



6th April 2025 – Lent 5 Yr C
Communion

Greeter: Roger T

Lighting of the candles:

Meditation Song: As the deer pants (TIS 703)
(please remain seated)

As the deer pants for the water
so my soul longs after you;
you alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.

Refrain:

You alone are my strength and shield;
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you
(repeat)

Welcome:

Greeting:

On this fifth Sunday of Lent
May Christ be with you

And also with you

Moment of Stillness:

There is a stirring in us that won't let go.
It stirs in us like the wind stirs leaves—
inviting us to move, drawing us forth.
When we're quiet,
we know that stirring is the Holy Spirit,
dancing love awake in us.
We're here.
And we're still.
And we're quiet.

In this quiet moment let's be still and aware of the Spirit's presence within us
and all around us.

Lent Candles:

In Lent we set love upon our hearts and feet and walk with Jesus towards the
cross. As a reminder that Jesus did not shy from entering the darkest and
most difficult places, we blow out a candle each week.

[Five candles are blown out]

In our walking we know that we are not alone,
for Jesus has walked this road before us,
and God's Spirit rests upon us as we take this journey forward.

Acknowledgement First Peoples:

We gather in worship on the lands of the Gadigal and Wangal people.
With humility, we recognise the care of these lands since time immemorial and
the legacy of dispossession and colonisation within the Church.

**We reaffirm our commitment to walking together towards justice and
renewal.**

Call to Worship:

May we find courage here
courage to follow our call,

courage to live out our faith.

May we find hope here
hope for a better world,

hope that refuses to let us go.

May we find truth here
truth that lives in sacred community,

truth that lives in ancient stories.

May we find all that we seek.

And in our seeking, may we find God.

Amen

Opening Prayer:

In a world full of fear,
open our hearts to your love.
Though we walk in wilderness places,
open our minds to your hope.
As we seek paths in the darkness,
open our eyes to your light.

May we turn away from hatred,
towards love.
May we turn away from intolerance,
towards understanding.

As sisters and brothers in Christ,
we commit ourselves to compassion.
Together, not alone,
We pray for peace.

Amen

Hymn: Guide me O thou Great Redeemer (TIS 569)

1 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

2 Open now the crystal fountain
whence the living waters flow:
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan
bid my anxious fears subside:
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

Prayer of Confession:

We offer God our confession this week using a Lenten poem by Jan Richardson:

Will you meet us in the ashes,
will you meet us in the ache
and show your face within our sorrow
and offer us your word of grace:

That you are life within the dying,
that you abide within the dust,
that you are what survives the burning,
that you arise to make us new.

And in our aching, you are breathing;
and in our weeping, you are here
within the hands that bear your blessing,
enfolding us within your love.

Amen

Words of assurance:

Nothing can ever separate us from the love of God.

Again and again, we are loved.
Again and again, we are forgiven.
Again and again, we are invited in.

Thanks be to God for such amazing love! Amen.

Peace:

The peace of Christ be always with you
And also with you.

Let's share Christ's peace with one another from where we're seated.

Moment for the young at heart: Brian

Bible Readings: Chris L

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:

Our reading from Isaiah takes place in the time when Judah was suffering under Babylonian rule. Some of the people had been taken into exile in Babylon while others remained in the land, but both groups suffered to varying degrees the debilitating effects of being a conquered people. In a seemingly hopeless situation, the prophet calls on the people not to lose heart but to look with anticipation for the signs of God's approaching redemption, for the "new thing" that is coming.

Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
17 who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
they lie down; they cannot rise;
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
18 Do not remember the former things
 or consider the things of old.
19 I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.

²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches,
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: **Rev Joy**

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: **Clabon**

The Lord's Prayer:

**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 in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever.
Amen**

Communion Reflection Song: Bread and Wine
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYx2FyKyYq4>

COMMUNION – LENT LITURGY

Dear friends, we are going to Jerusalem with Jesus.
He is our pardon, our healing, and our peace.
We will suffer the trial with him, resisting evil.
With him, we will walk the path to life.
But come first to the table where there is food for the journey.
With hearts full of joy we come,
giving thanks to God, our maker,
and offering our praise!

We are right to praise you, faithful God!
You answer sin with grace;
you guide our wayward steps toward home.
You are mending for the broken,
safety for the poor, belonging for the outcast,
strength for the weak, and pardon for the sinner.
You reveal your kindness in every sorrow,
your mercy even in death.
All your creatures see your works;
they sing your steadfast love.
We too declare your wonder and grace
as with angels and saints
we join in the triumphant hymn:

(sung response TIS 761)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Now, O God, we remember Jesus.
Silence...

He fasted and prayed; he was tempted and tried.
He relied on you for everything.
He was obedient to you and scorned by the powers of this world.
He confounded the haughty and gave hope to the humble.
He was betrayed and deserted.
He died between thieves and was buried in a borrowed grave.
You gave him new life. He lives even now, our healer and friend.
He loved us well, loved us to the end, and loves us still.
Even on the night of betrayal, he ate supper with his friends.

And at that meal our Saviour Christ took bread
and gave 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,
gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying,
'Drink from it, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for all people
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me'.

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim his death and
resurrection. **Receive our sacrifice of praise.**

Holy Spirit, come! Make all things new.
Bless this bread which you have given
and human hands have made.
Let it become for us the bread of life.
Bless also this cup, fruit of the vine
and work of human hands.
Let it become for us the cup of salvation.
Bless us also who eat and drink,
that in this sharing we may know the living Christ
who is with us now, and to the end of the age.

Nourish us by these gifts to be willing servants of your world until the kingdom comes, and every creature beholds it.

We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

Christ is the bread of life,
Who satisfies the hungry heart.

Christ is the cup of hope,
Who revives the thirsty.

The bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ
The cup that we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ
The gifts of God for the people of God.

Jesus welcomes everyone to his table,
and so, we offer everyone,
the bread and wine - Christ's body and blood.

Distribution

Let us receive what we are;
let us become what we receive.
The body of Christ.

Thank you, merciful God,
for gladness in this bread and cup,
for love that cannot die,
for peace the world cannot give,
for joy in the company of friends,
for the splendours of creation,
and for the mission of justice
you have made our own.
Give us the gifts of this holy communion:
oneness of heart, love for neighbours,
forgiveness of enemies,
the will to serve you every day,
and life that never ends.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Community News:

Offering Prayer:

Creator God,
Take our Lenten offerings
and make them radical;
Grow their actions,
enable their impact.
As we prepare for tomorrow,
may your will be done.
On earth as it is in heaven.
Amen.

We hear from our children:

Song: Forever (Chris Tomlin)

1 Give thanks to the Lord our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good, He is above all things
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise

2 With a mighty hand and outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever

3 From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
By the grace of God we will carry on
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever
(repeat)

Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise

Forever You are faithful
Forever You are strong
Forever You are with us
Forever
(repeat)

Benediction & Blessing:

This Lent,
May your door stand open to receive Christ.
May you offer him a welcome in your heart.
May you see the riches of simplicity,
the treasures of peace,
and the joy of grace.

And the blessing of God Almighty;
Creator, Christ and Spirit
Be upon you and remain with you always.

3-fold-Amen

Pastoral Prayers: David

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Moment of Stillness / Call to worship: adapted Sanctified Art

Opening prayer: Annabel Shilson-Thomas (Let Justice Roll Down)

Confession: Will you meet us? – Jan Richardson (Circle of Grace)

Words of Assurance: adapted Sanctified Art

Communion liturgy: adapted sicutlocutusest.com

Benediction: adapted St Ambrose (The Little Book of Lent)