

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALTONA/LAVERTON

St Eanswythe's Altona; St Clement's Altona Meadows;

O Te Wairua Tapu Ki Poipiripi

Fourth Sunday in Lent

19th March 2023

Holy Eucharist

St Clement's 8:30am, St Eanswythe's 10:30am, Te Wairua Tapu 1pm

HYMNS (*found in the red hymn book Together in Song*)

Opening (*at 10:30am only*): 136 There's a wideness in God's mercy

Gradual: 219 (ii) Jesus comes with all his grace

Offertory: 155 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder

During Communion, we sing:

***Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.***

Words: John L Bell

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Final: 201 King of Glory, king of peace

FIRST READING

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him;

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 and present. We commit ourselves to the path of reconciliation, justice and healing (including to Pay The Rent to local First Nations people).

for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.’ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, ‘Neither has the Lord chosen this one.’ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, ‘Neither has the Lord chosen this one.’ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen any of these.’ Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Are all your sons here?’ And he said, ‘There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.’ And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.’ He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, ‘Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.’ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

(1 Samuel 16.1-13)

PSALM

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.

He will make me lie down in green pastures: and lead me beside still waters.

He will refresh my soul: and guide me in right pathways for his name’s sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the face of those who trouble me: you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

Surely your goodness and loving-kindness will follow me all the days of my life: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

(23)

SECOND READING

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, ‘Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’

(Ephesians 5.8-14)

THE GOSPEL

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. Jesus spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam”. Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ... The neighbours brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet. ... Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and

are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshipped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

(John 9.1-41)

For our Prayers This Week

The world and nation: For the people of Türkiye, Syria & Ukraine.

The Church:

World Council of Churches: For the Church Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania.

For Christians who are facing persecution and martyrdom, and for those who pray and grieve for them.

Anglican Church of Australia: The Diocese of Riverina (Bp Donald Kirk, Clergy & People).

Diocese of Melbourne: St Paul’s Geelong (Nigel Pope).

Agencies supported by our parish:

Common Grace – uniting Australian Christians in advocacy and prayer.

Our parish & community: For all who are searching for a spiritual home.

Those with particular needs at this time:

Denise, Stuart, Hannah, Anthony, Carol, James, Toby, Johnny, Peter, Lewis, Christopher, Peggy, Kate and Sash.

The communion of saints:

Year’s mind: Ron Atkins (20), Shirley King (22), Jack Kane (25).

To add a name to the public pew sheet prayer list, for those needing prayers now or to be remembered on the anniversary of their death, please contact one of the clergy.

Meditation

A brief meditation for you to use at home during the week.

Have you heard of “the Jesus prayer”? Many Orthodox Christians take it as a mantra of sorts. *Jesus, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.*

One takes a slow deep breath in for the first half, exalting Christ: *Jesus, Son of the living God...* One breathes out for the second half, emptying oneself before him: *have mercy on me, a sinner.*

In Greek the word for “sinning” means something like “failing” or “missing”, like an archer “missing the mark”—or a basketballer, the hoop! We sin—that is, miss the mark—all the time. This is being human, making mistakes and miscalculations, with limited judgement, clumsiness, confused ambitions.

At the same time, for humans this life is our training ground, training us to live with the freedom and wisdom of the living God. As we’re learning, his mercy sustains us, as vital to us as the air we breath.

Try reciting the Jesus prayer until you know it by heart, and can take it with you into your daily tasks. It helps us to learn and grow God-ward, strengthened and guided by the Son of God: so we can aim the bow, at least, in the right direction. - Kathryn

Notices & News

Understanding 'the Voice'

On Wednesday March 29th, 6:30pm-8:30pm, St Mark's Anglican Church in Spotswood is hosting the Rev'd Garry Deverell to discuss the upcoming referendum of an Aboriginal voice to parliament; Garry is a trawloolway man from Tasmania, an Anglican priest, and a research fellow within the University of Divinity. He will be leading a discussion of the Voice proposal to equip us to make an informed decision as we exercise our vote. You can book here: <https://www.trybooking.com/CGKKU>

Easter Festivities

After both our Easter Vigil Eucharist and Easter Day Eucharist, it would be wonderful to have celebratory drinks and nibbles. If you would like to be involved, please let Kathryn know: kathryn.bellhouse@anglicanaltlav.org.au

This week in our parish

Sunday 19th March

8:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's
10:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
1pm Te Hakari Tapu, St Eanswythe's
5pm Evening Eucharist, St Clement's

Tuesday - Friday

10:30am-2:30pm Op Shop open

Tuesday 21th

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's
10am Tiddlers Playgroup, St Eanswythe's
7:30pm Lent Study, via Zoom

Wednesday 22th

9:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's
11am St George's Nursing Home Service

Thursday 23th

10am Holy Eucharist, St Eanswythe's

Friday 24th

9am Morning Prayer, St Eanswythe's
9:30am St Clement's Playgroup

Sunday 26th March

8:30am Holy Eucharist, St Clement's
10:30am Sung Eucharist, St Eanswythe's
1pm Te Hakari Tapu, St Eanswythe's
5pm Evening Eucharist, St Clement's

Looking ahead: dates for the diary

Sunday April 2 Palm Sunday, Single Parish Service, with Palm Procession, St Eanswythe's, 9:30am

Thursday April 6 Maundy Thursday, St Eanswythe's, 7pm

Friday April 7 Good Friday All Ages Service, St Clement's, 9:30am
Walk of Witness, Cherry Lake, 11am
The Good Friday Liturgy, St Eanswythe's, 1pm

Saturday April 8 Easter Vigil Eucharist, with the lighting of the new fire, St Eanswythe's, 7:30pm

Sunday April 9 Easter Day Combined Parish Eucharist with renewal of baptism, St Clement's, 9:30am