

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

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**22 March 2026**

8am and 10am



**Welcome** whether you are joining us today in our building for this service or online. This order of service will assist you as you take part in the service. We invite you to join in the words in bold type. You are welcome to sit at any stage during the service should you feel the need.

**If you wish to make an offering today towards the work of the Parish, a collection will be taken during the Offertory Hymn immediately after the 'Greeting of Peace'.** You may contribute financially to the ministry of this parish by direct transfer, check the details on the back page of the Bulletin, or by tapping the card reader at the rear of the Church.

We welcome babies and children, and understand that young children may make a noise. If you wish, you are welcome to use the space at the back of the church to settle them, or at 10am, we have a children's programme in The Loft, above the main hall.

Please stand as the ministers enter.

**HYMN** (10am)

*Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,  
alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.*

- 1 Jesus is Lord of all the earth;  
he is the king of creation. *Refrain*
- 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and has risen. *Refrain*
- 3 We have been crucified with Christ;  
now we shall live for ever. *Refrain*
- 4 God has proclaimed his gracious gift:  
new life for all! Alleluia! *Refrain*
- 5 Come, let us praise the living God,  
joyfully sing to our Saviour. *Refrain*

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

President:

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord; 'whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.'

John 11.25–26

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

President:

Let us pray.

**Almighty God to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Deacon:

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

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

## COLLECTS

President:

*Collect for the Season of Lent*

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

*Collect for the Day*

Life-giving God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death: breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

### First Reading

**Ezekiel 37.1-14**

A reading from the Book of Ezekiel, Chapter 37, beginning at verse 1

<sup>1</sup> The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear

the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord .' <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. <sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely."<sup>12</sup> Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God : I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Hear the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 130**

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord:  
Lord, hear my voice;

<sup>2</sup> **O let your ears consider well:  
the voice of my supplication.**

<sup>3</sup> If you, Lord, should note what we do wrong:  
who then, O Lord, could stand?

<sup>4</sup> **But there is forgiveness with you:  
so that you shall be feared.**

<sup>5</sup> I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him:  
and in his word is my hope.

<sup>6</sup> **My soul looks for the Lord:  
more than watchmen for the morning,  
more, I say, than watchmen for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup> O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy:  
and with him is ample redemption.

<sup>8</sup> **He will redeem Israel:  
from the multitude of their sins.**

## Second Reading

## Romans 8.6-11

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans, Chapter 8, beginning at verse 6

<sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Hear the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### HYMN

- 1 My heart and voice I raise  
to spread Messiah's praise,  
Messiah's praise let all repeat:  
the universal Lord  
by whose almighty word  
creation rose in form complete.
- 2 A servant's form he wore,  
and in his body bore  
our dreadful curse on Calvary:  
he like a victim stood  
and poured his sacred blood  
to set the guilty captives free.
- 3 But soon the Victor rose  
triumphant o'er his foes  
and led the vanquished host in chains:  
he threw their empire down,  
his foes compelled to own  
o'er all the great Messiah reigns.
- 4 With mercy's mildest grace  
he governs all our race  
in wisdom, righteousness and love:  
who to Messiah fly  
shall find redemption nigh,  
and all his great salvation prove.

5 Hail, Saviour, Prince of Peace!  
Your kingdom shall increase  
till all the world your glory see,  
and righteousness abound  
as the great deep profound,  
and fill the earth with purity.

Benjamin Rhodes 1743-1815. Public domain

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

**John 11.1-45**

Deacon

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

Jesus is the resurrection and the life:  
to believe in him means eternal life.

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

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, Chapter 11, beginning at verse 1

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.'

<sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. <sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.'

<sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.'

<sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' <sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' <sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.'

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' <sup>27</sup> She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

<sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' <sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

## **THE SERMON**

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

The Reverend Phil Lui



## **PRAYER OF APPROACH**

*(Remain kneeling or seated)*

President:

Let us pray.

**We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.**

**Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

## **THE CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION**

Deacon:

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

Let us then ask for mercy, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

President:

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE GREETING OF PEACE** *(Standing)*

We are the body of Christ.

**His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Please turn to those nearby, and offer a greeting of peace.*

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

## OFFERTORY HYMN

- 1 I know that my Redeemer  
lives crowned upon the throne;  
Lord over earth and heaven  
he saves, and he alone;  
he conquered death by dying  
upon the accurséd tree,  
and from his death sprang glorious  
eternal life for me.
- 2 I think upon my Saviour,  
I trust his power to keep,  
his mighty arm enfolds me  
awaking and in sleep.  
Christ is my rock, my courage;  
Christ is my soul's true life;  
and Christ (my still heart knows it)  
will bear me through the strife.
- 3 In Jesus' name I'm living;  
in Jesus' name I'll die;  
I'll fear not though life's vigour  
from death's cold shadow fly.  
O grave, where is your triumph?  
O death, where is your sting?  
Come when you will, and welcome!  
secure in Christ I sing.

Hallgrim Pjetursson (1614-74) tr Charles Venn Pilcher (1879-1961) public domain

*Remain standing*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

President:

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

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*Please kneel or sit*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

President:

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

He was tempted in every way as we are, yet he did not sin. By his death on the cross and rising to new life, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to walk in the way of his love.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

*Said at 8am, sung at 10am:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

'Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying,

'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

*Said at 8am, sung at 10am:*

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

*Said at 8am, sung at 10am:*

**Blessing and honour, glory and power are yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,  
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

*Said at 8am, sung at 10am:*

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

Deacon:

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Members of all Christian churches are invited to receive Communion at Saint Alban's. If you do not wish for any reason to receive the bread and wine, you are very welcome to come forward for a simple prayer of blessing: keep your hands by your side and one of the clergy will give you a blessing.*

*We receive bread in the form of a wafer, then wine in a small individual disposable cup. If you prefer you could receive wine from the chalice. Gluten-free wafers and non-alcoholic grape juice are available. Please indicate to the clergy as they approach you at the Altar Rail. Please move to the Chancel Steps by the centre aisle to receive the bread and wine.*

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

*Return to your place by a side aisle, placing your used cup in the container at the end of the front pew. If you need to receive communion in your seat, please let a duty parishioner know and the clergy will come to you in the pew.*

## **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 Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death has won;  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.  
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.*
- 2 Lo, Jesus meets us risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
For her Lord now liveth, death has lost its sting  
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.*
- 3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life  
Life is nought without thee; aid us in our strife,  
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;  
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:  
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death has won*

Edmond Budry (1854-1932) tr Richard Hoyle (1875-1939) - 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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