

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST
ST ALBAN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, EPPING NSW
Sunday after Ascension and Seventh Sunday of Easter
The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

17 May 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 The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now:
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty victor's brow.
- 2 The highest place that heaven affords
is his, is his by right,
the King of kings and Lord of lords
and heav'n's eternal light,
- 3 the joy of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below,
to whom he manifests his love
and grants his name to know.

- 4 To them the cross, with all its shame,
with all its grace, is given,
their name an everlasting name,
their joy the joy of heaven.
- 5 They suffer with their Lord below,
they reign with him above,
their profit and their joy to know
the mystery of his love.
- 6 The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.

Thomas Kelly 1769-1854. Public domain

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

President:

'Those who love me will keep my word,' Jesus promises, 'and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.' John 14.23

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling. Ephesians 4.4

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

Christ is risen. Alleluia.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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.'

Christ has entered heaven itself, there to appear before God on our behalf.

Let us therefore draw near in full assurance of faith, and confess our sins to the God of grace.

Sung at 10am:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, 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

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

President:

Collect for the Day

God of majesty, you led the Messiah through suffering into risen life, and took him up into the glory of heaven: clothe us with the power promised from on high, and send us forth to the ends of the earth as heralds of repentance and witnesses of Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who lives with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Collect for Peace:

O God, your purpose is to enfold heaven and earth in a single peace. May your great love bring peace where there is war, violence and sorrow. May the leaders of nations seek peace rather than war and violence. Give peace to your church, peace among the nations, peace to all who suffer, peace in our homes and peace in our hearts; through Jesus Christ, the peace of peace. **Amen.**

Collect for Christian Unity

Lord Jesus Christ, by the action of the Holy Spirit in the one baptism, you have bestowed wonderful graces and multiple gifts upon us for the sake of building up your Body, the Church. Grant us now the willingness to fully appreciate the richness of their diversity and use them fully to further the spread of the Gospel. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD *(Seated)*

First Reading

Acts 1.6-14

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 1, beginning at verse 6

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷ He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.' ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 68.1-10, 32-35

¹ God shall arise, and his enemies shall be scattered:
those that hate him shall flee before his face.

² **As smoke is dispersed, so shall they be dispersed:
as wax melts before a fire,
so shall the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

³ But the righteous shall be glad and exult before God:
they shall rejoice with gladness.

⁴ **O sing to God, sing praises to his name:
glorify him that rode through the deserts,
him whose name is the Lord, and exult before him.**

⁵ He is the father of the fatherless, he upholds the cause of the widow:
God in his holy dwelling place.

⁶ **He gives the desolate a home to dwell in,
and brings the prisoners out into prosperity:
but rebels must dwell in a barren land.**

⁷ O God, when you went out before your people:
when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸ **The earth shook, the heavens poured down water:
before the God of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel.**

- ⁹ You showered down a generous rain, O God:
you prepared the land of your possession when it was weary.
- ¹⁰ **And there your people settled:
in the place that your goodness, O God,
had made ready for the poor.**
- ³² Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth:
O sing praises to the Lord,
- ³³ **To him that rides upon the highest heavens,
that were from the beginning:
who utters his voice, which is a mighty voice.**
- ³⁴ Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel:
and his might is in the clouds.
- ³⁵ **Terrible is God who comes from his holy place:
the God of Israel who gives power
and strength to his people. Blessed be God.**

Second Reading

1 Peter 5

A reading from the First Letter of Peter, Chapter 5, beginning at verse 1

¹ Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you ² to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it—not for sordid gain but eagerly. ³ Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away. ⁵ In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for ‘God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ ⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. ¹² Through Silvanus, whom I consider a faithful brother, I have written this short letter to encourage you, and to testify that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. ¹³ Your sister church in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings; and so does my son Mark. ¹⁴ Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN

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

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

GOSPEL *(Standing facing the reader)*

John 17.1-11

Deacon

Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord said: I will not leave you orphans:
I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, Chapter 17, beginning at
verse 1

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶ 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰

All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE SERMON

(Please sit when indicated by the Preacher.)

David Luis

Anglicare Partnership Development Officer, Northern Region, Sydney

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.

3 May we in faith receive your word,
in faith present our prayers;
and in the presence of our Lord
unburden all our cares.

4 The hearing ear, the seeing eye,
the humble mind bestow;
and shine upon us from on high
to make our graces grow.

John Newton (1725-1807) public domain

Remain standing

OFFERTORY PRAYER

President:

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

Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

President:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour 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.

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.

You have highly exalted him, and given him the name which is above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

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.

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

*Kyrie eleison from the Missa Sancti Nicolai
Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)*

English translation:

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(Remain kneeling or seated)

President:

God of glory you sent your son Jesus Christ into the world to preach the gospel of the kingdom. Strengthen us who share this meal to continue his mission by living the good news we proclaim.

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)*

HYMN

1 Hail, our once-despised Jesus,
hail, our Galilean King!
By your suffering you released us
and did free salvation bring.
Friend and universal Saviour,
bearer of our sin and shame,
by your merits we find favour;
life is given through your name.

- 2 Paschal Lamb by God appointed,
all our sins on you were laid;
by almighty love anointed,
you have full atonement made:
all your people are forgiven
through the virtue of your blood;
opened is the gate of heaven;
reconciled are we to God.
- 3 Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory,
there for ever to abide;
all the heav'nly host adore you,
seated at your Father's side:
there for sinners you are pleading,
there you now our place prepare,
ever for us interceding
till in glory we appear.

John Bakewell (1721-1819) Public Domain

BLESSING

President:

Christ our exalted king pour upon you his abundant gifts and bring you to reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Deacon at 8am:

Cantor at 10am:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia.

In the name of Christ. Alleluia.