

Holy Communion at St Paul's, Ashgrove

Lent 5 26th March 2023

(Hymns 9.00am service only)

NEW LIFE



Hymn: TiS 642 This Day God Gives Me

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins
Whose mercy endures forever

The Lord be with you
And also with you

**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.**

Life-giving God,
your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death:
breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit,
that we may be raised to new life in Christ,
and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. 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**

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

Psalm 130

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord:
Lord, hear my voice;
- 2 O let your ears consider well:
the voice of my supplication.
- 3 If you, Lord, should note what we do wrong:
who then, O Lord, could stand?
- 4 But there is forgiveness with you:
so that you shall be feared.
- 5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him:
and in his word is my hope.
- 6 My soul looks for the Lord:
**more than watchmen for the morning,
more, I say, than watchmen for the morning.**
- 7 O Israel, trust in the Lord,
for with the Lord there is mercy:
and with him is ample redemption.
- 8 He will redeem Israel:
from the multitude of their sins.

Hymn: TiS 407 Breathe on me Breath Of God

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John** chapter 11 beginning at verse 1
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill,

he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

This is the gospel of the Lord, **praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Sermon

Silence

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.

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

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,
though we have rebelled and wandered far off

Let us then ask for mercy, 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.

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.

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.

Hymn: TiS 650 Brother Sister Let Me Serve You

While we will now be passing around the collection bowls again you may like to also consider giving electronically through your bank. St Paul's bank details are Name: Ithaca-Ashgrove Anglican Parish BSB: 704901 Acc NO: 00004420

Blessing of the Gifts

..... **Blessed be God for ever**

THANKSGIVING 5 (Lent)

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 was tempted in every way as we are,
yet he did not sin.

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 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. '
**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.**

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.**

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).

With the high incidence of Covid and influenza in the community we ask you to:

- *Maintain physical distancing of 1.5m as you move forward*
- *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 free of anxiety about drinking from the common cup. Be assured that Christ is present in you and for you as you receive the bread alone.*

Silence for communion

God of mercy,
may we who have shared in this holy meal
know your forgiveness in our lives,
bring your reconciliation to others,
and be a sign of wholeness in this broken world.

**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 as you are able for the blessing:

Blessing

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

Hymn: TiS 690 Beauty for Brokenness

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ST PAUL'S NOTICEBOARD

Join us for morning tea after the service!

Upcoming events

TODAY, 11am

Westside Orchestra Concert – come join us for a morning of inspiring, gentle and toe tapping music by Australian composers. Tickets are \$5 and on sale now through this link <https://events.humanitix.com/an-australian-idyll> or you are able to buy them at the door.



Sat 1 April

Working Bee – 7.30am to 12 noon. Morning tea is provided. Jobs include cleaning (church, crypt, office, Columbarium, toilets) and gardening (hedging, cutting back shrubs, weeding, tidying).

Practically Spiritual, 8.30am in the Crypt - a group that meets once a month to reflect on theological books. Talk to Revd Kathy

Sun 2 April

Palm Sunday, 7.30am and 9am

Thurs 6 April

Maundy Thursday, 6pm

Fri 7 April

Good Friday, 8.30am

Sat 8 April

Holy Saturday, 7pm

Sun 9 April

Easter Day, 8.30am

Mon 17 April, 7.30pm

Book Club in the Crypt. If you would like to join you are very welcome. Just speak to one of the Bookclubbers. The chosen book is **Sense and Sensibility** by **Jane Austen**

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. **Prayer** from 9:05am and **Bible Study** from 9.45. Everyone welcome!

Lenten Studies:

Our Wednesday morning Bible study group will be following the Common Grace Lenten series on the Lord's Prayer this year. If you are unable to join us you can access the series at home at www.commongrace.org.au/the_lords_prayer_2023

For your prayers

The Archbishop Election Committee as they discern who will be our next Archbishop.

Ian, Wayne, Gemma and Yen, David, Revd Sue and the Goonaneman Parish, The Ward Family, Barb, Elizabeth, Melvie Rose, Sam, Kate, Liam, John, Revd Jack, Genevieve, Revd Margaret's niece, Nick, The Paul Family and the LAMB Medical Ministry in Bangladesh. We give thanks for the continued good health of Anni. And for Joy, Margaret S and Romola who are at home or in a nursing home.