

THE EUCHARIST

Thursday 2 September 2021



Welcome to this celebration of the Eucharist, and thank you for joining us whether from near or far. In this service we acknowledge and lament that we continue to be kept apart from each other and from the Lord's table; we pray for the world and each other; and, as at every Eucharist, we "proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (1 Corinthians 11.26).

Please add your voice and your prayers as we worship God together.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

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

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.**

Prayer of Preparation

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.**

Confession and Absolution

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden, to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
confident in God's forgiveness.
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.

Gloria in excelsis

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.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OPENING THE SCRIPTURES

First Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And the One who searches the heart knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God..

(8.18-27; NRSV)

Here ends the first reading.

Psalm

As a deer longs for the running brooks: so longs my soul for you, O God.

My soul is thirsty for God, thirsty for the living God: when shall I come and see his face?

My tears have been my food day and night: while they ask me all day long ‘Where now is your God?’

As I pour out my soul by myself, I remember this: how I went to the house of the Mighty One, into the temple of God,

To the shouts and songs of thanksgiving: a multitude keeping high festival.

Why are you so full of heaviness, my soul: and why so unquiet within me?

O put your trust in God: for I will praise him yet, who is my deliverer and my God.

My soul is heavy within me: therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan, from Mizar among the hills of Hermon.

Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waters: all your waves and breakers have gone over me.

Surely the Lord will grant his loving mercy in the day-time: and in the night his song will be with me, a prayer to the God of my life.

I will say to God, my rock, ‘Why have you forgotten me: why must I go like a mourner because the enemy oppresses me?’

Like a sword through my bones, my enemies have mocked me: while they ask me all day long ‘Where now is your God?’

Why are you so full of heaviness, my soul: and why so unquiet within me?

O put your trust in God: for I will praise him yet, who is my deliverer and my God.

Give judgement for me, O God, take up my cause against an ungodly people: deliver me from the deceitful and unjust.

For you are God my refuge—why have you turned me away: why must I go like a mourner because the enemy oppresses me?

O send out your light and your truth, and let them lead me: let them guide me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

Then I shall go to the altar of God, to God my joy and my delight: and to the harp I shall sing your praises, O God, my God.

Why are you so full of heaviness, my soul: and why so unquiet within me?

O put your trust in God: for I will praise him yet, who is my deliverer and my God.

(42, 43)

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “Listen, he is calling for Elijah.” And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.

(15.33-40; NRSV)

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Prayers of lament, thanksgiving and intercession

Let us pray for all people and for the Church throughout the world.

The response to the prayers is
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude with our Parish Prayer
**Creator Spirit, God beyond our knowing,
your love has been poured into our hearts.
Renew our trust in you,
and shape our lives to the call of Jesus,
our crucified and risen Lord.
Make us a people of blessing and hope,
so that neighbours and strangers may be drawn
to the compassion of Christ. Amen.**

The Greeting of Peace

God is love
and those who live in love live in God
and God lives in them.

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

CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

The priest prays on behalf of all, praising God for God's mighty acts. All respond:

**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.**

The Last Supper is recalled, including Jesus' command to continue sharing bread and wine: in memory of him, and proclaiming his death and resurrection. All respond:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The prayer calls on God's blessing and looks to the fulfilling of all things within the goodness of God. All join in affirming:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are confident to pray,

Our Father in heaven...

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

As this broken bread was one many grains,
which have been gathered together
and made one bread:
**So may your church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

This is the Lord's table, the table of God's kingdom.

Although we are but a few present,
there is a place prepared here
for all who long to return to this table,
for all whose hearts are restless,
and for all who seek God's mercy.

So let us offer ourselves
to that mercy and loving-kindness,
in remembrance that Christ died for us,
and let us abide with him in faith with thanksgiving.

CONTINUING IN THE WAY OF CHRIST

Post-Communion Prayer

We honour you, O Christ, for this sacred feast:
for here we receive you,
here the memory of your passion is renewed,
here our minds are filled with grace,
and here a pledge of future glory is given;
gather those who are near and those who are far,
we pray, to share this feast together once again
and so finally, to feast at that table
where you reign with all your saints for ever.
**Keep us in this hope that we have grasped;
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name.**

Blessing and Dismissal

The peace of God which passes all understanding
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and
love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the
Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain
with you always. **Amen.**

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

*Material in this service is taken from
A Prayer Book for Australia (1995), and Common Worship (2000).*