



Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta

Parochial District of Wangaratta West & The Warbys

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST {OS 20}

18th August, 2024—Ante Communion 11.00 a.m.

Greeting

Open our lips, O Lord,
and we shall declare your praise.

This is the day that the Lord has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Sentence

Jesus said,
'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me,
and I in them.'

John 6.56

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: AHB 25 / TiS 107. Tune, Kremser.

- Sing praise and thanksgiving, let all creatures living
now worship their maker with gladness and song;
all glory and honour we come to him bringing:
*O praise to the Almighty,
sing praise to our God!***
- Our lives of his making he brings to their waking;
in darkness he held us in his gracious care,
now into the light we are called from our sleeping:
*O praise to the Almighty,
sing praise to our God!***

3. **Lord, frame our desiring to do your requiring,
that unto your glory be all that we do;
and where we have faltered,
give strength and give healing:
*O praise to the Almighty,
sing praise to our God!***

Paul Gerhardt 1607–76
tr. Margaret Barclay (1951)
adapted by Colin Alexander Gibson 1933–

The Two Great Commandments

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

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. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Lord, have mercy on us:
and write your law in our hearts
by your Holy Spirit.**

The Collect

Let us pray

Everliving God,

your Son, Jesus Christ, gave himself as living bread

for the life of the world:

give us such a knowledge of his presence

that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life

to serve you continually;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The First Book of Kings [2. 10–12; + 3. 3–14]

Then David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned for seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

3.3 Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt-offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?'

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honour all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.'

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

Psalm 111.

Side A = plain. Side B = *italics* **Altogether = bold**

O praise the Lord.

I will praise the Lord with my whole heart:

*in the company of the upright
and among the congregation.*

The works of the Lord are great:
and studied by all who take delight in them.

*His deeds are majestic and glorious:
and his righteousness stands for ever.*

His marvellous acts have won him a name to be remembered:
the Lord is gracious and merciful.

*He gives food to those that fear him:
he remembers his covenant for ever.*

He showed his people the power of his acts:
in giving them the heritage of the heathen.

*The works of his hands are faithful and just:
and all his commandments are sure;*

They stand firm for ever and ever:
they are done in faithfulness and in truth.

**He sent redemption to his people,
he ordained his covenant for ever:
holy is his name and worthy to be feared.**

**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and of good understanding are those
that keep his commandments:
his praise shall endure for ever.**

The Letter of Paul to the Ephesians [5. 11-31]

Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

‘Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.’

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Saviour. Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendour, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body. 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.'

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

Gradual Hymn: AHB 334/TiS 429. Tune, Bread of Life (4 verses).

- 1. Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea;
beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord,
my spirit longs for you, O living Word.**
- 2. Bless your own truth, dear Lord, to me, to me
as when you blessed the bread by Galilee;
then shall all bondage cease, all shackles fall,
and I shall find my peace, my all in all.**
- 3. You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
your holy word the truth that rescues me.
Give me to eat and live with you above;
teach me to love your truth, for you are love.**
- 4. O send your Spirit now, dear Lord, to me,
that he may touch my eyes and make me see.
Show me the truth made plain within your Word,
for in your book revealed I see you, Lord.**

Vv1-2 Mary Artemisia Lathbury (1841–1913) alt.
vv 3-4 Alexander Groves (1842-1909)

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John [6. 51-58]
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.'

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

Creed

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.**

Reflection time

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us bring the needs of the church, the world, and all in need, to God's loving care, saying:

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

Empower the church throughout the world in its life and witness.
Break down the barriers that divide, that,
united in your truth and love,
the church may confess your name,
share one baptism,
sit together at one table,
and serve you in one common ministry.

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

Guide the rulers of the nations.
Move them to set aside their fear, greed, and vain ambition,
and bow to your sovereign rule.
Inspire them to strive for peace and justice,
that all your children may dwell secure,
free of war and injustice.

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

Hear the cries of the world's hungry and suffering.
Give us, who consume most of the earth's resources,
the will to reorder our lives,
that all may have their rightful share of the food,
medical care, and shelter,
and so have the necessities of a life of dignity.

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

Restore among us a love of the earth you created for our home.
Help us put an end to ravishing its land, air, and waters,
and give us respect for all your creatures,
that, living in harmony with everything you have made,
your whole creation may resound in an anthem of praise
to your glorious name.

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

Renew our nation in the ways of justice and peace.
Guide those who make and administer our laws
to build a society based on trust and respect.
Erase prejudices that oppress; free us from crime and violence;
guard our youth from the perils of drugs and materialism.
Give all citizens a new vision of a life of harmony.

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

Strengthen this congregation in its work and worship.
Fill our hearts with your self-giving love,
that our voices may speak your praise,
and our lives may conform to the image of your Son.
Nourish us with your Word and sacraments
that we may faithfully minister in your name,
and witness to your love and grace for all the world.

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

Look with compassion on all who suffer or are in need of any kind.
Support with your love those with incurable and stigmatized diseases,
those unjustly imprisoned,
those denied dignity, those who live without hope,
those who are homeless or abandoned.
As you have moved toward us in love,
so lead us to be present with them in their suffering
in the name of Jesus Christ.

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

Sustain those among us who need your healing touch.
Make the sick whole especially, Mark Heaton, Shirley Cameron,
Melanie, Bp Garry Weatherill, Nina Colson, Warren Gould, Josef,
Kaye McKenzie, Wayne.

Give hope to the dying. Comfort those who mourn.
Uphold all who suffer in body or mind,
not only those we know and love but also those known only to you,
that they may know the peace and joy of your supporting care.

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

With thanksgiving we remember before you those saints who bore
witness to the light especially Bernard of Clairvaux and Bartholomew,
Apostle and Martyr.

Years Mind this week, Dean Klæbe, Ralph Butler.

Grant that we may persevere in the faith to which we have been called
and at the end behold your glory.

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord.

And may light perpetual shine upon them.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us 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.**

Offertory Hymn: AHB 43 / TiS 84. Tune, Truro or Duke Street.

1. **Give to our God immortal praise,
mercy and truth are all his ways:
wonders of grace to God belong,
repeat his mercies in your song.**
2. **Give to the Lord of lords renown,
the King of kings with glory crown:
his mercies ever shall endure,
when lords and kings are known no more.**
3. **He built the earth, he spread the sky,
and fixed the starry lights on high:
wonders of grace to God belong,
repeat his mercies in your song.**
4. **He fills the sun with morning light,
he bids the moon direct the night:
his mercies ever shall endure,
when suns and moons shall shine no more.**
5. **He sent his Son with power to save
from guilt and darkness and the grave:
wonders of grace to God belong,
repeat his mercies in your song.**
6. **Through this vain world he guides our feet,
and leads us to his heavenly seat:
his mercies ever shall endure,
when this vain world shall be no more.**

Isaac Watts 1674–1748

Offertory Prayer

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything
against anyone; so that your Father also who is in heaven may
forgive you your trespasses.

Mark 11.25

Silence may be kept.

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

**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.**

The minister stands and declares God's forgiveness

God desires that none should perish,
but that all should turn to Christ, and live.

In response to his call we acknowledge our sins.

God pardons those who humbly repent, and truly
believe the gospel.

Therefore we have peace with God,
through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

In this is love, not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son
to be the perfect offering for our sins.

1 John 4.10

All stand. The minister says

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

His steadfast love endures for ever!

Grace and peace be with you

and also with you.

All may exchange a Greeting of Peace.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Notices

Hymn—Tune, Sicilian Mariners.

- 1. Glory, honour, endless praises
here we offer, King of kings.
You are source of all our being,
Lord of all created things.**
- 2. Glory, honour, endless praises
to the Lamb who has been slain:
by your blood you ransomed sinners,
set your people free again.**
- 3. Called to serve from every nation,
kings and priests, we praise you, Lord,
and to Father and to Spirit
lift our hearts with one accord.**

Edwin Le Grice (1911 1992)
based on Revelation 4, 5 (A Song of Praise)

The Dismissal

Let us pray

Loving God,
we thank you for hearing our prayers,
feeding us with your word,
and encouraging us in our meeting together.

**Take us and use us
to love and serve you and all people,
in the power of your Spirit
and in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Eucharist, Third Order Text from A Prayer Book for Australia (Sydney: Broughton Books, 1995)

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Commentary on back page is from N. T. Wright, (2002). [*Twelve Months of Sundays: Reflections on Bible Readings, Year B*](#) (pp. 96–97). Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

A glance at the bits of 1 Kings 1–3 which are not read in this sequence will explain why Solomon so desperately needed wisdom. His father's victories, though remarkable, could not be relied on for long-term security. His own family, whose struggles over the succession had soured his rise to power, could certainly be relied on for long-term squabbles. The coalition of Israelite tribes, held together around the non-tribal capital of Jerusalem, was under strain even in David's day. If ever a young leader needed wisdom, it was Solomon.

The fact that he met these challenges, postponing the break-up of the fragile kingdom through a long reign, is itself a sign that his perennial reputation for wisdom is justified. And of course the main achievement of that wisdom was the building of the Temple. Here we find several elements of later Jewish thinking: wisdom as God's handmaid, given to enable humans to be co-creators of God's intended projects; the Temple itself as the place of God's dwelling, of worship, prayer and sacrifice; David's son and heir bringing the two together, as long as he fulfils the law. Half of New Testament Christology is stored away in this narrative, laid up like a fine wine for a thousand years.

Solomon's humility and wisdom contrast sharply with the arrogance and bumbling short-termism we find in much ancient and modern history. What might it take to get us back on track?

Paul's recipe for wisdom is bracing. Avoid the folly of comfortable, and fashionable, immorality (Ephesians 5:3–14, which forms the backdrop to this exhortation to wisdom). Make the most of the time (literally, 'buy it back'; assume it's being snatched from you, and get it back under your control). Understand God's will: think it through and see where it conflicts with the easy option. Glad and grateful worship takes priority over booze and sleaze. Think of the pagan rulers, and their imitators, of Paul's day, and perhaps our own as well, and you'll see what a contrast he is recommending.

But it can only be attempted by those who, through that thankful worship, are being fed on the bread and wine which is Jesus himself. Wisdom, Temple and Torah point forward to the one who offers his own flesh and blood as food and drink.

This shocking affront to Jewish sensibilities (cannibalism? drinking blood? No wonder they found it hard to take) is meant to jolt us into recognizing what is in fact being said. Solomon's prayer for God's wisdom was a prayer for God's own life, God's own second self, to live within him, clothing itself with his thinking, his decisions, his leadership. Our feeding on Jesus, in the eucharist of course but in so many other ways too, is our prayer for God's own life, made flesh in Jesus, to clothe itself afresh with us, to get (as we say) into our bones and our bloodstreams, our thinking, our decisions, our leadership.