

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALTONA/LAVERTON

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



Fourth Sunday of Easter

30th April 2023

Holy Eucharist

to proclaim God's love and life in Christ

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*): 432 - Christ is made the sure foundation

Gradual: 659 - The Lord is my shepherd

Offertory: 625 - I need you, Lord, for I have seen

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

Final: 147 - To God be the glory, great things he has done

FIRST READING

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

(Acts 2.42-47)

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

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

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

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner', and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

(1 Peter 2.1-10)

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

THE GOSPEL

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

(John 10.1-10)

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

For our Prayers This Week

The world and nation: For the people of Sudan where only 16% of health facilities are functioning in the Sudanese capital.

The Church:

World Council of Churches: For the Church in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

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

Anglican Church of Australia: Mission Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia. *Diocese of Melbourne:* St Thomas' Moonee Ponds (Vanessa Bennett).

Agencies supported by our parish:

Anglican Overseas Aid – supporting health care and education in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Our parish & community: For God's guidance, love and care of our people.

Those with particular needs at this time:
Denise, Stuart, Hannah, Anthony, Carol, James, Toby, Peter, Lewis, Christopher and Maria.

The communion of saints:

Year's mind: Ivy Duckett (1), Gordon Andrews (2), Ray Eudey (2).

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.



A message from Rev'd Dave Thompson

Hello to you all! I wish you all hearty 'hello'as I move sensitively into the role as acting vicar. I would like to thank Rev'd Alan for his role in the past couple of weeks of providing continuity of pastoral care and support to all that our parish does. I am very aware of the destabilising effect to parish life as vicars, priests and acting vicars move on. You have all been through quite a bit of change. Many of you may have mixed emotions, questions and confusion as you look for some stability whilst change occurs. The Bible readings today of Acts and 1 Peter point towards communities struggling to make sense of 'where they were' and wondering what they could do, maybe even questioning what it could be all about? Luke writes in Acts and Peter writes in 1 Peter sharing some brilliant insights to what a faith community can act like in times of stress. In 1 Peter we have strong statements being uttered about moving forward both cautiously living a life (a faith!) based upon the sure trust in God's mercy and how it works in our lives. As I sit here writing this note to you I am also reflecting upon Psalm 23, when David reviewing his life wrote this beautiful psalm. Even though his life and Kingship had met with many many dark events; some of which were caused by himself, he was able to reflect upon God's loving Grace, forgiveness and mercy and the hope to which this pointed towards. May God continue to Bless and carry you forward into His future. Grace & Blessings to you all. Dave Thompson

