

*St Mary's*



**Ascension Day**  
**24 May 2020**



# Gathering in God's Name

## Hymn 362



Jesus Christ is risen today,  
*alleluia!*  
our triumphant holy day,  
*alleluia!*  
who so lately on the cross  
*alleluia!*  
suffered to redeem our loss,  
*alleluia!*

Hymns of praise then let us sing  
unto Christ, our heavenly king,  
who endured the cross and grave  
sinners to redeem and save.

But the pain that he endured  
our salvation has procured;  
now exalted he is king,  
and the angels ever sing:

Anon., *Lyra Davidica* 1708 alt. based on a 14th-cent. ms.

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In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

Christ is risen. Alleluia!  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**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.**

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

*The assistant introduces the confession*

Christ has entered heaven itself, there to appear before God on our behalf. Let us therefore draw near in full assurance of faith, and confess our sins to the God of grace.

**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 celebrant pronounces the absolution*

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.**

**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 celebrant reads the prayer of the day*

God of majesty, you led the Messiah through suffering into risen life, and took him up into the glory of heaven: clothe us with the power promised from on high, and send us forth to the ends of the earth as heralds of repentance and witnesses of Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who lives with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## ***The Ministry of the Word***

A reading from the book of Acts

1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. ‘This’, he said, ‘is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’ So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

*At the end*      Hear the word of the Lord  
**All**              **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 93**

*TIS 51*

**Response:**



The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed;  
the Lord has robed himself with might,  
he has girded himself with power. **Response**

The world you made firm, not to be moved;  
your throne has stood firm from of old;  
from all eternity, O Lord, you are. **Response**

The waters have lifted up, O Lord,  
the waters have lifted up their voice,  
the waters have lifted up their thunder. **Response**

Greater than the roar of mighty waters,  
more glorious than the surgings of the sea,  
the Lord is glorious on high. **Response**

Truly, your decrees are to be trusted.  
Holiness is fitting to your house,  
O Lord, until the end of time. **Response**

*tr. The Grail 1956, 1986*

*Words and music by permission A. P. Watt, London*

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I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

*At the end*      Hear the word of the Lord  
*All*              **Thanks be to God**

Alleluia, **alleluia!**

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

**Alleluia!**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

28:16-20

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’

*At the end*      This is the gospel of the Lord.  
*All*              **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**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*

*After each section:*      Lord in your mercy  
   **Hear our prayer**

*And at the end:*

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.**

## Hymn 369

hal - le - lu - jah!  
hal - le - lu - jah!  
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le -  
- lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!

**Hail the day that sees him rise, *hallelujah!*  
to his throne above the skies; *hallelujah!*  
Christ, a while to mortals given,  
enters now the highest heaven.  
*Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
hallelujah!***

**There for him high triumph waits;  
lift your heads, eternal gates!  
Wide unfold the radiant scene,  
let the King of glory in!**

**Heaven now its Lord receives,  
yet he loves the earth he leaves,  
though returning to his throne  
still calls humankind his own.**

**See! he lifts his hands above;  
see! he shows his prints of love;  
hark! his gracious lips bestow  
blessings on his church below.**

**Still for us he intercedes,  
his prevailing death he pleads;  
near himself prepares our place,  
he the first fruits of our race.**



**There we shall with you remain,  
partners of your endless reign;  
there your face unclouded view,  
find our heav'n of heav'ns in you.**

*Charles Wesley 1707–88 alt.  
Music: Sydney H. Nicholson  
Music © 1983 by Hope Publishing*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this bread to offer,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.  
It will become for us the bread of life.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this wine to offer,  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
It will become for us the cup of salvation.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

## *The Great Thanksgiving*

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

*Priest* Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Priest* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for 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.

You have highly exalted him, and given him the name which is above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and 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 this 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."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died  
Christ is risen  
Christ will come again**

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. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

**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 for ever.  
Amen.**

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.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. Come, let us celebrate the feast. Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving. **Alleluia!**

*Anthem:*

Let us pray.

God our Father, you have raised our humanity in Christ and you have fed us with the bread of heaven; mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings, we may set our hearts in the heavenly places; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Father,  
**we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen**

# *The sending out of God's People*

Hymn 520



**Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,  
first-begotten from the dead,  
you alone our strong defender,  
lifting up your people's head:  
alleluia, alleluia,  
Jesus, true and living bread.**

**Here our humble homage pay we,  
here in loving reverence bow;  
here for faith's discernment pray we,  
lest we fail to know you now:  
alleluia, alleluia,  
you are here, we ask not how.**

**Though the lowliest form now veils you  
as of old in Bethlehem,  
here as there your angels hail you,  
branch and flower of Jesse's stem;  
alleluia, alleluia,  
we in worship join with them.**

**Paschal Lamb, your offering, finished  
once for all when you were slain,  
in its fullness undiminished  
shall for evermore remain,  
alleluia, alleluia,  
cleansing souls from every stain.**

**Great High Priest of our profession  
through the veil you entered in;  
by your mighty intercession  
grace and mercy you can win:  
alleluia, alleluia,  
only sacrifice for sin.**

**Life-imparting heavenly manna,  
stricken rock with streaming side,  
heaven and earth with loud hosanna  
worship you, the Lamb who died,  
alleluia, alleluia,  
ris'n, ascended, glorified!**

*George Hugh Bourne 1840–1925 alt.*

Christ our ascended King pour upon you the abundance of his gifts and bring you to reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Acknowledgements:**

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## CONTACT ST MARY'S

Post: 430 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne 3051  
Phone: (03) 9328 2522 Fax: (03) 9328 2922  
E-mail: [office@stmarys.org.au](mailto:office@stmarys.org.au)  
Web: [www.stmarys.org.au](http://www.stmarys.org.au), Facebook, Youtube.



Vicar: Revd Canon Jan Joustra  
[vicar@stmarys.org.au](mailto:vicar@stmarys.org.au)  
Mob: 0400 959 077



Clergy: Revd Canon Prof. Dorothy Lee  
[dlee@trinity.edu.au](mailto:dlee@trinity.edu.au)

Revd Prof. Mark Lindsay  
[mlindsay@trinity.edu.au](mailto:mlindsay@trinity.edu.au)

Lay Ministers: Harriet Jenkins  
Children and Family Ministry  
[hjenkins@stmarys.org.au](mailto:hjenkins@stmarys.org.au)

John Silversides  
Prison Chaplain

Director of Music: Beverley Phillips 5286 1179  
[bevjp@westnet.com.au](mailto:bevjp@westnet.com.au)

Cantor: David Morton

Wardens: Anne Sunderland [annes@jenkinsau.net](mailto:annes@jenkinsau.net)  
Michael Golding [m-golding@bigpond.com](mailto:m-golding@bigpond.com)  
Sam Miller [samcmiller92@msn.com](mailto:samcmiller92@msn.com)

Parish Administrator &  
Child Safe Officer Kerry Dehring

**KOYOORA**  
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS  
DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

The Anglican Diocese in conjunction with St Mary's Anglican Church North Melbourne does not tolerate abuse, harassment or other misconduct within our communities. If any person has concerns about behavior of a church worker, past or present.

The Diocese of Melbourne is committed to doing all that is possible to ensure that abuse does not occur. All complaints of abuse are taken very seriously, and we do all we can to lessen harm. We offer respect, pastoral care and ongoing long-term support to anyone who makes a complaint. St Mary's Statement of Commitment to Child Safety is on our noticeboard and can be downloaded from our website [www.stmarys.org.au](http://www.stmarys.org.au).

**PLEASE REPORT ABUSE CALL 1800 135 246**

## **MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT**

*St Mary's Anglican Church, North Melbourne is an inner-city Christian community that strives to be faithful, inclusive and sacramental.*

*God inspires us to worship in daily celebration; to be caring, thoughtful and inviting.*

*In response to God's call, in the next three to five years we aim:*

- *To grow substantially in faith and numbers*
- *To create an inter-generational culture that values all age groups - children and adults - equally*
- *To express our faith in active engagement within and beyond our own community*
- *To deploy our property and financial assets in strategic support of the ministry needs of the parish for the long term*
- *To become more open to change as we learn to grow*

