

ORDER OF LITURGY FOR SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2020

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.**

'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.'

**Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy**

**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.**

Let us pray.
Almighty and eternal God,
the strength of those who believe
and the hope of those who doubt:
may we, who have not seen, have faith
and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from Acts, chapter 2, beginning at verse 14

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ³⁶ Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.' ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' ³⁸ Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptised, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Hear the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116.1-4, 11-18

¹ I love the Lord, because he heard my voice:
the voice of my supplication;

² **Because he inclined his ear to me:
in the day that I called to him.**

³ The cords of death encompassed me,
the snares of the grave took hold on me:
I was in anguish and sorrow.

⁴ **Then I called upon the name of the Lord:
'O Lord, I beseech you, deliver me !'**

¹¹ How shall I repay the Lord:
for all his benefits to me?

**12 I will take up the cup of salvation:
and call upon the name of the Lord.**
13 I will pay my vows to the Lord:
in the presence of all his people.
14 **Grievous in the sight of the Lord:
is the death of his faithful ones.**
15 O Lord, I am your servant,
your servant and the child of your handmaid:
you have unloosed my bonds.
16 **I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving:
and call upon the name of the Lord.**
17 I will pay my vows to the Lord:
in the presence of all his people,
18 **In the courts of the house of the Lord:
even in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord**

A reading from 1 Peter, chapter 1, beginning at verse 13

13 Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. 14 Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. 15 Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; 16 for it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.' 17 If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. 18 You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. 20 He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. 21 Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. 22 Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. 23 You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For 'All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, 25 but the word of the Lord endures for ever.' That word is the good news that was announced to you.

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke,
chapter 24, beginning at verse 13
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' ¹⁹ He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' ²⁵ Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

For the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The sermon: from Father Alasdair MacKinnon-Love, Associate Priest Anglican Parish of Box Hill

Luke 24: 30-31 begins: *When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.* ³¹ *Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised him;*

Jesus made himself known to the travellers on the road to Emmaus, not by words, but by a simple deed – the breaking of bread. The passage certainly begins with Jesus designed meeting with the two men on the roadway, and them listening intently as he talked about the prophets, but it soon develops into all three of them

being involved in that action of Jesus; the breaking of the bread. Talking about stuff is one thing, but getting involved in doing the stuff about which we talk is, as we see here, entirely a different matter. Jesus enacted the breaking of the bread. The travellers enacted their participating in the meal. Both actions were intentional. The travellers, through this enacting, received the blessing of having the real presence of Jesus revealed to them.

This is what we do in Church in our Eucharist, in the meal of Holy Communion. We, the modern day travellers have Jesus revealed to us in this simple meal of a piece of bread and a sip of wine. We do this according to Jesus' command to remember him in these actions. But we also do much more than just remember, we intentionally take Jesus into our hearts by participating in that simple meal. That is what lies at the core of the experience of Holy Communion; receiving Jesus, in our hearts. Receiving that simple, but symbolic meal is essential nourishment in order for me to get through life. At this time, in our current situation, holding Jesus in my heart is even more important! So how do I manage this when I cannot come to church to be a part of the Eucharist, and when no-one is allowed to bring the Eucharist to me? I am passionate about pastoral care. This is not a casual thing I undertake, but an intentional and holy thing. When I was formally training in pastoral care, and particularly when I was training for pastoral care in hospitals, I was worried about how effective it could be for Christians, who for any sort of reason, were not able to receive the bread and wine. This situation is more common that you think when it comes to visiting the sick. Fortunately I was trained by a very fine Vicar, who taught me about "Spiritual Communion".

In its Guidelines concerning Spiritual Communion, the Church Of England teaches that: *the term 'Spiritual Communion' has been used historically to describe the means of grace by which a person, prevented for some serious reason from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, nonetheless shares in the communion of Jesus Christ. The Book of Common Prayer instructs us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly 'eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ', although we cannot receive the sacrament physically in ourselves. The Church of which we all are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ in which we are bound together as a holy community. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'.*

This is about intention. When we intend to receive Christ, by whatever means are available, we do actually receive Christ, fully and completely. The symbols of the Eucharist remind us of our intent, but it is the intent that is centrally important. This is not just some new to fit our current thinking, but a truth long held by the church. St Thomas Aquinas defined Spiritual Communion as *an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embracing him as if we had actually received him.*

So how do we go about participating in Spiritual Communion?

To help us in this undertaking on our website www.anglicansboxhill.org.au Father Shane has provided a link to an interesting article by Bosco Peters from New Zealand on having spiritual communion. Just click on the heading "Sustaining Faith @ Home", then click on "Spiritual Communion". The article will give a further explanation and some suggested prayers to help you get started. I highly recommend this material. Even though I am able to celebrate Holy Communion, I am choosing not to do so, nor to receive it in a physical way, so that I feel just like a fellow traveller with all of you and with the vast majority of Christians in the world, who are enduring the current restrictions demanded as our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I like all of you watching this service of Holy Communion, join in on-line worship, and participate spiritually. I still need, and indeed am nourished by, this corporate worship, in company of my somewhat broadened faith community.

I will continue to worship in this way until we can resume gathering together again, as members of the Anglican Parish of Box Hill. As we attend this on-line service of Holy Communion today, let us pray. Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament. We love you above all things, and desire to receive you into our very souls. Since we cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into our hearts. We embrace you as if you were already there, and unite ourselves wholly to you. Never permit us to be separated from you. **Amen.**

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 commend the world, for which Christ prays, to the mercy and protection of God:

Risen Lord

Fill our hearts with Easter joy

Living Christ Jesus, we thank you that you have loosed us from the bonds of hatred. Bring peace to our troubled world, so that governments may reject violence and division and instead work to build community, help the poor and needy and give justice to all. We pray that you help us to do all in our power to support integrity in power, and assume our responsibilities as your people in the world

Risen Lord

Fill our hearts with Easter joy

Living Christ Jesus, we thank you that you have loosed us from the bonds of untruth. May your church proclaim your truth to all, opening your scriptures to provide your word in all its power. Make us as your little flock, and especially our leaders, courageous in seeking truth, caring in our communications, and forthright in proclaiming your power. We pray that you bless your church communities as they seek to worship you in spirit and in truth under challenging new conditions. We pray that the people of Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and The Middle East (Archbishop Michael Lewis); The Diocese of North Queensland (Bishop Keith Joseph, Clergy & People); St Matthew's Prahran and here in Box Hill will know and be encouraged by your presence through the coming days.

Risen Lord

Fill our hearts with Easter joy

Living Christ Jesus, we thank you that you have loosed us from the bonds of greed. Protect us from anxiety for our possessions, and the desire to cling to things for security. Open to us the freedom of your abundant life that with glad hearts we may say with Paul that we are poor, yet making many rich, having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Risen Lord

Fill our hearts with Easter joy

Living Christ Jesus, we thank you that you have loosed us from the bonds of fear. May we set all our faith and hope in you. Bring your light into the darkness of our fears. As you made yourself known to the despondent disciples, open our eyes to see your unfailing presence with us, and help us to trust only in you, our shield and our defender.

Risen Lord

Fill our hearts with Easter joy

Living Christ Jesus, we thank you that you have freed us from the bonds of selfishness. We thank you for the strength and support you give to those who are working in all ways to heal the sick, comfort the grieving and enabling us to continue to live day by day. Teach us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need

as if we were caring for you, seeking out any opportunities to help others, and receiving with grateful thanks the help we ourselves receive.

Risen Lord

Fill our hearts with Easter joy

Living Jesus Christ we thank you that you have loosed our bonds of isolation. We pray for those of our community who, though separated from us, are part of your body. We commend to your care and comfort those in special need at this time: Charles, Miriam, Dianne, Kent, Lorraine, Neville, Nancy, Kate, Russ, Betty, Jessie, Don, Jim, Alma, Muriel, Faye, Eileen, Nola, Margaret and those we name before you now in our hearts.

Risen Lord

Fill our hearts with Easter joy

Living Christ Jesus, we thank you that you have loosed us from the bonds of death. May we share your victory and come to rejoice in your eternal Kingdom.

We remember all who have died in your love, those who have gone from this parish before us, including Kathleen Athonisz, Paul Wiltshire, Trevor Frost, Cyril White and all those dear to us.

Risen Lord

Fill our hearts with Easter joy

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.**

Jesus said: Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11.28

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

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.**

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 GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these 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

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,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.
And now we give you thanks that you raised him to life triumphant,
and exalted him in glory.
By his victory over death,
the reign of sin is ended,
a new day has dawned,
a broken world is restored
and we are made whole once more.
Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

**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.'
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.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

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.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Eternal God, giver of life,
in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord.
May we who celebrate this holy feast
walk in his risen light and bring new life to all creation.

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.

Notices:

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you what is pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**