

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

First Sunday in Lent

9 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 | Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild,
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled: | 3 | And if Satan on us press
flesh or spirit should assail,
Victor in the wilderness,
grant we may not faint nor fail. |
| 2 | Let us your endurance share
and from earthly greed abstain,
with you watching unto prayer,
with you strong to suffer pain. | 4 | Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by your side,
that with you we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide. |

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

President:

Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.

Luke 4.8

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 OF THE DAY

President:

O saving God, who led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land: so guide us that, following our Saviour, we may walk through the wilderness of this world and be brought to the glory of the world which is to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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

Deuteronomy 26.1-11

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

¹ When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God

that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, ⁷ we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 91.1-2, 9-16

¹ Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High:
who abide under the shadow of the Almighty,

² **They will say to the Lord 'You are my refuge and my stronghold:
my God in whom I trust.'**

⁹ The Lord himself is your refuge:
you have made the Most High your stronghold.

¹⁰ **Therefore no harm will befall you:
nor will any scourge come near your tent.**

¹¹ For he will command his angels:
to keep you in all your ways.

¹² **They will bear you up in their hands:
lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder:
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

¹⁴ **'You have set your love upon me,' says the Lord,
'and therefore I will deliver you:
I will lift you out of danger, because you have known my name.**

¹⁵ 'When you call upon me I will answer you:
I will be with you in trouble, I will rescue you and bring you to honour.

¹⁶ **'With long life I will satisfy you:
and fill you with my salvation.'**

Second Reading

Romans 10.4-13

A reading from The Letter of Paul to the Romans, Chapter 10, beginning at verse 4

⁴ For Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. ⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?"' (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ 'or "Who will descend into the abyss?"' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing
if our God our Father be. | 2 Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe:
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go. |
| 3 Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy. | |

James Edmeston 1791-1867. Public domain

GOSPEL *(Standing facing the reader)*

Luke 4.1-15

Deacon

'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, Chapter 4, beginning at verse 1

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' ⁴Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone." ' ⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' ⁸Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." ' ⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", ¹¹and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." ' ¹²Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." ' ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time. ¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

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 LITANY *Please kneel or sit*

President:

God the Father,

have mercy on us

God the Son,

have mercy on us

God the Holy Spirit,

have mercy on us

Holy Trinity, one God,

have mercy on us

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity and hypocrisy;

from envy, hatred and malice; and from all evil intent,

Good Lord deliver us.

Deacon:

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;

from hardness of heart and contempt of your word and your laws,

Good Lord deliver us.

From sins of body and mind; from deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,

Good Lord deliver us.

From famine and disaster; from violence, murder and dying unprepared,

Good Lord deliver us.

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy

in the hour of our death and at the day of judgement,

Good Lord deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and obedience;

by your baptism, fasting and temptation,

Good Lord deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power;

and by your preaching of the kingdom,

Good Lord deliver us.

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion;

and by your precious death and burial,

Good Lord deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,
Good Lord deliver us.

Sub-Deacon:

Hear our prayers, O Lord our God
we ask you to hear us, good Lord

Govern and direct your Holy Church; fill it with love and truth;
and grant it that unity which is your will
we ask you to hear us, good Lord.

Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world,
and to make disciples of all the nations
we ask you to hear us, good Lord

Enlighten your ministers with knowledge and understanding,
that by their teaching and their lives they may proclaim your word
we ask you to hear us, good Lord

Give your people grace to hear and receive your Word
and bring forth the fruit of Your spirit
we ask you to hear us, good Lord

Bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived
we ask you to hear us, good Lord

Strengthen those who stand; comfort and help the fainthearted;
raise up the fallen; and finally, beat down Satan under our feet
we ask you to hear us, good Lord

Deacon:

Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of peace and justice
we ask you to hear us, good Lord

Guard and strengthen your servant, Charles the King,
that he may put his trust in you and seek your honour and glory
we ask you to hear us, good Lord

Endue the members of our parliaments and all who govern us
with wisdom and understanding
we ask you to hear us, good Lord

Bless those who administer the law, that they may uphold justice, honesty and truth
we ask you to hear us, good Lord

Give us the will to use the resources of the earth
to your glory, and to the good of all
we ask you to hear us, good Lord

Remember the ancient people of this land
and forgive the sins of ignorance and neglect done against them
we ask you to hear us, good Lord

Bless and keep all your people
we ask you to hear us, good Lord

Sub-Deacon:

Help and comfort the lonely, the bereaved and the oppressed
Lord have mercy

Keep in safety those who travel, and all who are in danger
Lord have mercy

Heal the sick in body and mind,
and provide for the homeless the hungry and the destitute
Lord have mercy

Show your pity on prisoners and refugees, and all who are in trouble
Lord have mercy

Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers and turn their hearts
Lord have mercy

Hear us as we remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the peace of
Christ, and grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom,
Lord have mercy

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 | Thou art the way: by thee alone
from sin and death we flee;
and they who would the Father seek
must seek him, Lord, by thee. | 3 | Thou art the life: the rending tomb
proclaims thy conquering arm;
and those who put their trust in thee
nor death nor hell shall harm. |
| 2 | Thou art the truth: thy word alone
true wisdom can impart;
thou only canst inform the mind
and purify the heart. | 4 | Thou art the way, the truth, the life:
grant us that way to know,
that truth to keep, that life to win,
whose joys eternal flow. |

George Washington Doane (1799-1859) 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 *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.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS *(Seated)*

The Receiving of Ashes

President:

If you wish to receive ashes on your forehead to mark the beginning of Lent, please come forward to the Altar Rail.

The ashes are placed on each person's forehead with the words

Turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel. **Amen.**

HYMN

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus
all our sins and griefs to bear,
what a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer:
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.
- 2 Have we trials and temptations,
is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Jesus is our only refuge:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
in his arms he'll take and shield you,
you will find a solace there.

Joseph Medlicott Scriven 1819-86. 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.