

St Mary's



**Sixth Sunday of Easter
17 May 2020**



**Sunday Matins
(Morning Prayer)**

Gathering in God's Name

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

Open our lips, O Lord,
and we shall declare your praise.

This is the day that the Lord has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed.

Hymn 217 (i)



Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,

**never more thy temples leave:
thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be,
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.**

*Charles Wesley 1707–88 alt.
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Friends in Christ, we come together to meet with God, and to take our part in the building up of his Church. We will lift up our hearts in thanks and praise, hear from God's holy word, and pray for this world, and for ourselves. The Bible tells us to approach God confidently, through our Lord Jesus Christ. As we do so, we must confess our sins, seeking forgiveness through God's boundless goodness and mercy.

So let us draw near to God with sincerity and confidence, and pray together,

God of all mercy, we humbly admit that we need your help. We have wandered from your way. We have sinned in thought, word and deed, and have failed to do what is right. You alone can save us. Have mercy on us, wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others. Bring forth in us the fruit of your Spirit that we may live the new life to your glory. This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

God desires that none should perish, but that all should turn to Christ, and live. In response to his call we acknowledge our sins. God pardons those who humbly repent, and truly believe the gospel. Therefore we have peace with God, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

His steadfast love endures for ever!

Grace and peace be with you

and also with you.

The Ministry of the Word

Reading from the book of Acts

17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.

For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.

For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

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

Psalm 66:7-19

7 O bless our God, you peoples:
and cause his praises to resound,

8 Who has held our souls in life:
who has not suffered our feet to slip.

9 For you have proved us, O God:
you have tried us as silver is tried.

10 You brought us into the net:
you laid sharp torment on our loins.

11 You let our enemies ride over our heads,
we went through fire and water:
but you brought us out into a place of liberty.

12 I will come into your house with burnt-offerings:
and I will pay you my vows,

13 The vows that opened my lips:
that my mouth uttered when I was in trouble.

14 I will offer you burnt-offerings of fattened beasts,
with the sweet smoke of rams:
I will sacrifice a bull and the flesh of goats.

15 Come then and hear, all you that fear God:
and I will tell what he has done for me.

16 I called to him with my mouth:
and his praise was on my tongue.

17 If I had cherished wickedness in my heart:
the Lord would not have heard me.

18 But God has heard me:
he has heeded the voice of my prayer.

19 Praise be to God:
who has not turned back my prayer,
or his steadfast love from me.

Reading from the Gospel according to John

14:15-21

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

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

Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel:

who has come to his people and set them free.

The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour:

born of the house of his servant David.

Through the holy prophets, God promised of old:

to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,

To show mercy to our forebears:

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear:

holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High:

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation:

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God:

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death:

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Sermon

Fr Jan Joustra

The Apostles' Creed

Let us affirm the faith of the Church.

**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 Ministry Of Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us join together in the prayer which Jesus gave us.

**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 sin 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.**

Be exalted, Lord, above the heavens,
let your glory cover the earth.
Keep our nation under your care,
and guide us in justice and truth.
Let your way be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.
Send out your light and your truth,
that we may tell of your saving works.
Have mercy on the poor and oppressed.
Hear the cry of those in need.
Hear our prayers, O Lord,
for we put our trust in you.

The Collect of the Day

O God,
you have prepared for those who love you
joys beyond our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love for you,
that, loving you above all else,
we may obtain your promises
that exceed all we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Let your requests be made known unto God.
In everything give thanks.

Intercessions are led for the world and the church, to which response to each petition may be:

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The intercessions conclude with:

Lord, you have given us grace to agree in these our prayers, and you have promised that when two or three gather in your name you will grant their requests. Fulfil now, Lord, our desires and prayers as may be best for us. Grant us, in this life, knowledge of your truth and in the age to come, life eternal. **Amen.**

The sending out of God's People

Anthem: "I will not leave you comfortless" William Byrd.

Eternal God and Father,
**by whose power we are created,
and by whose love we are redeemed:
Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,
that we may give ourselves to your service,
and live this day in love to one another and to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We conclude this time of prayer together with the words of 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.**

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
Web: www.stmarys.org.au, Facebook, Youtube.



Vicar: Revd Canon Jan Joustra
vicar@stmarys.org.au
Mob: 0400 959 077



Clergy: Revd Canon Prof. Dorothy Lee
dlee@trinity.edu.au

Revd Prof. Mark Lindsay
mlindsay@trinity.edu.au

Lay Ministers: Harriet Jenkins
Children and Family Ministry
hjenkins@stmarys.org.au

John Silversides
Prison Chaplain

Director of Music: Beverley Phillips 5286 1179
bevjp@westnet.com.au

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

Parish Administrator &
Child Safe Officer

Kerry Dehring

KOOYOORA
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.

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*

