



ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA
PAROCHIAL DISTRICT OF WANGARATTA WEST & THE WARBYS

8.00am Eucharist, 9.30am Sung Eucharist
The Second Sunday of EASTER
April 7th 2024 (also called Low Sunday)

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Opening Hymn: AHB 290 / TiS 370 [tune: St George's Windsor]

1. **Christ the Lord is risen today:
Let the whole creation say:
Raise your joys and triumphs high:
Sing now, heaven, and earth reply:
Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won;
vain the stone, the watch, the seal:
Christ has burst the gates of hell.**
2. **Lives again our glorious king;
where, O death, is now your sting?
Once he died our souls to save;
where your victory, O grave?
Soar we now where Christ has led,
following our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise:
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.**

Charles Wesley 1707–88 alt.
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Greeting

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.

**Father of glory, holy and eternal,
look upon us now in power and mercy.
May your strength overcome our weakness,
your radiance transform our blindness,
and your Spirit draw us to that love
shown and offered to us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Sentence

‘Peace be with you,’ says the Lord.
‘As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’

John 20.21

The Confession & Absolution

In baptism we died with Christ,
so that as Christ was raised from the dead,
we might walk in newness of life.
Let us receive new life in him
as we confess our sins in penitence and faith

cf Romans 6.4

**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.**

May the God of love and power,
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Hymn of Praise is said or sung.

**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 Priest sings or says the Collect

Risen Christ,
whose absence leaves us in despair
but whose presence is overwhelming:
breathe on us with your abundant life,
that where we cannot see
we may have courage to believe
that we may be raised with you. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles [4. 32-37]

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means 'son of encouragement'). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God

Psalm 133

**Behold how good and how lovely it is:
when families live together in unity.**

**It is fragrant as oil upon the head,
that runs down over the beard:
fragrant as oil upon the beard of Aaron,
that ran down over the collar of his robe.**

**It is like a dew of Hermon:
like the dew that falls upon the hill of Zion.**

**For there the Lord has commanded his blessing:
which is life for evermore.**

A Reading from the First Letter of John [1. 1—2.2]

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Hear the word of the Lord
thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn: AHB 276 / TiS 360– Part 2. tune, Lasst Uns Erfreuen

6. **That Eastertide with joy was bright,
the sun shone out with fairer light,
alleluia, alleluia!
when to their longing eyes restored
the apostles saw their risen Lord.
*alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia!***
7. **He showed to them his hands, his side,
where yet the glorious wounds abide:
the tokens true which made it plain
their Lord indeed was risen again.**
8. **Jesus, the king of gentleness,
come now yourself our hearts possess,
that we may give you all our days
the tribute of our grateful praise.**

Anon., Latin
tr. John Mason Neale 1818-66 *alt*

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John [20. 19-31]
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

The Sermon

A period of silence for reflection follows the sermon

Let us reaffirm our faith.

**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

The Lord calls us to examine the wounded hands and feet of the Risen One and to know the depth of his love for us.

Lord our Father, as Jesus entered the locked room to show his disciples the beginning of a new world, so enter our hearts and move us to faith in Jesus as the Risen One.

Convince us of the reality and significance of the resurrection, and free us from all manner of fears and phobias.

Give us courage in the face of death, knowing that this is the gateway to new resurrected life for those who trust in Christ.

Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring peace to all parts of the earth. Wherever nations are at war and people are divided, visit and bring true reconciliation.

We offer prayers for Israel and Palestine, Sudan, Yemen.

We pray this week for the nations of Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, for their people, for their leaders and for your church in these places.

Help your people in these nations to influence their country for the good of all.

Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be with your church throughout the world so that its preaching and works of love may continue to testify to our Lord's resurrection.

Wherever your church is faithless and lacking in courage to do the work that Jesus has given, visit it and build it up with your Spirit.

We pray within the ACA for The Diocese of Brisbane, Archbishop Jeremy Greaves (*Josie*) Regional Bishops: Cameron Venables (*Kate*) & John Roundhill (*Frances*). The Clergy and people.

The Society of the Sacred Advent & The Society of St Francis.

We pray for Bishop Clarence, Michelle and family on holiday.

The Parochial District of Wangaratta West and the Warbys, Priest in Charge: Neil Hicks (*Sue*) the Parish leaders and communities at: St Michael's, St Paul's, & St George's.

Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Wherever homes are disrupted by anger and bitterness, and wherever relationships are distorted and dulled, visit and bring peace and harmony.

Wherever young people are gathered in your name, visit and guide them with your holy word and wisdom.

Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Visit and comfort the sick and suffering too, dear Lord.

Heal and strengthen weak bodies, calm and correct confused minds.

We pray for those we know with particular needs including: Margaret G. Zoe. Robert P. Nina Colson. Melanie. Wayne. Warren G. Kaye McKenzie. Josef.

Support them all with your great love and mercy.

Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember those whose Year's Mind occurs this week:

Graeme Hicks. Florence Wallis. Ronald Bray. Kenneth Still.

May Stanton. Olive Edwards. Ian Gladstone. Elizabeth Goldsmith.

Rosemary Graham.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

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.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Please Stand

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, Peace be with you!

Alleluia!

The peace of the Risen Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Alleluia!

All may exchange a Greeting of Peace.

Offertory Hymn: AHB 281/TiS 363 (tune: O Filii Et Filiae)

Introduction: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1. **My daughters and my sons hear tell —
The king of heav'n, the glorious king
is risen today from death and hell. *Alleluia, alleluia.***
4. **His followers huddle in despair,
when suddenly he's in the room,
saying, 'My peace is yours to share.' *Alleluia, alleluia.***
5. **But Thomas, lonely in his grief,
hears only later, 'He is risen',
and simply cannot find belief. *Alleluia, alleluia.***
6. **'Look, Thomas, see my wounded side.
Reach out, and touch my feet and hands,
then dare believe that I'm alive.' *Alleluia, alleluia.***
7. **And now he knows it is the Lord.
He sees the hands, the feet, the side.
He cries for joy, 'You are my God!' *Alleluia, alleluia.***
8. **How happy those who come to faith,
although they have not seen the Lord
for they shall have eternal life — *Alleluia, alleluia.***

Jean Tisserand d.1494. tr. Janet Wootton 1952–
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Offertory Prayer

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 PRAYER

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, thanks and praise,
be yours now and always,
Lord, holy Father, mighty Creator, ever living God.
We give thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by his death on the cross and rising to new life
offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

For he is the true passover lamb who was offered for us
and has taken away the sin of the world.
By his death he has destroyed death
and by his rising to life he has restored to us eternal life.

Therefore with the whole company of heaven
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing/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.**

And now, Father, we pray that we who receive these your gifts of
bread and wine according to our Saviour's word
may be partakers of his body and blood. ✠

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

"Take, eat. This is my body which is 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 which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ✠

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

We offer our prayer and praise, Father,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
through Jesus Christ our Lord:

**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 forever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

The priest breaks the bread, then says

As this broken bread was once many grains,
which have been gathered together and made one bread:

**so may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

Agnus Dei

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 invitation to Communion is given:

The bread which we break, alleluia,
is the communion of the body of Christ.

**Be known to us, Lord Jesus,
in the breaking of the bread.**

We are one body, alleluia,
for though many we share one bread.

**Be known to us, Lord Jesus,
in the breaking of the bread.**

*An invitation is extended to all Christian people
to make their Communion here today.
To receive a blessing and not communion,
simply keep your hands behind your back
as the signal that this is what you seek.*

After Communion Hymn AHB 434/TiS513

Bread of heav'n, on you we feed, for your flesh is food indeed:
ever may our souls be fed with this true and living bread,
day by day with strength supplied through the life of him who died.

Vine of heav'n, your blood supplies this blest cup of sacrifice:
Lord, your wounds our healing give; to your cross we look and live:
you our life, O let us be fed by you eternally.

Josiah Conder 1789–1855 alt.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.

**Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.**

**Keep us in this hope that we have grasped;
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Notices may be given at this point

Concluding Hymn: AHB 279 [tune: St Fulbert]

- 1. Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
your sweetest notes employ,
the Paschal victory to hymn in strains of holy joy.**

2. For Judah's Lion burst his chains,
and crushed the serpent's head;
and brought with him, from death's domains,
the long-imprisoned dead.
3. From hell's devouring jaws the prey
alone our leader bore;
his ransomed hosts pursue their way
where he hath gone before.
4. Triumphant in his glory now his sceptre ruling all,
earth, heaven, and hell before him bow,
and at his footstool fall.
5. While joyful thus his praise we sing,
his mercy we implore,
into his palace bright to bring and keep us evermore.
6. All glory to the Father be, all glory to the Son,
all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
while endless ages run.

St Fulbert of Chartres d 1028
tr: Robert Campbell, 1814--68, alt

The Blessing and Dismissal

Almighty God,
who redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ,
who raised us to newness of life through the waters of baptism,
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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia!