

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

**Fourth Sunday in Lent  
and Mothering Sunday**

**30 March 2025**

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 offertory today towards the work of the Parish, please place it in the Offertory Box located in the aisle towards the rear of the church or tap the card reader at the rear of the Church.** The Offertory Box is brought to the Sanctuary during the singing of the hymn after the 'Greeting of Peace'. To contribute financially to the ministry of this parish by direct transfer, check the details on the back page of the Bulletin.

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. During school terms pre-school and school age children can join our Children's Ministry Worker in 'The Loft' for Sunday School at 10am (check the cover of the Bulletin).

Please stand as the ministers enter.

**HYMN** (10am)

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | Jesus! the name high over all,<br>in hell, or earth, or sky;<br>angels and earthlings to it fall,<br>and devils fear and fly,<br>and devils fear and fly.                | 3 | Jesus! the prisoner's fetters breaks,<br>and bruises Satan's head;<br>power into strengthless souls it speaks,<br>and life into the dead,<br>and life into the dead. |
| 2 | Jesus! the name to sinners dear,<br>the name to sinners given;<br>it scatters all their guilty fear,<br>it turns their hell to heaven,<br>it turns their hell to heaven. | 4 | O that the world might taste and see<br>the riches of his grace;<br>the arms of love that compass me<br>would everyone embrace,<br>would everyone embrace.           |

5 Happy, if with my dying breath  
I might but gasp his name;  
preach him to all, and cry in death:  
behold, behold the Lamb,  
behold, behold the Lamb!

'Jesus the name high over all' Charles Wesley (1707-88) - public domain.

## **GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

President:

God has reconciled us to himself through Christ, and given us the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5.18

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:  
cleans 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 OF THE DAY**

President:

God of compassion, you are slow to anger, and full of mercy, welcoming sinners who return to you with penitent hearts: receive in your loving embrace all who come home to you, and seat them at your bountiful table, that, with all your children, they may feast with delight on all that satisfies the hungry heart. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### *Collect for Peace*

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness: guide and inspire those who seek to establish peace and justice among the nations. Help those who suffer, and guide those who seek to help them. May all people find their security, not in the force of arms, but in the perfect love that casts out fear, through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD *(Seated)*

### First Reading

### Joshua 5.2-12

A reading from the Book of Joshua, Chapter 5, beginning at verse 2

<sup>2</sup> At that time the Lord said to Joshua, 'Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites a second time.' <sup>3</sup> So Joshua made flint knives, and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath-haaraloth. <sup>4</sup> This is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the warriors, had died during the journey through the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt. <sup>5</sup> Although all the people who came out had been circumcised, yet all the people born on the journey through the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt had not been circumcised. <sup>6</sup> For the Israelites travelled for forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, the warriors who came out of Egypt, perished, not having listened to the voice of the Lord. To them the Lord swore that he would not let them see the land that he had sworn to their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>7</sup> So it was their children, whom he raised up in their place, that Joshua circumcised; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way. <sup>8</sup> When the circumcising of all the nation was done, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed. <sup>9</sup> The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.' And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. <sup>10</sup> While the Israelites were encamped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup> On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup> The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Hear the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 32

<sup>1</sup> Blessed are those whose sin is forgiven:  
whose iniquity is put away.

<sup>2</sup> **Blessed are those to whom the Lord imputes no blame:  
and in whose spirit there is no guile.**

<sup>3</sup> For whilst I held my tongue:  
my bones wasted away with my daily complaining.

<sup>4</sup> **Your hand was heavy upon me day and night:  
and my moisture was dried up like a drought in summer.**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you:  
and my iniquity I did not hide;

<sup>6</sup> **I said 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord':  
and so you forgave the wickedness of my sin.**

<sup>7</sup> For this cause shall everyone that is faithful  
make their prayer to you in the day of trouble:  
and in the time of the great water-flood, it shall not come near them.

**8 You are a place to hide me in, you will preserve me from trouble:  
you will surround me with deliverance on every side.**

**9 'I will instruct you, and direct you in the way that you should go:  
I will fasten my eye upon you, and give you counsel.**

**10 'Be not like horse or mule, that have no understanding:  
whose forward course must be curbed with bit and bridle.'**

**11 Great tribulations remain for the ungodly:  
but whoever puts their trust in the Lord,  
mercy embraces them on every side.**

**12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and be glad:  
and shout for joy, all you that are true of heart.**

## **Second Reading**

## **Galatians 3.23-4.7**

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians, Chapter 3, beginning at verse 23

<sup>23</sup> Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup>Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, <sup>26</sup>for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. <sup>27</sup>As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

<sup>4</sup> My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than slaves, though they are the owners of all the property; <sup>2</sup>but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. <sup>3</sup>So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world. <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Hear the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## **HYMN**

1 Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

2 As grace first taught my heart to fear  
so grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come:  
God's grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me,  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

John Newton (1725-1807) Public domain

**GOSPEL** (*Standing facing the reader*)

**Luke 15.11-32**

Deacon

I will rise and go to my father and tell him:  
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, Chapter 15, beginning at verse 11

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>11</sup> Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup> 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." <sup>28</sup> Then he became

angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

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

## **THE SERMON**

*(Please sit when indicated by the Preacher.)*

The Reverend Paul Sampson

## **THE CREED**

*(Standing)*

Deacon: Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor:

Let us pray for the world and for the Church. *(Please kneel or sit.)*

*Prayers for the world, the country, the church, and those in need are offered. There is usually a simple response after each section as below, or as indicated by the leader and we join in a concluding response.*

Lord, in your mercy,                      or                      Father, hear our prayer  
hear our prayer.    **Through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

### The Mothers' Union Prayer

**Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## 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 simple greeting of peace.*

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

## **HYMN**

- 1 God of all tenderness, God of all grace,  
whose arms reach to hold us in loving embrace:  
be with us in danger, protect us in fear,  
with patience, forbearance, endurance draw near.
- 2 God of all mercy, and God of all love,  
enfold us, sustain us with power from above;  
O God you have carried us, borne us and still  
will nurture us, guide us in your perfect will.
- 3 God of all comfort, your Spirit gives life;  
you bind up our wounds, you bring healing in strife.  
O God, like a mother, your loving is strong:  
to you be all honour, your praise be our song.

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

*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** *Please kneel or sit*

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.

President:

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life.

The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life.

*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.*

**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 Your hand, O God, has guided your flock from age to age;  
the wondrous tale is written, full clear, on every page;  
your people owned your goodness, and we their deeds record;  
and both of this bear witness: one church, one faith, one Lord.
- 2 Your heralds brought glad tidings to greatest, as to least;  
they bade them rise, and hasten to share the great King's feast;  
and this was all their teaching, in every deed and word,  
to all alike proclaiming one church, one faith, one Lord.
- 3 Through many a day of darkness, through many a scene of strife,  
the faithful few fought bravely to guard the nation's life.  
Their gospel of redemption, sin pardoned, earth restored,  
was all in this enfolded: one church, one faith, one Lord.
- 4 Your mercy will not fail us, nor leave your work undone;  
with your right hand to help us the victory shall be won;  
and then by all creation your name shall be adored,  
and this shall be our anthem: one church, one faith, one Lord.

Edward Hayes Plumptre (1821-91) - 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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