals slaughtered and gunshots. The Lamb Director asked for police protection, but it wasn't forthcoming.

Contact: Rev Dr Margaret Wesley, margaret.wesley@anglicanchurchsq.org.au, 0424 214 924. Rev Margaret's day off is Thursday. Parish Office, parish.office@stpaulsashgrove.org.au, 07 3366 2320 (open Wed and Fri mornings).