

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST
ST ALBAN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, EPPING NSW

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
Australia Day Observance

25 January 2026

8am and 10am



Welcome whether you are joining us today in our building for this service or online. This order of service will assist you as you take part in the service. We invite you to join in the words in bold type. You are welcome to sit at any stage during the service should you feel the need.

If you wish to make an offering today towards the work of the Parish, a collection will be taken during the Offertory Hymn immediately after the 'Greeting of Peace'. You may contribute financially to the ministry of this parish by direct transfer, check the details on the back page of the Bulletin, or by tapping the card reader at the rear of the Church.

We welcome babies and children, and understand that young children may make a noise. If you wish, you are welcome to use the space at the back of the church to settle them, or at 10am, we have a children's programme in The Loft, above the main hall.

Please stand as the ministers enter.

HYMN (10am)

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful -
the Lord God made them all.*

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | The wildflowers in their beauty,
the mountain ranges tall,
the billabongs and rivers,
and friendly birds that call, | 3 | The coloured walls of gorges,
the gum trees, green and tall,
the rocks, and pools, and palm trees,
the sparkling waterfall, |
| 2 | The cold wind in the winter,
the bright, life-giving sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden -
he made them every one. | 4 | The many-coloured corals,
the creatures of the sea,
of bushland, field or desert,
on farms, or roaming free, |

5 He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty
who has made all things well.

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful -
the Lord God made them all.*

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-95), Brian Black (1926-2023), and others - Public domain. *The Reverend Brian Black, wrote the Australian words for verses 1 and 3 of "All things bright and beautiful". He served in various parishes in the Diocese of Sydney as well as ministering for 9 years with BCA.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The love of God flows through the land on which we gather today, let us acknowledge the traditional owners who have cared for this land for generations. Let us honour those elders past and present whose sacred connection with this country is a gift to us all.

God, bless Australia, guard our people, guide our leaders, and give us peace; for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

President:

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Matthew 4.23

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

President:

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.**

THE CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Deacon:

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7.14

Though Christ has called us into one body, the oneness of the peoples of this land has been broken by acts of oppression and the failure of compassion.

Let us therefore confess our brokenness, confident in God's power and promise to make us whole.

At 10am only:

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Said:

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.

President:

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.**

THE GLORIA

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.

COLLECTS OF THE DAY

President:

Loving God, the light of the minds that know you, the life of the souls that love you, and the strength of the hearts that serve you: help us so to know you that we may truly love you, and so to love you that we may faithfully serve you, whose service is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Australia Day Collect

We bless you, God of the universe, for this land, for its contrasts of landscape and climate, for its abundance of wealth and opportunity. We bless you for our history, with all its struggles in adversity, its courage and hope. Give us in our diversity tolerance and respect for each other and a passionate commitment to justice for all. Bless us so that we might be a blessing to others. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD *(Seated)*

First Reading

1 Kings 17.8-24

A reading from the First Book of Kings, Chapter 17, beginning at verse 8

⁸ Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ⁹ ‘Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.’ ¹⁰ So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, ‘Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.’ ¹¹ As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, ‘Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.’ ¹² But she said, ‘As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.’ ¹³ Elijah said to her, ‘Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son.’ ¹⁴ For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.’ ¹⁵ She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶ The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

¹⁷ After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill; his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸ She then said to Elijah, ‘What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to cause the death of my son!’ ¹⁹ But he said to her, ‘Give me your son.’ He took him from her bosom, carried him up into the upper chamber where he was lodging, and laid him on his own bed. ²⁰ He cried out to the Lord, ‘O Lord my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I am staying, by killing her son?’ ²¹ Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried out to the Lord, ‘O Lord my God, let this child’s life come into him again.’ ²² The Lord listened to the voice of Elijah; the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. ²³ Elijah took the child, brought him down from the upper chamber into the house, and gave him to his mother; then Elijah said, ‘See, your son is alive.’ ²⁴ So the woman said to Elijah, ‘Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.’

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 27.1-10

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?:
the Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

² **When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,
come upon me to devour me:
they shall stumble and fall.**

- ³ If an army encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid:
and if war should rise against me, yet will I trust.
- ⁴ **One thing I have asked from the Lord, which I will require:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,**
- ⁵ To see the fair beauty of the Lord:
and to seek his will in his temple.
- ⁶ **For he will hide me under his shelter in the day of trouble:
and conceal me in the shadow of his tent,
and set me high upon a rock.**
- ⁷ And now he will lift up my head:
above my enemies round about me.
- ⁸ **And I will offer sacrifices in his sanctuary with exultation:
I will sing, I will sing praises to the Lord.**
- ⁹ O Lord, hear my voice when I cry:
have mercy upon me and answer me.
- ¹⁰ **My heart has said of you, 'Seek his face':
your face, Lord, I will seek.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1.10-18

A reading from The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 1, beginning at verse 10

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.' ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. ¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN

- 1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find,
his service is the golden cord
close-binding humankind.
- 3 Join hands, then, people of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
who serves my Father as his child
is surely kin to me.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west
in him meet south and north
all Christlike souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

William Arthur Dunkerley ('John Oxenham') 1852-1941. Public domain

GOSPEL *(Standing facing the reader)*

Matthew 4.12-25

Deacon

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Blessed are those who hear Christ's word, and obey it.

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, Chapter 4, beginning at verse 12

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.' ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen.

¹⁹And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.'

²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. ²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

PRAYER OF APPROACH

(Remain kneeling or seated)

President:

Let us pray.

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.

Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE *(Standing)*

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Please turn to those nearby, and offer a greeting of peace.

During the singing of the following hymn, the offertory will be brought forward to the Sanctuary.

OFFERTORY HYMN

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you would my Saviour be,
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 3 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind -
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yes, all I need, in you to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 4 Just as I am, you will receive,
will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
because your promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 5 Just as I am - your love unknown
has broken every barrier down,
now to be yours, and yours alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

6 Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth and height to prove,
here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871) - Public domain

Remain standing

OFFERTORY PRAYER

President:

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have gifts to share. Accept all our offerings, those we bring this morning and those we make by other means, that they may be used for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

President:

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.

All glory and honour, thanks and praise, be yours now and always, Lord of every time and place, God beyond our dreaming.

We give you thanks that from the beginning of time, your Spirit has brooded over this ancient land.

In the fullness of time you revealed your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people. We give you thanks that in him you have revealed to us your presence in the vastness of this land, your love in its fruitfulness, and your purpose in its cycles of death and renewed life.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

Said at 8am, sung at 10am:

**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.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

'Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying,

'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Said at 8am, sung at 10am:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

Said at 8am, sung at 10am:

Blessing and honour, glory and power are yours for ever and ever.

Amen.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,

for we all share in the one bread.

Said at 8am, sung at 10am:

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

Deacon:

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

President:

Members of all Christian churches are invited to receive Communion at Saint Alban's. If you do not wish for any reason to receive the bread and wine, you are very welcome to come forward for a simple prayer of blessing: keep your hands by your side and one of the clergy will give you a blessing.

We receive bread in the form of a wafer, then wine in a small individual disposable cup. If you prefer you could receive wine from the chalice. Gluten-free wafers and non-alcoholic grape juice are available. Please indicate to the clergy as they approach you at the Altar Rail. Please move to the Chancel Steps by the centre aisle to receive the bread and wine.

Return to your place by a side aisle, placing your used cup in the container at the end of the front pew. If you need to receive communion in your seat, please let a duty parishioner know and the clergy will come to you in the pew.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(Remain kneeling or seated)

President:

Heavenly Father, you have created all humanity in your image and likeness, and have revealed your plan and purpose in calling us your friends and family. As we have shared this holy meal, inspire our hearts to see every man, woman and child given the dignity and value which is your purpose and your gift; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS *(Seated)*

HYMN

- 1 Praise to our God for this land of Australia,
home of the Southern Cross shining above;
land of the dreamtime, and hope for new immigrants,
land of our future and land that we love;
- 2 vast, ancient country, so rugged and beautiful,
land of great rivers and wide grassy plain,
sparkling blue sea and bright sun blazing over us;
snow-covered mountains and paddocks of grain;
- 3 land of the gum tree, the waratah glorious,
wattle bright yellow and mosses of green;
home to koala, the kangaroo, platypus,
parrots, goanna - a glorious scene.

- 4 Nation's identity forged at Gallipoli;
blood-red the courage and high the ideal.
Bushfire and flood and the drought have not daunted us,
strong the commitment to face each ordeal.
- 5 God of Australia, great land of the Paraclete,
change all our selfishness, lead us to care.
Bring us to oneness in all our diversity,
lead us to justice and teach us to share.
- 6 Give to our leaders a vision of righteousness,
let them not fail in their striving to find
work for the jobless and hope for the down-at-heart,
care in our sickness of body and mind.
- 7 Come, Holy Spirit, awaken and nurture us;
may we be ready to answer your call;
draw all Australians to search for the truest way;
may Christ be known as the Saviour of all.

John Seddon - © Hymns from the Heart, 2001. Used with permission.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM (*all standing*)

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are one and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil,
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in Nature's gifts,
of beauty rich and rare,
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair!
In joyful strains then let us sing
"Advance Australia Fair"

By God's own plan so let us live
united in one cause.
May justice, truth and love abound,
respect for nature's laws;
to strive for peace, to seek to show
an eagerness to share;
may God inspire us day by day
to advance Australia fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing
Advance, Australia fair!

Second verse words provided by John Seddon

BLESSING

President:

God of this ancient land, through baptism you have given us an inheritance into one family, give us grace to walk together in the unity of Christ Jesus; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Deacon:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Text from *A Prayer Book for Australia* (Sydney: Broughton Books, 1995) © 1995.
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