

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

Second Sunday in Lent

1 March 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)

- 1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of our God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!
- 2 Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
such music in the sinner's ears
is life, and health, and peace.
- 3 He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean,
his blood availed for me.

- 4 He speaks, and listening to his voice
new life the dead receive,
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.
- 5 Hear him, you deaf; his praise, you dumb,
your loosened tongues employ;
you blind, behold your Saviour come;
and leap, you lame, for joy!
- 6 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of your name.

Charles Wesley (1707-88) public domain

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

President:

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3.16

The Lord be with you.

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.

Deacon:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ Jesus said: ‘This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

COLLECTS

President:

Collect for the Season of Lent

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect for the Day

God of mercy, you are full of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in mercy, and always ready to forgive: grant us grace to renounce all evil and to cling to Christ, that in every way we may prove to be your loving children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD (*Seated*)

First Reading

Genesis 12.1-4a

A reading from the Book of Genesis, Chapter 12, beginning at verse 1

¹ The Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' ⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills:

but where shall I find help?

² **My help comes from the Lord:**

who has made heaven and earth.

³ He will not suffer your foot to stumble:

and he who watches over you will not sleep.

⁴ **Be sure he who has charge of Israel:**

will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The Lord himself is your keeper:

the Lord is your defence upon your right hand;

⁶ **The sun shall not strike you by day:**

nor shall the moon by night.

⁷ The Lord will defend you from all evil:

it is he who will guard your life.

⁸ **The Lord will defend your going out and your coming in:**

from this time forward for evermore.

Second Reading

Romans 4.1-5, 13-17

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans, Chapter 4, beginning at verse 1

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN

- 1 My God, accept my heart this day,
and make it still your own,
that I from you no more may stray,
but follow you alone.
- 2 Before the cross of him who died
in penitence I fall;
let every sin be crucified,
and Christ be Lord of all.
- 3 Anoint me with your heavenly grace,
and seal me for your own,
that I may see your glorious face,
and worship near your throne.
- 4 Let every thought and work and word
to you be ever given;
then life shall be your service, Lord,
and death the gate of heaven.

Matthew Bridges (1800-94) public domain

GOSPEL *(Standing facing the reader)*

John 3.1-17

Deacon

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

God gave us his Son:

so that we may have eternal life.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, Chapter 3, beginning at verse 1

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ ³Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ ⁴Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ ⁵Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.” ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’

⁹Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ ¹⁰Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.’

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE SERMON

(Please sit when indicated by the Preacher.)

The Reverend Paul Weaver

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 CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Deacon:

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

Let us then ask for mercy, confessing 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.

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 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.

Please kneel or sit

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 be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

He was tempted in every way as we are, yet he did not sin. 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. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to walk in the way of his love.

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.

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.

*It is a matter of personal choice whether you stand or kneel to receive the bread and wine. **During Lent, you are invited to kneel to receive the Sacrament, if this is practical for you. In this way, we reinforce our penitential attitude, so that at Easter we may stand triumphantly with the Risen Christ.***

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.

COMMUNION MOTET - Come, O Jesus, come to me - Luigi Cherubini

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(Remain kneeling or seated)*

President:

God of mercy, may we who have shared in this holy meal know your forgiveness in our lives, bring your reconciliation to others, and be a sign of your wholeness in this broken world.

Most loving God, you send us into the world you love. Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTATION *(at 10am seated)*

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS *(Seated)*

HYMN

1 And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain -
for me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me!

- 2 'Tis mystery all! The immortal dies:
who can explore this strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds inquire no more.
- 3 He left his Father's throne above
(so free, so infinite his grace!)
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free:
for, O my God, it found out *me*.
- 4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night:
thine eye diffused a quickening ray -
I woke; the dungeon flamed with light!
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.
- 5 No condemnation now I dread:
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Charles Wesley (1707-88) - Public Domain

BLESSING

President:

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself, that you may find in him crucified a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sin forgiven. **Amen.**

Let us in this season of Lent, take time, when we can, to be still and ponder the one who gave his life to bring forth the kingdom of God.

We will honour Christ by trusting in his grace and following him day by day. We will be like good soil, in which the seeds of love and mercy may grow.

God speaks to us in the life of Jesus. Let us hear his word and understand it.

We are witnesses to God's transforming power; we go forth as Christ's partners in serving others and showing love to all.

Deacon:

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Text from *A Prayer Book for Australia* (Sydney: Broughton Books, 1995) © 1995.
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SUNDAYS in 2026

8am and 10am
(10am also available on Zoom)
Eucharist at St Alban's Church

Sunday School

10am in The Loft

Youth at 10am

Thursdays

9.30am - Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing by Zoom

10.30am - Eucharist with Prayers for Healing at St Albans