

THE EUCHARIST

Thursday 30 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

O God,
you declare your almighty power
chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
mercifully grant us such a measure of your grace
that, running in the way of your commandments,
we may obtain your gracious promises,
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OPENING THE SCRIPTURES

First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."
For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for
him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of
Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the
LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for
sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

(31.10-14; NRSV)

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

Psalm

O God, you are my God: eagerly will I seek you.
**My soul thirsts for you, my flesh longs for you: as
a dry and thirsty land where no water is.**
So it was when I beheld you in the sanctuary: and
saw your power and your glory.
**For your unchanging goodness is better than life:
therefore my lips shall praise you.**
And so I will bless you as long as I live: and in your
name will I lift my hands on high.
**My longing shall be satisfied as with marrow and
fatness: my mouth shall praise you with
exultant lips.**
When I remember you upon my bed: when I meditate
upon you in the night watches,
**How you have been my helper: then I sing for joy
in the shadow of your wings,**
Then my soul clings to you: and your right hand
upholds me.
**Those that seek my life are marked for
destruction: they shall go down to the deep
places of the earth.**
They shall be delivered to the sword: they shall be a
portion for jackals.

**The king will rejoice in God, and all who take
oaths on his name shall glory: but the mouths of
liars shall be stopped.**

(63)

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 am the true vine, and my Father is the
vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears
no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to
make it bear more fruit. You have already been
cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide
in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear
fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can
you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the
branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear
much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.
Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a
branch and withers; such branches are gathered,
thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me,
and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish,
and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by
this, that you bear much fruit and become my
disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved
you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments,
you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my
Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have
said these things to you so that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be complete."

(15.1-11; NRSV)

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

Homily



IF YOU
ABIDE IN ME
YOU WILL BEAR
MUCH FRUIT —

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.