



DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA
The Parochial District of Wangaratta West and The Warbys

The Third Sunday in Lent

23rd March 2025

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

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn: AHB 123 / TiS 192 [Tune, Crüger]

- 1. Christ is the world's redeemer, the lover of the pure,
the fount of heavenly wisdom, our trust and hope secure,
the armour of his soldiers, the lord of earth and sky,
our health while we are living, our life when we shall die.**
- 2. Christ has our host surrounded
with clouds of martyrs bright
who wave their palms in triumph and fire us for the fight.
For Christ the cross ascended to save a world undone,
and suffering for the sinful our full redemption won.**
- 3. Down in the realm of darkness he lay a captive bound,
but at the hour appointed he rose a victor crowned,
and now, to heaven ascended, he sits upon the throne
in glorious dominion, his Father's and his own.**

St Columba 521–97
tr. Duncan Macgregor 1854–1923 alt.

The Acclamation

**Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.**

The Priest Welcomes and Greets the People

**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.

The Beatitudes: God calls all people to follow the way of truth and life.

Silence is kept between each Beatitude.

Let us hear our Lord's blessing on those who follow him.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who suffer persecution
for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Trisagion is said.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

The Collect

Let us pray

O God, the fountain of life,
to a humanity parched with thirst
you offer the living water that springs from the Rock,
our Saviour Jesus Christ:
stir up within your people the gift of your Spirit,
that we may profess our faith with freshness
and announce with joy the wonder of your love.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah [55. 1–9]

The LORD says this:

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

Psalm 63. 1-9.

**O God you are my God:
eagerly will I seek you.**

**My soul thirsts for you my flesh longs for you:
as a dry and thirsty land where no water is.**

**So it was when I beheld you in the sanctuary:
and saw your power and your glory.
For your unchanging goodness is better than life:
therefore my lips shall praise you.**

**And so I will bless you as long as I live:
and in your name will I lift my hands on high.
My longing shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness:
my mouth shall praise you with exultant lips.**

**When I remember you upon my bed:
when I meditate upon you in the night watches,
How you have been my helper:
then I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings,
Then my soul clings to you:
and your right hand upholds me.**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians [10. 1-13]

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written,

‘The people sat down to eat and drink,
and they rose up to play.’

We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come.

So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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

Gradual Hymn: AHB 157 / TiS 222. Tune, Petra.

- 1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure,
cleanse me from its guilt and power.**
- 2. Not the labours of my hands
can fulfil thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears for ever flow,
all for sin could not atone:
thou must save, and thou alone.**
- 3. Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to thy cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Saviour, or I die.**
- 4. While I draw this fleeting breath,
when my eyelids close in death,
when I soar through tracts unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.**

Augustus Montague Toplady 1740–78 .

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke [13. 1-9]
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, “See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?” He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”’

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

Sermon

A time of quiet for 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

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ has promised that you will hear us when we ask in faith: receive the prayers we offer.

Lord, as you have given us this world to live in,
help us to use its riches and resources with sensitivity.
Bless and guide all who are working on the land.
We pray for all who supply our food and our daily needs,
all who are involved in research with crops and cultivation.
Lord, in your love and mercy, **hear us and help us.**

Lord, we look for you, we long for you,
our whole being thirsts for you and your love.
Lord, open our eyes, awaken us to what is around us
and make us aware of your coming.
We pray for all who tend and nurture the young in the faith,
for all who are growing in awareness of you and your world.
May the church be an instrument of justice and peace in our community.
Lord, in your love and mercy, **hear us and help us.**

We give thanks for our homes and our loved ones.
We pray for our places of work, education, rest and recreation.
May we be faithful and honest in our dealings:
make us sensitive to each other's needs and hopes.
We pray especially for homes with young children.
Lord, in your love and mercy, **hear us and help us.**

Lord of love and salvation, we pray to you for all who are facing disaster in the failure of their crops, all suffering because of storms or war, all who are victims of violence.
We pray for all who have been taken ill this day or been involved in accidents.
We remember friends and loved ones who are ill, especially . . .
Lord, in your love and mercy, **hear us and help us.**

Lord, you are our helper and you protect us from all evil.
We pray for all who will face death today; for our loved ones departed,
that you will bring them into the fullness of joy in your kingdom.
Lord, in your love and mercy, **hear us and help us.**

The prayers conclude with

Accept our prayers though 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.**

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER OK

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin:
Make me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me:
Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy spirit from me.

Jesus, forgive my sins.

**Forgive the sins that I can remember,
and also the sins I have forgotten.**

**Forgive the wrong actions I have committed,
and the right actions I have omitted.**

**Forgive the times I have been weak in the face of temptation,
and those when I have been stubborn in the face of correction.**

**Forgive the times I have been proud of my own achievements,
and those when I have failed to boast of your works.**

**Forgive the harsh judgements I have made of others,
and the leniency I have shown to myself.**

**Forgive the lies I have told to others,
and the truths I have avoided.**

**Forgive me the pain I have caused others,
and the indulgence I have shown to myself.**

Jesus have pity on me, and make me whole.

Early Irish

The priest declares God's forgiveness

May God our Father forgive you your sins
and bring you to the eternal joy of his kingdom,
where dust and ashes have no dominion. **Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

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

Offertory hymn: AHB 72 / TiS 136. Tune Cross of Jesus.

1. **There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea,
and forgiveness in his justice
sealed for us on Calvary.**
2. **There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.**
3. **For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.**
4. **But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own,
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he will not own.**
5. **If our love were but more simple
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be illumined
by the goodness of our Lord.**

Frederick William Faber 1814–63 alt.

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.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence
in the world and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.

Therefore with saints and angels,
and with all the company of heaven, we praise you 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.**

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.' ✠

Jesus Christ is Lord.

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

With this bread and this cup,
we remember the saving death of your Son,
his resurrection and ascension, and his promise to be with us for ever.

In the power of the Holy Spirit, bring us to eternal life with Christ,
as we look for his coming in glory,
and for the heavenly banquet prepared for all your people.

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

The priest breaks the consecrated bread.

We who are many are one body in Christ,
for we all share in the one bread.

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Invitation to Communion

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

**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.**

Communion Reflection—TiS 510. Tune, Rockingham.

My God, your table now is spread, your cup with love will overflow;
be all your children to it led, and let them all its sweetness know.

A sacred feast which Jesus makes, rich banquet of his flesh and blood!
How happy those who here partake that sacred stream, that heavenly food.

Still let your table honoured be, and furnished well with joyful guests;
and may each soul salvation see that here its sacred pledges tastes.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The priest may say a prayer of thanksgiving all say this prayer together.

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. Amen.**

Notices

Hymn AHB 397/TiS 464 [tune, Venantius]

the refrain is sung first, and then after each verse.

**Seek, O seek the Lord, while he is near;
trust him, speak to him in prayer,
and he will hear.**

- 1. God be with us in our lives, direct us in our calling;
break the snares the world contrives,
keep us from falling.**
- 2. God, increase in us the life that Christ by dying gave us:
though we faint in mortal strife
his blood will save us.**
- 3. Strengthen in our hearts the love we owe to one another;
how can we love God above
and not each other?**

James Phillip McAuley 1917–76 alt.
Words by permission Curtis Brown (Aust)

The Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

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