

# ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALTONA/LAVERTON



St Eanswythe's Altona  
St Clement's Altona Meadows  
O Te Wairua Tapu Ki Poipiripi



*To proclaim God's love and life in Christ:  
growing in faith ✚ serving others ✚ nurturing a common life*

## 28 December 2025

### First Sunday After Christmas (Year A)

9:30am Combined Service, St Eanswythe's

1:00pm Te Hakari Tapu (Māori Service), St Eanswythe's

*Wominjeka :: Welcome :: Haere mai*



A warm welcome to our worship today,  
especially if you are with us for the first time or visiting.

Please join us for refreshments following the service.

*Our parish lies on the country of the Kulin nation.  
We recognise and honour the Indigenous custodians of this land over countless generations,  
and we pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.  
We commit ourselves to the path of reconciliation, justice and healing.*

## Gathering in God's Name

INTROIT HYMN      312 Once in royal David's city

THE COLLECT *(prayer of the day)*

Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created,  
and yet more wonderfully restored,  
the dignity of human nature:  
in your mercy,  
bring us to share the divine life of Jesus Christ,  
who came to share our human life,  
and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

PARISH PRAYER

**God of this ancient land, holy beyond time and place,  
you search us out and name us your beloved children.  
Work in us to fulfil your longing and compassion for every person.  
Send your Spirit to renew our life,  
and give us courage to rise and follow where Jesus calls. Amen.**

FIRST READING: A reading from Isaiah (63.7-9)

<sup>7</sup> I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. <sup>8</sup> For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour <sup>9</sup> in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM (148)

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord, praise the Lord from heaven: O praise him in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise him, all his angels: O praise him, all his host.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon: praise him, all you stars of light.

<sup>4</sup> **Praise him, you highest heaven: and you waters that are above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded and they were made.

<sup>6</sup> **He established them for ever and ever: he made an ordinance which shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup> O praise the Lord from the earth: praise him, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup> **Fire and hail, mist and snow: and storm-wind fulfilling his command;**

<sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills: fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup> **Beasts of the wild, and all cattle: creeping things and winged birds;**

<sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth, and all peoples: princes, and all rulers of the world;

<sup>12</sup> **Young men and maidens: old folk and children together.**

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is exalted.

<sup>14</sup> **His glory is above earth and heaven: and he has lifted high the horn of his people.**

<sup>15</sup> Therefore he is the praise of all his servants: of the children of Israel, a people that is near him. Praise the Lord.

**SECOND READING:** A reading from Hebrews (2.10-18)

<sup>10</sup> It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup> For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup> saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' <sup>13</sup> And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.' <sup>14</sup> Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL HYMN** 299 While shepherds watched their flocks by night

**THE GOSPEL**

Alleluia. **Alleluia.**

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you. **Alleluia.**

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

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
St Matthew (2.13-23)

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>13</sup> Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'

<sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that <sub>3</sub> he had learned from the wise men.

<sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: <sup>18</sup> ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’ <sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’ <sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

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

## **SERMON**

### **Celebrating at the Lord’s Table**

*Our sharing is a gift of grace, a communion with Jesus and with each other. There is a place here for each and every person.*

**OFFERTORY HYMN**      288 Not the powerful, not the privileged

**AS COMMUNION IS RECEIVED, WE SING:**

318 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed

### **Going into the World**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**      319 Child in the manger

## **BLESSING**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**



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