

Holy Communion at St Paul's, Ashgrove Pentecost 14, 2024 Sunday 25 August



Song: Come as you are (TIS 693)

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, 'It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.' John 6: 63

**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.**

God of peace, let us your people know that at the heart of turbulence there is an inner calm that comes from faith in you. Keep us from being content with things as they are, that from this central peace there may come a creative compassion, a thirst for justice and a willingness to give of ourselves in the Spirit of Christ. Amen.

1 Kings 8: 22-30, 41-43

²² Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. ²³ He said, 'O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴ the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. ²⁵ Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, "There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me." ²⁶ Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David. ²⁷ 'But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! ²⁸ Have regard to your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; ²⁹ that your eyes may be open night and day towards this house, the place of which you said, "My name shall be there", that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays towards this place. ³⁰ Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling-place; heed and forgive. ⁴¹ 'Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name ⁴² —for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays towards this house, ⁴³ then hear in heaven your dwelling-place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

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

Psalm 84

¹ How lovely is your dwelling-place:

O Lord God of hosts!

² My soul has a desire and longing
to enter the courts of the Lord:

my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

³ 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.

⁴ Blessed are those who dwell in your house:

they will always be praising you.

⁵ Blessed are those whose strength is in you:

in whose heart are the highways to Zion;

⁶ Who, going through the valley of dryness,
find there a spring from which to drink:

till the autumn rain shall clothe it with blessings.

⁷ They go from strength to strength:

**they appear, every one of them,
before the God of gods in Zion.**

⁸ O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer:

give ear, O God of Jacob.

⁹ Behold, O God, him who reigns over us:

and look upon the face of your anointed.

¹⁰ 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.**

¹¹ For the Lord God is a light and a shield,
the Lord gives favour and honour:

**and no good thing will he withhold
from those who walk in innocence.**

¹² O Lord God of hosts:

blessed are those who put their trust in you.

Ephesians 6: 10-20

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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

Song: Breathe on me, Breath of God (TiS 407)

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John chapter 6 beginning at verse 56.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

John 6: 56-69

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.' ⁵⁹ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. ⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' ⁶¹ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵ And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.' ⁶⁶ Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'

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: Immortal, Invisible, God only wise (TiS 143)

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: Christ be our Light (SPHB 7)

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**

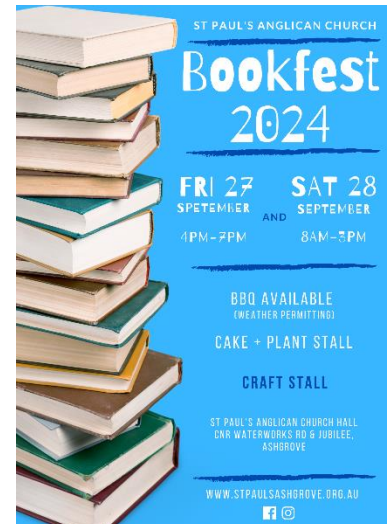
ST PAUL'S NOTICEBOARD

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 **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.
- Sat 21 Sept **Westside Orchestra Concert**, 5pm followed by refreshments – more details to come
- 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, Rev Shane at St Lucia Parish, Baby Sal and his parents Bella and 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).