

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST
ST ALBAN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, EPPING NSW
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Season of Creation

29 September 2024

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.

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 (check the cover of the Bulletin).

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.

Please stand as the ministers enter.

HYMN (10am)

- 1 Sing, all creation, sing to God in gladness,
joyously serve him, singing hymns of homage,
chanting his praises, come before his presence:
Praise the Almighty!
- 2 Know that our God is Lord of all the ages;
he is our maker: we are all his creatures,
people he fashioned, sheep he leads to pasture:
Praise the Almighty!

- 3 Enter his temple, ringing out his praises;
sing in thanksgiving as you come before him;
blessing his bounty, glorify his greatness:
Praise the Almighty!
- 4 Great in his goodness is the Lord we worship;
steadfast his kindness, love that knows no ending;
faithful his word is, changeless, everlasting:
Praise the Almighty!

James Quinn (1919-2010) seeking copyright

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

President:

Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can it be seasoned? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another. Mark 9.50

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.**

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.'

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

Sung at 10am:

**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.**

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

Sung at 10am:

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:

O God, your Son has taught us that those who give a cup of water in his name will not lose their reward: open our eyes to see those who are in need, and teach us to set no store by riches and earthly rewards, so that, in surrendering ourselves to serve you in your children, we may labour for the treasure that endures; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect for the fifth Sunday of the Season of Creation

Holy God, earth and air and water are your creation, and every living thing belongs to you: have mercy on us as climate change confronts us. Give us the will and the courage to simplify the way we live, to reduce the energy we use, to share the resources you provide, and to bear the cost of change. Forgive our past mistakes and send us your Spirit, with wisdom in present controversies and vision for the future to which you call us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, and no strength known but the strength of love: 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

Esther 7.1-6, 9-10, 9.20-22

A reading from Esther, Chapter 7, beginning at verse 1

7¹ The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. 2 On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, 'What is your petition,

Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.’³ Then Queen Esther answered, ‘If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request.’⁴ For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.’⁵ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, ‘Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?’⁶ Esther said, ‘A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!’ Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. ...

⁹ Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, ‘Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.’ And the king said, ‘Hang him on that.’¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

⁹²⁰ Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far,²¹ enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year,²² as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 124

- ¹ If the Lord had not been on our side, now may Israel say:
if the Lord had not been on our side, when our enemies rose against us,
² **Then they would have swallowed us alive:
when their anger was kindled against us.**
³ Then the waters would have overwhelmed us, and the torrent gone over us:
the raging waters would have gone clean over us.
⁴ **But praised be the Lord:
who has not given us as a prey to their teeth.**
⁵ We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler:
the snare is broken, and we have gone free.
⁶ **Our help is in the name of the Lord:
who has made heaven and earth.**

Second Reading

James 1.2, 12-15, 5.7-20

A reading from the Letter of James, Chapter 1, beginning at verse 2

² My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy.

¹² Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. ¹³No one, when tempted, should say, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; ¹⁵then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death.

⁵ ⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. ¹² Above all, my beloved, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your 'Yes' be yes and your 'No' be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. ¹³ Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷ Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. ¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰ you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN

1 God of all the worlds, Creator,
God, in whom all good is found;
came to earth, a humble creature,
God among us, holy ground.
God incarnate, love revealing,
hands to heal, to help and bless,
words of challenge, words to guide us,
love to calm us in distress.

- 2 God, Emmanuel, among us,
God of truth, you set us free.
Spirit of our loving Saviour,
come, Lord Jesus, dwell with me.
Kindle in my heart a passion
your good purpose to proclaim,
let my life be daily fashioned,
bear your stamp, reveal your Name.
- 3 Lord of all, and Lord of history,
nations rise and fall to dust;
yours alone the final victory,
God of hope, in you we trust;
reconciling and renewing
mercy in the face of fear,
justice damns the rod of terror,
peace will come when you are here.
- 4 Praise to God, the Lord eternal,
praise to Jesus Christ, the Son;
praise to God the Holy Spirit,
may we see your triumph won.
Take us, mould us and remake us
in the likeness of our Lord;
let us join with all creation,
sing your praise, your Name adored.

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

GOSPEL (*Standing facing the reader*)

Mark 9.38-50

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, Chapter 9, beginning at verse 38

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

³⁸ John said to Jesus, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' ³⁹ But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰ Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. ⁴² 'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great

millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. ⁴⁹ 'For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰ Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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

The Reverend Phil Lui

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.

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 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 | Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy refuge fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high;
hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
till the storm of life is past:
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last. | 2 | Other refuge have I none,
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah! leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me;
all my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenceless head
with the shadow of thy wing. |
|---|---|---|---|

3 Thou, O Christ, art all I want,
more than all in thee I find,
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am,
thou art full of truth and grace.

4 Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound,
make and keep me pure within:
thou of life the fountain art,
freely let me take of thee,
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.

Charles Wesley (1707-88) public domain

OFFERTORY PRAYER (*Remain standing*)

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 (*Standing*)

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.

It is right to praise you, faithful God, always and everywhere, for with your only begotten Son and life-giving Spirit, you are the one true God from everlasting to everlasting.

At the dawn of time you wrought from nothing a universe of beauty and splendour, bringing light from darkness and order from chaos. You formed us, male and female in your image, and endowed us with creative power.

We turned away from you but you did not abandon us. You called us by name and searched us out, making a covenant of mercy, giving the law, and teaching justice by the prophets.

And so we praise you, joining with your faithful people of every time and place, singing the eternal song:

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.

When the fullness of time was come, you sent your Son to be born of Mary.

Bright image of your glory, he learnt obedience to you in all things, even to death on a cross, breaking the power of evil, freeing us from sin, and putting death to flight.

You raised him from death, exalting him to glory, and the new day dawned.

On the night he was betrayed your Son Jesus Christ shared food with his friends, his companions on the way. While at table he took bread, blessed, and broke it, and giving it to them, said: 'Take, eat; this is my body. Do this in remembrance of me.'

He took a cup of wine, and, giving thanks, he gave it to them, and said, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Do this in remembrance of me.'

Said at 8am, sung at 10am:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, living God, as we obey his command, we remember his life of obedience to you, his suffering and death, his resurrection and exaltation, and his promise to be with us for ever. With this bread and this cup we celebrate his saving death until he comes.

Accept, we pray, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration, that all who eat and drink at this table may be strengthened by Christ's body and blood to serve you in the world.

As one body and one holy people, may we proclaim the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever:

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.

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:

Bountiful God, at this table you graciously feed us with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation. May we who have reached out our hands to receive this sacrament be strengthened in your service; we who have sung your praises tell of your glory and truth in our lives; we who have seen the greatness of your love see you face to face in your kingdom and come to worship you with all your saints for ever.

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

*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,

2 The cold wind in the winter,
the bright, life-giving sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden -
he made them every one.

- 3 The coloured walls of gorges,
the gum trees, green and tall,
the rocks, and pools, and palm trees,
the sparkling waterfall,
- 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.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-95), Brian Black (1926-2023), and others - Public domain.

BLESSING

President:

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; 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.

SUNDAYS

8am and 10am

(10am also available on Zoom)

Eucharist at St Alban's Church

On Zoom please stay on line for a virtual coffee and chat.

6pm Taizé

2nd Sunday of February, April, June, August, October and November

Thursdays

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

10.30am - Eucharist with Prayers for Healing at St Alban's

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