

Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta

Parochial District of Wangaratta West & The Warbys

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

14th May, 2023—9.30am & 11.00am Eucharist

The Acclamation

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed.

The Welcome & Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Opening Hymn TiS 387. tune, Truro [89]

1. **Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring;
Love drowned in death, shall never die.**
2. **Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.**
3. **In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more
and lives, where even hope has died.**
4. **Women and men, in age and youth
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**
5. **Christ is alive! And comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

Brian Wren. 1936-

Sentence

‘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

Prayer of Preparation

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.**

Hymn of Praise (sung or said)

**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

Let us pray

O God,
you have prepared for those who love you
joys beyond our understanding:

pour into our hearts such love for you,
that, loving you above all else,
we may obtain your promises
that exceed all we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostle [17. 22-31]

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

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

Psalm 66. 1-7, 15, 19

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,

O sing to the glory of his name.

O render him glorious praise.

Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

'Before you all the earth shall bow;

shall sing to you, sing to your name!'

Come and see the works of God,

tremendous his deeds among mortals.

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

He turned the sea into dry land,

they passed through the river dry-shod.

Let our joy then be in him;

he rules for ever by his might.

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Come and hear, all who fear God.

I will tell what he did for my soul:

Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer

nor withhold his love from me.

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

A Reading from the First Letter of St Peter [3. 8-22]

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing.

For

'Those who desire life and desire to see good days,

let them keep their tongues from evil

and their lips from speaking deceit;

let them turn away from evil and do good;

let them seek peace and pursue it.

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,

and his ears are open to their prayer.

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.'

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

Please Stand

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John [14. 15-21]

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

[Jesus said to his disciples]

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

For the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

A time of silence for reflection may follow the sermon

Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Lord, in you we live and move and have our being,
for we are your children,
and you are not far from any one of us.

We pray for all who are being prepared for baptism or
confirmation, that we with them may know that we dwell in you

and you in us.

We pray for Christians who are struggling
in lonely or difficult places,
for all who feel forsaken,
for all who are longing to know your love.
We pray for all who seek to do your will
and fulfil your commandments.

Lord, you abide in us.

May we know we abide in you.

We pray for countries where laws are being flouted.
We pray for nations and peoples who are in danger of
destroying themselves or others, remembering especially:
Ukraine and Russia, Sudan, Palestine & Israel.
We remember areas of civil strife,
areas where people are misused or abused.
We pray for all who seek to live in simplicity, gentleness and
reverence, for all who suffer for doing good.

Lord, you abide in us.

May we know we abide in you.

By your indwelling presence make our hearts and our homes
places of peace.

We pray for peace in our communities,
for peace in our relationships,
that your peace may spread throughout our world.

Lord, you abide in us.

May we know we abide in you.

We pray for all who are captives to superstition or ignorance,
for all who have no knowledge of God,
for all whose lives are empty, or filled with the wrong things.
We remember before you all whose lives are falling apart,
all who are entering into darkness or sickness,
that each in their weakness may know your strength.
We remember now and pray for: Bob C. Neliya Don Leonard.
Bronwyn. Josef. Kaye McKenzie. Chris E. Trent. Vi Bussell.
Nina Colson.

Lord, you abide in us.

May we know we abide in you.

Lord, if we abide in you and you are in us,
we are already in the fullness of that life which is eternal.
We rejoice in your presence, and pray for loved ones and friends
who have gone before us.

Remembering this week;
Dorothy Cardwell. Eric Popple. Mavis Thompson. Annie Robinson.
Elsie Manley. Alan Jewell. Dulcie Thirkell. Walter Auger. Freda Willett.
Hugh Challman. Eva Wise.

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord,
and may light perpetual shine upon them.

Concluding prayer

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.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
in thought, and word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.
Have mercy on us, forgive us all that is past,
and grant that we may serve you
and live a new life to your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

Alleluia. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you. Alleluia!

In Eastertide Peace Greeting goes like this:

Christ is risen.

He is Risen indeed!

Offertory Hymn—TiS 536/AHB 453. tune, O Waly, Waly

1. **An upper room did our Lord prepare
for those he loved until the end:
and his disciples still gather there
to celebrate their risen friend.**
2. **A lasting gift Jesus gave his own:
to share his bread, his loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down,
he by his cross shall lift us up.**
3. **And after supper he washed their feet,
for service, too, is sacrament.
In him our joy shall be made complete —
sent out to serve, as he was sent.**
4. **No end there is! We depart in peace.
He loves beyond the uttermost:
in every room in our Father's house
he will be there, as Lord and host.**

Frederick Pratt Green 1903–2000

Words by permission Stainer & Bell, London.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.

In your loving care you spread before us the table of life
and give us the cup of salvation to drink.

Keep us always in the fold of our Saviour and our Shepherd,
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

Blessing and honour, glory and power,
are rightly yours, all-gracious God.

By your creative word you brought the world to birth;
in your generous love you made the human family,
that we might see your glory
and live for ever in your presence.

**Blessing and honour, glory and power,
are rightly yours, all-gracious God.**

When we wandered from you in our sin
you sought us with your steadfast love
and did not give us up.

In the fullness of time you sent your Son
to be our Saviour and Deliverer.

Made of flesh and blood, he lived our life
and died our death upon the cross.

Death could not hold him
and now he reigns at your right hand.

**Blessing and honour, glory and power,
are rightly yours, all-gracious God.**

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and all the company of heaven,
we bless and praise your glorious name, saying/singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

((♩ ♩ ♩ - count 3 notes then sing))

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed indeed is the Lord Jesus Christ who, at supper with his
friends, took bread and gave you thanks broke it,
gave it to them and said:

‘Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.’ ✠

When supper was ended,
he took the cup and gave you thanks, gave it to them, and said:
'Drink from it all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for everyone, for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.' ✠

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Therefore, Father, we celebrate this Passover of gladness;
for as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
Accept, through him, our great high priest,
this, our sacrifice of praise.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us the body and blood of Christ. ✠
Gather us, who share this feast,
into the kingdom of your glory that
with all your people in every time and place
we may praise and worship you for ever:

**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

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
grant us your peace.**

Draw near with faith,
to feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.
Alleluia!

The Merton Prayer *by Thomas Merton*

My Lord God,
I have no Idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

“The Merton Prayer” from *Thoughts in Solitude*, 1956, 1958 by The Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani.

Communion Meditation

*Christ is risen as he said,
Christ the firstborn from the dead:
See, the stone is rolled away,
see the place where Jesus lay.*

*Lord of life, he lives again;
Lord of lords, to rule and reign:
Every tongue confess him now,
every knee before him bow.*

*Christ who died our life to win,
Christ has conquered death and sin:
Now is all his warfare done,
now is every triumph won.*

*Son of God, his life he gave,
Son of Man, to seek and save:
Risen now, the Son who died,
risen, ascended, glorified.*

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

God our Father,
you have raised our humanity in Christ
and have fed us with the bread of heaven:
mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings,
we may set our hearts in the heavenly places;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples. Amen.**

Notices

Concluding Hymn—If Christ had not been raised

- 1. If Christ had not been raised from death
our faith would be in vain,
our preaching but a waste of breath,
our sin and guilt remain.
But now the Lord is risen indeed;
he rules in earth and heaven:
his Gospel meets a world of need
in Christ we are forgiven.**
- 2. If Christ still lay within the tomb
then death would be the end,
and we should face our final doom
with neither guide nor friend.
But now the Saviour is raised up,
so when a Christian dies
we mourn, yet look to God in hope
in Christ the saints arise!**
- 3. If Christ had not been truly raised
his church would live a lie;
his name should never more be praised,
his words deserve to die.
But now our great Redeemer lives;
through him we are restored;
his word endures, his church revives
in Christ, our risen Lord.**

Christopher Idle (b. 1938)
Words © 1985 The Jubilate Group

The Blessing

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.**

The Dismissal

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



Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from
Ascension to Pentecost
for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since it began in May 2016, God has grown TKC from a dream of possibility into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions- so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Every person, household and church are encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way.

It is our hope & prayer, that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world, will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him.

Specifically, we again invite each and every Christian across the globe to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

Whether you have joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' before or not, we invite you to take part & join in.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities."

Archbishop Justin Welby

Eucharist, Second Order Text from A Prayer Book for Australia (Sydney: Broughton Books, 1995) © 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trusts Corporation. Used by permission. Confession & Absolution from AAPB p. 44. The Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Anglicised Edition, © copyright, 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, Used by permission. All rights reserved.
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CCLI 637628

This Week we will celebrate Ascension Day.

The statement in the Creeds that Christ ‘ascended into heaven’ is based mainly on Acts 1:1–9 where, after 40 days of appearances, the Risen Lord speaks to the Apostles about the coming of the Holy Spirit and the Church’s mission, and is then taken up in a cloud. The reference to the Apostles’ return to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:12) gave rise to the tradition that this is where it took place. Luke 24:50–3 by contrast seems to imply that this withdrawal of Christ into Heaven occurred at Bethany on the evening of the day of the Resurrection.

Behind St Luke’s narrative stands the universal conviction of the early Church that God had vindicated Jesus after His crucifixion, and the expression of this mystery in the biblical language of exaltation, heavenly session, and resurrection. The language of exaltation and ascension is developed most profoundly in the Fourth Gospel (*John*) where it balances that of Incarnation. Its roots may be found in early Judaism (e.g. Dan. 7:13; cf. Jn. 6:62) and legends of the Assumption of Moses and the Ascension of Elijah, Enoch, Isaiah, etc. The idea is present in other parts of the NT: Eph. 4:8–10, Heb. 4:14, 6:20, 7:26, 8:1, 1 Pet. 3:22, 1 Tim. 3:16.

For Christians the Ascension marks the solemn close of the post-Resurrection appearances and signifies the rule of Christ in the present (cf. 1 Cor. 15:25). It is associated through Psalm 110:1 with the idea of heavenly session at God’s right hand (cf. Mk. 12:36 and parallels, 14:62 and parallels, 16:19; Acts 2:33, Rom. 8:34, Col. 3:1, Eph. 1:20, Heb. 1:3 and 13, 8:1, 10:12 f., 12:2). Doctrinally it implies Christ’s humanity being taken into Heaven and its hold on the Christian imagination is evidenced by the importance of the motif in Christian iconography.

Ascension Day is one of the chief feasts of the Christian year. It is kept on the sixth Thursday, i.e. the 40th day, after Easter. There is widespread testimony (e.g. in Chrysostom, Egeria, and Socrates) to its celebration from the later years of the 4th cent. In early times its observance was frequently, if not always, marked by a procession, apparently to commemorate Christ’s journey to the Mount of Olives. According to Western European usage, the Paschal Candle, lighted during more important services in Eastertide, was until 1970 extinguished after the Gospel at Mass on Ascension Day. In the Book of Common Prayer, Proper Psalms (8, 15, 21; 24, 47, 108) are appointed for the day itself and a Proper Preface for use throughout the octave. Modern Anglican liturgies make similar provision, in some cases following the 1970 Missale Romanum in directing that the Preface for the Ascension be used until the Saturday before Whitsunday.

Cross, F. L., & Livingstone, E. A., eds. (2005).
In *The Oxford dictionary of the Christian Church* (3rd ed. rev., p. 114).
Oxford University Press.