



DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA
Parochial District of Wangaratta West & The Warbys

9.30am Sung Eucharist & 11.00am Eucharist.

**The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday
May 11th 2025**

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Opening Hymn: TIS 382. Tune, Noel Nouvelet.

1. **Now the green blade rises
from the buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth
many days has lain:
love lives again,
that with the dead has been:
*Love has come again,
like wheat that springs up green.***
2. **In the grave they laid him,
Love whom hate had slain,
thinking that he never
would awake again,
laid in the earth,
like grain that sleeps unseen.
*Love has come again, ...***
3. **Up he sprang at Easter,
like the risen grain,
he who for the three days
in the grave had lain,
raised from the dead
my living Lord is seen:
*Love has come again, ...***
4. **When our hearts are wintry,
grieving, or in pain,
then your touch can call us
back to life again —
fields of our hearts
that dead and bare have been:
*Love has come again, ...***

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!

The Sentence

The Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Revelation 7.17

The Confession & Absolution

Jesus said: I came so that you may have life,
and have it abundantly.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

silence

Confident in God's forgiveness, we pray:

**God our Shepherd,
we are lost in the darkness and danger of sin.
We are hungry and afraid,
and we cannot find our own way home.
We are sorry for our sins.
Search for us,
save us,
forgive us,
and bring us back to life, we pray,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

There is rejoicing in heaven when the lost are found,
and there is hope on earth when sinners turn to God in faith.
Through Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd,
who died and rose again to save us, I declare to you:
Your sins are forgiven.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit,
and keep us in the light of Christ,
now and for ever. 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

Gracious God,
you sent Jesus, the good shepherd,
to gather us together:
may we not wander from his flock,
but follow wherever he leads us,
listening for his voice and staying near him,
until we are safely in your fold,
to live with you for ever;
through the same 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 Acts of the Apostles [9. 36-43]

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.'

So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God

Responsory

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your sting?

Christ is risen from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Death is swallowed up in victory.

The trumpet will sound
and the dead shall be raised.

Where, O death, is your sting?

We shall not all sleep,
but we shall be changed.

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your sting?

from 1 Corinthians 15

A Reading from the Revelation to John [7. 9-17]

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing,

'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honour

and power and might
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

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

Gradual Hymn: AHB 16/ TiS 10. Tune, Crimond.

1. **The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green, he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.**
2. **My soul he doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
ev'n for his own name's sake.**
3. **Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill:
for thou art with me; and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.**
4. **My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.**
5. **Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me:
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.**

Scottish Psalter 1650

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John [10. 22-30]

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

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

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

Good Shepherd, hear our prayers for your world and church.

Loving God, in your mercy,
hear our 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.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

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

And also with you. Alleluia!

All may exchange a Greeting of Peace.

Hymn: AHB 282 / TiS 365. Tune, Orientis Partibus.

1. **Christ the Lord is risen again;
Christ has broken every chain;
hark! the angels shout for joy,
singing evermore on high:** **Hallelujah!**
2. **He who gave for us his life,
who for us endured the strife,
is our paschal Lamb today;
we too sing for joy, and say:** **Hallelujah!**
3. **He who bore all pain and loss
comfortless upon the cross
lives in glory now on high,
pleads for us, and hears our cry:** **Hallelujah!**
4. **He who slumbered in the grave
is exalted now to save;
now through all the church it rings
that the Lamb is King of kings:** **Hallelujah!**
5. **Now he bids us tell abroad
how the lost may be restored,
how the penitent forgiven,
how we too may enter heaven:** **Hallelujah!**

6. **Christ, our paschal Lamb indeed,
Christ, your ransomed people feed.
At the end of earthly strife
raise us, Lord, to endless life.**

Hallelujah!

Michael Weisse 1488–1534
tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827–78 alt.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

**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."

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

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 your 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.**

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.**

This may be sung twice as the Intinction is taking place.

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

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

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

The invitation to Communion is given:

Jesus said: I am the good shepherd.
I know my own and my own know me.

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

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

*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.*

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

Notices may be given at this point

Hymn: AHB 81 / TiS 145. Tunes, Dominus Regit Me or St Columba.

- 1. The king of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.**
- 2. Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.**
- 3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.**
- 4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.**
- 5. Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!**
- 6. And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.**

Henry Williams Baker 1821–77
based on Psalm 23

The Blessing and Dismissal

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead
our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you what is pleasing in his sight;
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.

Alleluia! Alleluia!



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