

THE EUCHARIST

Thursday 9 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 God's forgiveness and peace.

Let us confess 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.

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

O God,
you know us to be set in the midst
of so many and so great dangers
that by reason of the frailty of our nature
we cannot always stand upright:
grant to us such strength and protection
as may support us in all dangers
and carry us through all temptations;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OPENING THE SCRIPTURES

First Reading

A reading from the book of Lamentations

How lonely sits the city
that once was full of people!
How like a widow she has become,
she that was great among the nations!
She that was a princess among the provinces
has become a vassal.
She weeps bitterly in the night,
with tears on her cheeks;
among all her lovers
she has no one to comfort her;
all her friends have dealt treacherously with her,
they have become her enemies.
Judah has gone into exile with suffering
and hard servitude;
she lives now among the nations,
and finds no resting-place;
her pursuers have all overtaken her
in the midst of her distress.
The roads to Zion mourn,
for no one comes to the festivals;
all her gates are desolate,
her priests groan;
her young girls grieve,
and her lot is bitter.
Her foes have become the masters,
her enemies prosper,
because the LORD has made her suffer
for the multitude of her transgressions;
her children have gone away,
captives before the foe.
From daughter Zion has departed
all her majesty.
Her princes have become like stags
that find no pasture;
they fled without strength
before the pursuer.
Jerusalem remembers,
in the days of her affliction and wandering,
all the precious things
that were hers in days of old.
When her people fell into the hand of the foe,
and there was no one to help her,
the foe looked on mocking
over her downfall.

(1.1-7; NRSV)

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

Psalm

How long, O Lord, will you so utterly forget me: how long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I suffer anguish in my soul, and be so grieved in my heart day and night: how long shall my enemy triumph over me?

Look upon me, O Lord my God, and answer me:
lighten my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

Lest my enemy say ‘I have prevailed’: lest my foes exult at my overthrow.

Yet I put my trust in your unfailing love: O let my heart rejoice in your salvation.

And I will make my song to the Lord: because he deals so bountifully with me.

(13)

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said: ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.’

(14.1-14; 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.

As communion is shared in this place,
let us all offer ourselves
to God's mercy and loving-kindness,
in remembrance that Christ died for us,
that we may 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).*