



DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA
Parochial District of Wangaratta West & The Warbys

11.00am Ante Communion
The Seventh Sunday of Easter
(Sunday after Ascension)
June 1st 2025

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Greeting

Christ has gone up on high.

Alleluia.

God raised Christ from the dead
**and enthroned him at his right hand
in the heavenly realms.**

God put all things in subjection beneath his feet
and gave him as head over all things to the Church.

We died, and our life lies hidden with Christ in God.

We set our minds on things above.

When Christ, who is our life, is revealed,
we too will be revealed with him in glory.

cf Ephesians 1.20,23; Colossians 3.1-4

The Sentence

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.

Acts 16. 31

Opening Hymn: AHB 401 / TiS 641 (tune: Suantrai) *John 15:12-17*

1. **'This is my will, my one command,
that love should dwell among you all.
This is my will, that you should love
as I have shown-that I love you.**

2. **No greater love can be than this:
to choose to die to save one's friends.
You are my friends if you obey
what I command that you should do.**
3. **I call you now no longer slaves;
no slave knows all his master does.
I call you friends, for all I hear
my Father say you hear from me.**
4. **You chose not me, but I chose you,
that you should go and bear much fruit.
I chose you out that you in me
should bear much fruit that will abide.**
5. **All that you ask my Father dear
for my name's sake you shall receive.
This is my will, my one command,
that love should dwell in each, in all.'**

James Quinn 1919-
Words from Praise for all Seasons (1994)
by permission Cassell plc, London

A prayer of preparation

Let us pray

**Almighty God,
your Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence.
Give us new hearts and constant wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Confession

Christ has entered heaven itself
there to appear before God on our behalf.

Silence may be kept.

Let us therefore draw near in full assurance of faith,
and confess our sins to the God of grace.

**O King enthroned on high,
and Spirit filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name, Lord God almighty.**

**In our sinfulness we cry to you
to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

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

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Alleluia!

The peace of the Risen, Ascended Lord
be always with you.

And also with you. Alleluia!

All may exchange a Greeting of Peace.

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 Collect of the Day

Almighty God,
whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples
that they might be one, as you and he are one:
grant that your Church,
being bound together in love and obedience to you,
may be united in one body by the one Spirit,
that the world may believe in him whom you have sent,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles [16. 16-34]

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.' She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.' The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God

Psalm 97 1-7, 10-11.

**The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice:
let the multitude of islands be glad.**

**Clouds and darkness are round about him:
righteousness and justice
are the foundation of his throne.**

**Fire goes before him:
and burns up his enemies on every side.**

**His lightnings light the world:
the earth sees it and quakes.**

**The mountains melt like wax before his face:
from before the face of the Lord of all the earth.
The heavens have proclaimed his righteousness:
and all peoples have seen his glory.**

**They are ashamed,
all those who serve idols and glory in mere nothings:
all gods bow down before him.**

**The Lord loves those that hate evil:
the Lord guards the life of the faithful,
and delivers them from the hand of the ungodly.**

**Light dawns for the righteous:
and joy for the true of heart.**

A Reading from the Revelation to John [22. 12-21]

'See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.'

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practises falsehood.

'It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.'

The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.'

And let everyone who hears say, 'Come.'

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book; if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away that person's share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

The one who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John [17. 20-26]
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:

Holy Father, I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

'Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'

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

The Creed

Let us affirm 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.**

Reflection time

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us join our prayers with those of our Saviour Christ,
seeking the Father's blessing and the gifts of the Spirit.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, great high priest,
living for ever to intercede for us,
pray for the Church, your broken body in the world –
we pray for Clarence, our Bishop, and his family; we give thanks and
pray for the Archbishop elect of Melbourne, Dr Richard Thorpe. We
pray for all clergy and people of this Diocese, that we may be your
body in the world.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, king of righteousness,
enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high,
pray for the world, and make it subject to your gentle rule.

We pray for all places of war, conflict, oppression, and for all people
who suffer amidst the violence. May those in authority, seek your
wisdom and guidance.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of Man,
drawing humanity into the life of God,
pray for your brothers and sisters in need, distress or sorrow.

We pray for all who are suffering due to flood or drought, and bring
before you those who have asked for our prayers: Nicole, Josef, Rob
Butler, Warren Gould, Gwen Benstead, Wayne, Michael E., Kaye
McKenzie.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation,
bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection,
surround with your saints and angels
those who have died trusting your promises ...
and those whose years mind occurs at this time: Lyn Brough-Smyth,
Norman Robert Wind, Beverley Lindsay Vonarx, Timothy John
Menhennitt.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things,
ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe,
pray for us who receive the gifts you give us for work in your service
May we be your voice, your hands and your feet in the world.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ,
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at your feet;
**for you are alive and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Offertory Hymn: AHB 301 / TiS 378 [tune, St Magnus]

- 1. The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now:
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty victor's brow.**
- 2. The highest place that heaven affords
is his, is his by right,
the King of kings and Lord of lords,
and heaven's eternal light;**
- 3. the joy of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below,
to whom he manifests his love,
and grants his name to know.**
- 4. To them the cross, with all its shame,
with all its grace is given:
their name an everlasting name,
their joy the joy of heaven.**
- 5. They suffer with their Lord below,
they reign with him above,
their profit and their joy to know
the mystery of his love.**
- 6. The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.**

Thomas Kelly 1769—1854

Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Notices may be given at this point

Hymn: AHB 295 / TiS 373 [tune: Hyfrydol]

- 1. Hail, our once-despised Jesus,
hail, our Galilean King!
By your suffering you released us
and did free salvation bring.
Friend and universal Saviour,
bearer of our sin and shame,
by your merits we find favour;
life is given through your name.**
- 2. Paschal Lamb by God appointed,
all our sins on you were laid;
by almighty love anointed,
you have full atonement made:
all your people are forgiven
through the virtue of your blood;
opened is the gate of heaven;
reconciled are we to God.**
- 3. Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory,
there for ever to abide;
all the heav'nly host adore you,
seated at your Father's side:
there for sinners you are pleading,
there you now our place prepare,
ever for us interceding
till in glory we appear.**

John Bakewell 1721–1819 and others

Let us pray

**Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Grace

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen.

The Dismissal

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Next Sunday wear something RED

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(Continued from page 12)

The glittering and dazzling portrayal of Jesus, the Alpha and Omega, the bright morning star, is meant to lead the eye away from all other distractions and allegiances. By contemplating this Jesus we fulfil his own prayer: that we may be with him where he is, to see his glory, begotten of the Father's love. The vision of God's glory, denied to Moses, is granted in Jesus Christ.

The central characteristic of that vision is of course love: God's love for Jesus and, through Jesus, for all his people; the love of God's people for one another, creating a unity which will indeed reveal to the world the disturbing message that there is another way of being human. Disunity may perhaps be the ultimate worldliness, since it means accepting that we are defined, in the last analysis, by something other than the love of God in Jesus Christ. Let the midnight feast in the jailer's house stand for the joyful meal which will occur when all Christians realize that they belong at the same table. Now that really would be an earthquake.

Wright, N. T. (2000). *Twelve Months of Sundays: Reflections on Bible Readings, Year C* (pp. 66–67). Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

The Seventh Sunday of Easter (Sunday after Ascension Day)

Acts 16:16–34. Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17, 20–21. John 17:20–end

If Luke had wanted to play down the trouble caused by the gospel, he would quietly have omitted the Philippi story. Healing for one person means loss of money for others, and produces political and cultural charges which, though a blatant cover for self-interest, have sufficient plausibility to result in beatings and imprisonment.

They are Jews, said the angry slave-owners. Yes, but most other Jews lived alongside Gentiles without trouble. The real problem was that Paul and Silas were teaching and representing a way of life in which Roman customs, particularly allegiance to Caesar, were not the guiding rule. As in Thessalonica, they believed in a different king, a different empire. When the gospel landed in Europe, the first thing the authorities said was ‘Treason!’.

The story of the earthquake and the jailer can thus be read on at least two levels. Wherever Paul went, there were earthquakes: the Roman world, and communities and individuals within it, were turned upside down by the power of Jesus’ name. A pity we miss the last paragraph, in which Paul, despite having upended their world, reminds the magistrates of their duty. This twist completes the delicate and ironic balance of church-state relations in the nascent European Church.

Omitting a paragraph because of length is one thing. Snipping out three verses because they warn that some styles of behaviour have no place in God’s holy city is something else. Or do we want to avoid the scandal of the gospel, not only in the world but also in the Church? It is particularly galling to omit 22:19: cutting out the verse that tells you not to cut out verses is the ultimate in Bible-reading chutzpah. Don’t let this prissiness distract from the picture of Jesus which these warnings surround: there is enough imagery here for a hall of mirrors, and that may be the point.

(Continued on page 11)