

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

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**9 May 2021**

8am and 10am



*Welcome to this service at St Alban's Church. This service outline will assist you as you take part in the service.*

*Please practise physical distancing when taking your seat. If you have not already signed in to indicate your attendance please do so. If you wish to make an offertory towards the work of the Parish, please place it in the container located in the aisle towards the rear of the church.*

*You are welcome to sit at any stage during the service should you find the need. We invite you to join in the words in bold type. Unfortunately today we are not permitted to have congregational hymn singing.*

*Please stand as the ministers enter.*

**GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

Jesus said, 'You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit.'

John 15.16

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.**

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.**

## **THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

‘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 our Passover Lamb has been offered for us, therefore we come to celebrate the festival.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere and a true heart.

**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.**

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.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Loving God,  
your Son has chosen us  
and called us to be his friends:  
give us grace to keep his commandments,  
to love one another,  
and to bear fruit which will abide;  
through him who is the true vine,  
the source of all our life,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

### First Reading

**Acts 10.44-48**

### **A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 10, beginning at verse 44**

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.  
<sup>45</sup> The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup> for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup> 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' <sup>48</sup> So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Hear the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 98**

- <sup>1</sup> O sing to the Lord a new song:  
for he has done marvellous things;  
<sup>2</sup> **His right hand and his holy arm:**  
**they have got him the victory.**  
<sup>3</sup> The Lord has made known his salvation:  
he has revealed his just deliverance in the sight of the nations.  
<sup>4</sup> **He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness**  
**towards the house of Israel:**  
**and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**  
<sup>5</sup> Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth:  
break into singing and make melody.  
<sup>6</sup> **Make melody to the Lord upon the harp:**  
**upon the harp and with the sounds of praise.**  
<sup>7</sup> With trumpets and with horns:  
cry out in triumph before the Lord, the king.

- <sup>8</sup> Let the sea roar, and all that fills it:  
the good earth and those who live upon it.**
- <sup>9</sup> Let the rivers clap their hands:  
and let the mountains ring out together before the Lord;**
- <sup>10</sup> For he comes to judge the earth:  
he shall judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.**

## **Second Reading**

**1 John 5.1-12**

### **A reading from the First Letter of John Chapter 5, beginning at verse 1**

<sup>1</sup> Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup> For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <sup>6</sup> This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup> There are three that testify: <sup>8</sup> the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three agree. <sup>9</sup> If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. <sup>10</sup> Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup> Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Hear the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

## **HYMN**

- 1** Joyful, joyful, we adore you,  
God of glory, God of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before you  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the dark of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.

- 2 All your works with joy surround you,  
earth and heav'n reflect your rays,  
stars and angels sing around you,  
centre of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
singing bird and flowing fountain  
call to praise you joyfully.
- 3 You are giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
well-spring of the joy of living,  
ocean-depth of happy rest.  
You our Father, Christ our brother,  
all are yours who live in love;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to your joy above.

Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933). Public domain

## **GOSPEL** (*Standing*)

**John 15.9-17**

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, Chapter 15, beginning at verse 9

### **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, <sup>9</sup> "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

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

## THE CREED *(Standing)*

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

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,  
**hear our prayer.**

or

Father, 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

Jesus said: 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'  
John 6.35

**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 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, maintaining physical distancing, and offer a simple greeting of peace.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Seated)*

## HYMN

- 1 Help us accept each other  
as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother,  
each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us  
and bring us to believe  
we are *ourselves* accepted  
and meant to love and live.
- 2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,  
as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human  
and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people,  
for all - not just for some,  
to love them as we find them  
or as they may become.

3 Let your acceptance change us,  
so that we may be moved  
in living situations  
to do the truth in love;  
to practise your acceptance  
until we know by heart  
the table\* of forgiveness  
and laughter's healing art.

4 Lord, for today's encounters  
with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance,  
for righteousness and bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing,  
new hands for holding on:  
renew us with your Spirit;  
Lord, free us, make us one!

\* The 70 times table is in Matthew 18:21-22: 'seventy times seven'.

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER** *(Please remain standing)*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have gifts to share.  
Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** *(Please stand)*

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 our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

He is the true Paschal Lamb who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world. And now we give you thanks that you raised him in triumph from the dead. By his death, he has destroyed death and by his rising to life again has restored us to eternal life.



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:

**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.'

**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:

**Blessing and honour and 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.**

**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.**

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

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your body and soul unto everlasting life.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your body and soul unto everlasting life.

*Members of all Christian churches are invited to receive Communion.*

*Please move to the Chancel Steps by the centre aisle to receive the Sacrament, standing and maintaining physical distancing. Please return to your place by the side aisle, placing your used cup in the container at the end of the front pew.*

Most glorious Lord of life, we thank you that you nourish us in these Easter mysteries. Fill us with the Spirit of love and unite us in faith, that we may witness to the resurrection and show your glory to all the world.

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.**

## **HYMN**

- 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,  
be there at our waking and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
- 2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
be there at our labours and give us, we pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

- 3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
be there at our homing and give us, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
- 4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
be there at our sleeping and give us, we pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Joyce Placzek ('Jan Struther') 1901-53. Public domain

### **BLESSING** *(please stand)*

Almighty God, who redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ, and has brought us out of slavery into everlasting freedom, give you joy and peace in faith and bring you to your eternal inheritance; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia.  
**In the name of Christ. Alleluia.**

***We invite you to join us after the service  
for tea or coffee in the hall.***

*Please take this sheet and the bulletin with you, as at this time they cannot be reused.*