

THE EUCHARIST

Thursday 23 September 2021



Our parish is on the country of the Kulin nation: we acknowledge their elders, past and present, and we commit ourselves to the path of reconciliation, healing and justice.

Welcome to this celebration of the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is the sacrament that forms and feeds us as God's people, as the Body of Christ, and yet we are painfully aware that at this time we cannot gather as the Church, the Body of Christ.

At this service, with only a few people gathered in person, we recognise that our assembly is incomplete. Together with those joining us online, 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), offering our thanksgiving and praise in faith and hope.

We trust that as we gather this evening, wherever we are, Christ is near to us, inviting us to abide with him. 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.

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.**

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.**

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

Loving Father, whose Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for him:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as he was the servant of all,
who gave up his life and died for us,
and yet lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

OPENING THE SCRIPTURES

First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah

At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

Thus says the LORD:

The people who survived the sword
found grace in the wilderness;
when Israel sought for rest,
the LORD appeared to him from far away.
I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

Again I will build you, and you shall be built,
O virgin Israel!

Again you shall take your tambourines,
and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.

Again you shall plant vineyards
on the mountains of Samaria;
the planters shall plant,
and shall enjoy the fruit.

For there shall be a day when sentinels will call
in the hill country of Ephraim:

‘Come, let us go up to Zion,
to the LORD our God.’

For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
‘Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.’

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,

and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labour, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

(31.1-9; NRSV)

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

O Israel, trust in the Lord: he is your help and your shield.

O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord: he is your help and your shield.

You that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord: he is your help and your shield.

The Lord has remembered us and he will bless us: he will bless the house of Israel, he will bless the house of Aaron.

He will bless all those that fear the Lord: both high and low together.

May the Lord increase you greatly: you and your children after you.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you: he that made heaven and earth.

As for the heavens, they are the Lord's: but the earth he has given to the children of Adam.

The dead do not praise the Lord: nor do any that go down to silence.

But we will bless the Lord: both now and for evermore. O praise the Lord.

(115.8-17)

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: ‘I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, “I am going away, and I am coming to you.” If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.’

(14.25-31; 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 once 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.