

# Holy Communion at St Paul's, Ashgrove

## PENTECOST 25, 2023



**Song:** Christ Be My Leader (SLADE) (TiS 624)

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

Put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation, for God has destined us not for destruction but for salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us.

1 Thessalonians 5:8-10

**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.**

Merciful God  
resisting the iron fist

which reaps where it did now sow:  
give us courage to accept  
your faith in us  
and compassion to stand  
with all who are cast aside;  
through Jesus Christ, who became nothing  
that we might have everything.

**Amen**

*November 14 was Survivor Day – a day set aside to commemorate survivors of sexual abuse in Churches and other institutions. So we pray:*

God, our redeemer and sustainer,  
we pray for survivors of violence, abuse and neglect.  
Give your power to the powerless,  
your fullness to the empty of spirit.  
Heal their wounds, free them from fear,  
and restore them to true health.  
Grant this through Jesus Christ,  
the crucified and risen Saviour  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

(APBA, p209)

### **Judges 4: 1–10**

<sup>1</sup> The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. <sup>2</sup> So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. <sup>3</sup> Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years. <sup>4</sup> At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. <sup>5</sup> She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgement. <sup>6</sup> She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, 'The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, "Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. <sup>7</sup> I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand." ' <sup>8</sup> Barak said to her, 'If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.' <sup>9</sup> And she said, 'I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.' Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. <sup>10</sup> Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and ten thousand warriors went up behind him; and Deborah went up with him.

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

### **Psalms 90.1–6, 12**

*In this Psalm we consider how short our lives are, and that may seem a bit depressing, but the purpose of such reflection is to gain wisdom. We are called to focus on those things that last, rather than spending our short lives accumulating wealth and security for ourselves.*

<sup>1</sup> Lord, you have been our refuge:  
**from one generation to another.**

<sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were born  
or the earth and the world were brought to be:

**from eternity to eternity you are God.**

<sup>3</sup> You turn us back into dust:

**saying ‘Return to dust, O children of Adam.’**

<sup>4</sup> For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday passing:

**or like one watch of the night.**

<sup>5</sup> You cut them short like a dream:

**like the fresh grass of the morning;**

<sup>6</sup> In the morning it is green and flourishes:

**at evening it is withered and dried up.**

<sup>12</sup> Teach us so to number our days:

**that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

### **1 Thessalonians 5: 1–11**

*The church at Thessalonica seems to have been overly concerned about Jesus’ return. It may seem strange to us, who have been waiting for nearly 2,000 years, but they did not have our long-term perspective, and expected it in their lifetime. Paul here needs to remind them that it is pointless to try to calculate when it will take place. Jesus had told them it would be when they least expected it! But that should not trouble them. They will be ready, because they are always walking in light.*

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> When they say, ‘There is peace and security’, then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup> But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup> for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup> for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For God has destined us not for destruction but for salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

**Song:** Lord Your Almighty Word (TiS 447)

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 25, beginning at verse 14  
**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Matthew 25: 14–30**

Jesus is here appealing to something the people of the time understood all too well, as do people of our time: unfair economic practices that lavish more and more money and opportunities on people who already have more than they need while those who have little make do with less and less. It is important to be clear that Jesus is NOT saying that God is like the master. He is just reminding the religious leaders that they have incredible riches in their history; riches that were meant to be invested in blessing the whole world. He challenges them to consider how well they have invested those riches. This challenge reverberates down the centuries to us.

<sup>14</sup> Jesus said, ‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup> to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according

to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup> The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup> In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup> But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup> After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." <sup>21</sup> His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." <sup>22</sup> And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." <sup>23</sup> His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." <sup>24</sup> Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." <sup>26</sup> But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

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

Sermon - [www.stpaulsashgrove.org.au/sermons/](http://www.stpaulsashgrove.org.au/sermons/)

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.

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

**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.**

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

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

*Exchange a sign of peace.*

**Song:** Inspired by Love and Anger (TiS 674)

*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*

...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 singing 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.***

*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 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.*

...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:** I, The Lord of Sea and Sky (TiS 658)

*Please stand and turn to face the back for the blessing*

And the blessing of God most gracious  
Father, Son and Holy spirit  
Be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

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

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# ST PAUL'S NOTICEBOARD

Join us for morning tea after the 9am service!

## Upcoming events

**A REMINDER: November is Goodna Pantry Month!** Please leave donations at the back of the church or drop them off to the office during office hours.

**Christmas Eve** falls on a Sunday this year, so the **8:30am** service is likely to be quite small. We are trying to decide if we should give the organist the morning off, so please **let Rev Margaret know if you plan to be there.** Thank you!

Early in 2024, we hope to re-introduce a **Bible Study group** that meets outside of business hours. Please let Rev Margaret know your availability so we can decide on a day and time.

Fri 24 - Sun 26 Nov **Northern Region Lay Retreat** (Silent Retreat) – Auchenflower, Facilitator: Dr Patrick Oliver. For further details and booking: [neridamurray@me.com](mailto:neridamurray@me.com)

Sun 26 Nov, 5pm **Commissioning of The Rev'd Steven Schwarzrock** at St Clement's, Stafford. All welcome. Please support our sisters and brothers at Stafford by attending if you can. RSVP by Thursday 23 November 2023 to: [office@stclements.org.au](mailto:office@stclements.org.au)

Sun 10 Dec, 5pm **Blue Christmas** service. It has been a tough year. Many of your friends will appreciate an invitation to this time of quiet reflection and prayer for peace.

Sat 16 Dec, 10:30am Installation of our new **Archbishop**, +Jeremy Greaves, St John's Cathedral.

Sat 16 Dec, 5pm Westside Orchestra **Christmas Concert**

**Scam alert: Please check the phone number and email address of all correspondence purporting to come from St Paul's against the contact details listed below.**

**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!

**Would you like to get more involved?** If you have any ideas for events or activities you would like to organise at St Paul's, please get in touch with Rev Margaret.

### For your prayers

Cherilee (incapacitating knee injury), Caroline M (thanks for successful shoulder surgery), Elizabeth T (recovery from surgery for a broken ankle), Bernie, Ofa, Rebekah, Clinton, Melissa, Sue J, Anne (Sue's daughter), Angela, Liam. We give thanks for the continuing recovery of Revd Jack, Avril and Sam.

Rev Jack and Rev Kathy and the Everton Park Congregation, Revd Sue and the Goonaneman Parish and the LAMB Medical Ministry in Bangladesh

We hold in our prayers Wayne, Noel, Joy and Romola who are at home or in a nursing home.

**Please let us know at the office if you would like someone added or removed from our prayer list.**

**Parish contact details** – Rev Dr Margaret Wesley – [priest@stpaulsashgrove.org.au](mailto:priest@stpaulsashgrove.org.au), 0424 214 924  
Parish Office – [parish.office@stpaulsashgrove.org.au](mailto:parish.office@stpaulsashgrove.org.au), 07 3366 2320



# Christmas at St Paul's

**December 10**

**Blue Christmas at 5:30pm**

*It has been a hard year. Take some time for quiet reflection to acknowledge sadness and pray for peace as we enter a season where there can be pressure to feel happy.*

**December 16**

**Christmas Concert at 5pm**

*Christmas entertainment from Westside Orchestra.*

**Christmas Eve**

**Family Celebration at 6pm**

*Carols, Story time, and a gift for every child*

**'Midnight' Celebration, 10:30**

*Carol singing for 30 minutes before a Christmas Eucharist.*

**Christmas Day**

**Family Celebration at 8:30am**

**Find us on the corner of Waterworks Road & Jubilee Terrace in Ashgrove.**

*Love*

*Joy*

*Peace*

