



Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta
Wangaratta West and The Warbys

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

26th January 2025

9.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist & 11.00 a.m. Eucharist

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Opening Hymn: TiS 672. Tune, Westminster Abbey.

1. **Lord of earth and all creation,
let your love possess our land:
wealth, and freedom, far horizons,
mountain, forest, shining sand:
may we share, in faith and friendship,
gifts unmeasured from your hand.**
2. **People of the ancient Dreamtime,
they who found this country first,
ask with those, the later comers,
will our dream be blessed or cursed?
Grant us, Lord, new birth, new living,
hope for which our children thirst.**
3. **Lord, life-giving healing Spirit,
on our hurts your mercy shower;
lead us by your inward dwelling,
guiding, guarding, every hour.
Bless and keep our land Australia:
in your will her peace and power.**

Michael Rayner Thwaites 1915–
and Honor Mary Thwaites 1914–93
Words © M. R. Thwaites

The Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Greeting

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Sentence

Jesus read from the prophet Isaiah:
'The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives.'

Luke 4.18

The Prayer of Preparation

**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 Two Great Commandments

'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.'

Kyrie eleison is said or sung

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

The Hymn of Praise, Gloria in excelsis (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 Collect

Let us pray

Life-giving God,
who sent your Son Jesus to proclaim your kingdom
and to teach with authority:
anoint us with your Spirit,
that we too may bring good news to the poor,
bind up the broken-hearted,
and proclaim liberty to the captive;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the book Nehemiah [8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10]

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

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

Psalm 19. 7-11

**The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul:
the command of the Lord is true,
and makes wise the simple.**

**The precepts of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart:
the commandment of the Lord is pure,
and gives light to the eyes.**

**The fear of the Lord is clean, and endures for ever:
the judgements of the Lord are unchanging,
and righteous every one.**

**More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold:
sweeter also than honey,
than the honey that drips from the comb.**

**Moreover, by them is your servant taught:
and in keeping them there is great reward.**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians [12. 12-31]

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’, nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the

same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

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

Gradual Hymn: AHB 337/TiS 430. Tune, Capel.

- 1. Your words to me are life and health;
pour strength into my soul;
enable, guide, and teach my heart
to reach its perfect goal.**
- 2. Your words to me are light and truth;
from day to day they show
their wisdom, passing human thought,
as in their truth I grow.**
- 3. Your words to me are full of joy,
of beauty, peace, and grace;
from them I learn your blessed will,
through them I see your face.**
- 4. Your words are perfected in One,
yourself, the living Word;
within my heart your image print
in clearest lines, O Lord.**

George Currie Martin 1865–1937 alt.
Words © G. C. Martin

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke [4. 14-21]
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

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

The Sermon

A time of silent reflection may follow the sermon

The 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The priest says

Let us pray for our nation and people

For those whose dreams of freedom and equality inspired our nation:

We give thanks, O God.

For those whose sacrifice and courage preserved this country
in times of danger and indifference:

We give thanks, O God.

For all who quietly yet firmly resisted wrong without bitterness or vengeance:

We give thanks, O God.

For leaders who have placed righteousness and justice before concern for prestige and popularity:

We give thanks, O God.

For the multitude of citizens whose hope and deeds of mercy are known only to you:

We give thanks, O God.

From good intentions gone astray in this country and across the earth:

O Lord, deliver us.

From the irresponsible use of natural resources, of economic and political power:

O Lord, deliver us.

From a narrow patriotism which ignores the needs and welfare of all people:

O Lord, deliver us.

From a preoccupation with the past and a refusal to confront the future with faith and vision:

O Lord, deliver us.

From false pride and blindness to our nation's frailty,
from complacency and timidity in speaking the truth:

O Lord, deliver us.

That the Prime Minister of our country and all executive officers, legislators, and justices
may govern courageously, justly, and wisely:

Lord, send forth your Spirit.

That the people of this land may dwell together in unity without fear:

Lord, send forth your Spirit.

That we may proclaim good news to the poor, release to the captives, recovery of sight to
the blind, and liberty to all who are oppressed:

Lord, send forth your Spirit.

That the kingdoms of this world may be taken up into the reign of your eternal kingdom:

Lord, send forth your Spirit.

For those whose dreams of freedom and equality inspired our nation:

We give thanks, O God.

The priest says

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.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

Silence may be kept.

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.**

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.

*You are invited to share a Greeting of Peace,
with your neighbours.*

Offertory Hymn—TiS 188. Tune, Hanover

1. **Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand,
where sun turns to gold the grass of the land,
let spinifex, mulga and waterhole tell
their joy in the One who made everything well.**
2. **Where rain-forest calm meets reef, tide and storm,
where green things grow lush and oceans are warm,
let every sea-creature and tropical bird
exult in the light of the life-giving Word.**
3. **Where red gum and creek cross hillside and plain,
where cool tree-ferns rise to welcome the rain,
let bushland, farm, mountain-top, all of their days
delight in the Spirit who formed them for praise.**
4. **Now, people of faith, come gather around
with songs to be shared, for blessings abound!
Australians, whatever your culture or race,
come, lift up your hearts to the Giver of grace.**

Elizabeth J. Smith 1956–

Offertory prayers response: **Blessed be God for ever.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER

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, thanks and praise, be yours now and always,
Lord of every time and place, God beyond our dreaming.

We give you thanks that from the beginning of time,
your Spirit has brooded over this ancient land.

In the fullness of time you revealed 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 and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

We give you thanks that in him you have revealed to us your presence in the vastness of this land, your love in its fruitfulness, and your purpose in its cycles of death and renewed 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 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.**

Holy God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that we who eat and drink them
in obedience to our Saviour Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
may be partakers of his body and blood,
and be made one with him
and with each other in peace and love. ✠

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.

In faith we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory.**

As we eat and drink this holy sacrament, renew us by your Spirit that we may be united in the body of your Son and serve you as a royal priesthood in the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Receive our praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we worship you in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

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 is said or sung

**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.**

The priest says

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

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

after communion hymn, see screen.

Let us pray.

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit. Amen.**

Notices

Hymn: TiS 531. Tune, The Ash Grove.

- 1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from his table take leave.
The supper is ended: may now be extended
the fruits of his service in all who believe.
The seed of his teaching, our hungry souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for all humankind.
His grace shall incite us, his love shall unite us
to work for his kingdom, his purpose to find.**
- 2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living
the tasks of our everyday life we will face,
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing as neighbours all those of each race.
One feast that has fed us, one light that has led us,
unite us as one in his life that we share.
Then may all the living, with praise and thanksgiving,
give honour to Christ and his name that we bear.**

Omer Westendorf, 1916- alt
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The Blessing & Dismissal

God of this ancient land,
who through baptism has given us an inheritance into one family,
give us grace to walk together in the unity of Christ Jesus;
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:
In the name of Christ. Amen