



St Philip's Anglican Church
Merri Episcopate
Anglican Diocese of Melbourne
Come and Join our Diversity
Serving the Community since 1865
The Holy Eucharist



[Zoom in here](#)

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost Season of Creation Week 3.

Opening Hymn TIS 83 Let us with a gladsome mind vv 1,4,5,6.

Opening:

The wilderness is not empty, for God walks there with God's people.
The desert blossoms where justice and mercy take root. God fed Israel with bread from heaven. Christ calls us into God's vineyard, where there is enough for everyone.
Come, let us worship the God who transforms scarcity into abundance and fear into hope.

Sentence

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2.8–9

Acknowledgement:



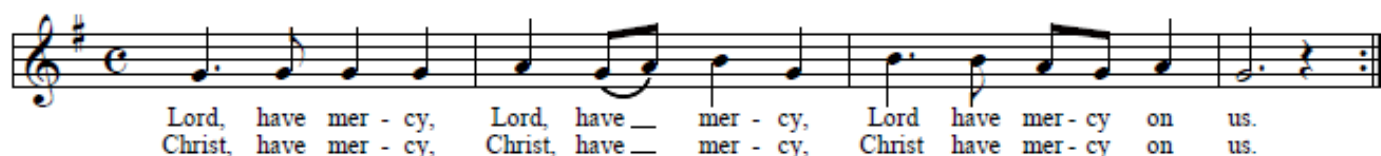
Prayer of Preparation

[Let us pray.]

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.

Two Great Commandments

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'



Seasonal Invitation

God calls us to love our neighbours and to care for the Earth, yet we confess that we have often failed.

A pause for reflection

Penitence

Forgiving God, you called us to tend and keep the garden of your creation. Instead, we have stripped the forests, depleted the soils, and altered the climate, turning fruitful lands into barren wastes.

Compassionate Christ, desertification drives millions from their homes, leading to hunger, poverty, and conflict over scarce resources. We confess our blindness to the suffering of environmental refugees and our reluctance to change the habits that fuel this crisis.

Holy Spirit, renewer of life, we have broken the delicate balance of your ecosystems. We have prioritized short-term profit over the long-term health of the ground beneath our feet, leaving a desolate inheritance for future generations.

The Absolution

The God who led Israel into freedom and who reconciles all things in Christ forgives you, renews you, and make you faithful stewards of Living Water. **Amen.**

Gloria

1 Cantor =104 All:

Glory-to-God-in-the High - est and peace to God's peo - ple on Earth.

4 Lord God, hea - ven - ly king, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we

8 wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

12 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly son of the Fa - ther. Lord God,

16 Lamb of God, you take a - way the - sin of the world: have mer - cy on

20

us; You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For

24

you a - lone are the ho - ly one. You a - lone are the Lord.

28

You a - lone are the most high Jes - us Christ with the Ho - ly Spi - rit. In the

32

Glor - y of God the fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect

[Let us pray.]

Gracious God, you fed your people with manna from heaven, teaching them to trust your daily provision. Help us to live simply, that all may simply live. Curb our greed and awaken gratitude, that we may receive your gifts with reverence and care. Sustain us with your bounty and guide us in justice, as we walk gently upon your earth; through Christ, the Bread of Life. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Exodus 16.2-15

² The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.' ⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.' ⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.' ⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, 'In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?' ⁸ And Moses said, 'When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.' ⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, "Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining." ' ¹⁰ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ¹² 'I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, "At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your

God.” ‘¹³ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, ‘What is it?’ For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, ‘It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

Hear the word of the Lord
thanks be to God.

Psalms 105.1-6, 37-45 - read antiphonally.

¹ O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name:

tell among the peoples what things he has done.

² Sing to him, O sing praises:

and be telling of all his marvellous works.

³ Exult in his holy name:

and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.

⁴ Seek the Lord and his strength:

O seek his face continually.

⁵ Call to mind what wonders he has done:

his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,

⁶ O seed of Abraham his servant:

O children of Jacob his chosen one.

³⁷ He brought Israel out with silver and with gold:

and not one among their tribes was seen to stumble.

³⁸ Egypt was glad at their going:

for dread of Israel had fallen upon them.

³⁹ He spread out a cloud for a covering:

and fire to lighten the night.

⁴⁰ The people asked, and he brought them quails:

and satisfied them with the bread from heaven.

⁴¹ He opened a rock, so that the waters gushed:

and ran in the parched land like a river.

⁴² For he had remembered his holy word:

that he gave to Abraham his servant.

⁴³ So he led out his people with rejoicing:

his chosen ones with shouts of joy;

⁴⁴ He gave them the land of the nations:

and they took possession of the fruit

for which other peoples had toiled,

⁴⁵ So that they might keep his statutes:

and faithfully obey his laws. O praise the Lord.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 1

¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ

Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. ¹² I want you to know, beloved, that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ; ¹⁴ and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear. ¹⁵ Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. ¹⁶ These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defence of the gospel; ¹⁷ the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. ¹⁸ What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true; and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will result in my deliverance. ²⁰ It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn Christ has no body but ours David Ogden © 2002. St. Philip's Edit.

**Christ has no body now but ours,
No hands, no feet on earth but ours.
Ours are the eyes with which he sees
Ours are the feet with which he walks,
Ours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.
Ours are the hands.**

**Christ has no body now but ours,
No hands, no feet on earth but ours.
Ours are the eyes with which he sees
Ours are the feet with which he walks,
Ours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.
Ours are the feet.**

**Christ has no body now but ours,
No hands, no feet on earth but ours.
Ours are the eyes with which he sees
Ours are the feet with which he walks,
Ours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.
Ours are the hands.
Ours are the feet.
Ours are the eyes.**

Liturgy of the Word

Gospel Reading

The Creator be with you:

And also with you

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew, Chapter 20 beginning at the 1st verse. **Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ.**

Matthew 20.1-16

¹ 'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; ⁴ and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" ⁷ They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." ¹³ But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

For the Gospel of the Lord

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon / Homily

Affirmation of Faith

Where possible please stand

We believe in God,

Creator of deserts, savannahs, mountains, rivers and oceans.

We believe that the Earth belongs to God

and that all its gifts are given for the flourishing of every living creature.

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
who proclaimed God's kingdom where generosity
replaces greed and where everyone has enough.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who renews dry lands, strengthens weary communities,
and inspires us to work for climate justice and the restoration of creation.
We commit ourselves to live simply,
to share fairly, to protect the vulnerable,
and to care faithfully for God's Earth. Amen**

Intercessions

Please sit or kneel for the prayers, (These or other prayers may be used)

God of compassion, you sustained your people through the desert.
Sustain your Church throughout Australia, that we may become communities of hope,
sharing, and faithful stewardship. God of the wilderness, **we continually seek your face.**

We pray for the deserts and drylands of Australia — **Great Victoria, Great Sandy, Tanami, Simpson, Gibson, Little Sandy, Strzelecki, Sturt Stony, Tirari** and the **Pedirka**, and every semi-arid region. Protect the biodiversity that flourishes there and help humanity to respect these fragile ecosystems.
God of the wilderness, **we continually seek your face.**

We pray for communities facing drought, crop failure, water shortages, and desertification.
Strengthen farmers, pastoralists, borers for water, and all whose lives depend upon healthy ecosystems.
God of the wilderness, **we continually seek your face.**

Guide governments, businesses and international leaders to act with courage, to reduce emissions, restore degraded land, protect indigenous knowledge, and ensure climate justice.
God of the wilderness, **we continually seek your face.**

Teach each one of us to gather only what we need, to waste less, share more, and trust in your daily provision.
God of the wilderness, **we continually seek your face.**

God of compassion, hear the complaints of all who suffer and give your generous attention to those for whom we offer our prayer in intercession, especially ____.
Hear our gladness and joy as we offer our thanksgivings, especially for ____.
Embrace with your eternal life those who have died, especially ____.
We search for you and your strength;
we continually seek your face.

Gracious God, you call your children at every hour into your divine work of reconciliation:
Strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may be fruitful servants throughout our time in your vineyard, through the strength of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Parishioners:

Marina & Michael; Margaret; Fr David; Gwendolyn who is in Hospital.

Friends: **Denise, Judi and Graeme; Amy; Ken; Maryann; Zac; Dylan; Jacob; Andrew; Jan; Richard; Eloise; Grant, Drickis; Heidi; Henry and Sam; Vladimir**

Extended Parishioners: **Matt; Maj; Blessing and Congratulations to Maurice on passing his Medical Exam.**

Judy Lazarus Transition Centre: **Con, Damien, Tony, Dimitri, and Steve**

Those who have died, or anniversary's fall at this time:

Within the wider Anglican Community, we pray today for:

The World: **Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay**

The Anglican Communion: **The Anglican Church of Australia; Primate Mark Short**

The Anglican Church of Australia: **Diocese of Rockhampton, St Paul's Cathedral, Archbishop Ric Thorpe; Episcopal Area of Nunawading - Bishop Ben Wong; Episcopal Area of Dandenong - Bishop Paul Barker; Episcopal Area of Geelong - Bishop Nigel Pope; Episcopal Area of Merri - Bishop Megan Curlis-Gibson. Pray for the archdeacons, deanery leaders, clergy, lay ministers and people as the new structure begins.**

Anglican Schools and Agencies: **Shelford Girls' Grammar School**

Bishops' Visitation: **City on a Hill; Patronal Festival, St Matthew's Cheltenham; Confirmation Service, St James Old Cathedral; Holy Name Vermont South**

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Hear God's promise of a redeemed creation: the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and a little child shall lead them. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain.

Greeting of Peace –

We want the warhorse

Jesus rides a donkey.

We want the eagle.

The Holy Spirit descends as a dove.

We want to take up swords.

Jesus takes up a cross.

We want the roaring lion.

God comes as a slaughtered lamb.

We keep trying to arm God.

God keeps trying to disarm us.

May the peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.



During the offertory hymn a collection may be taken

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Offertory Hymn TIS 668 Touch the earth lightly

Preparation of the altar and the gifts

The bread and the wine are presented. – The gifts of the people are brought to the Lord's Table.

This is God's table. Here there is enough for all. Here strangers become neighbours. Here divided people become one family. Here we receive the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, so that we may become living water for a thirsty world. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Creator be with you.

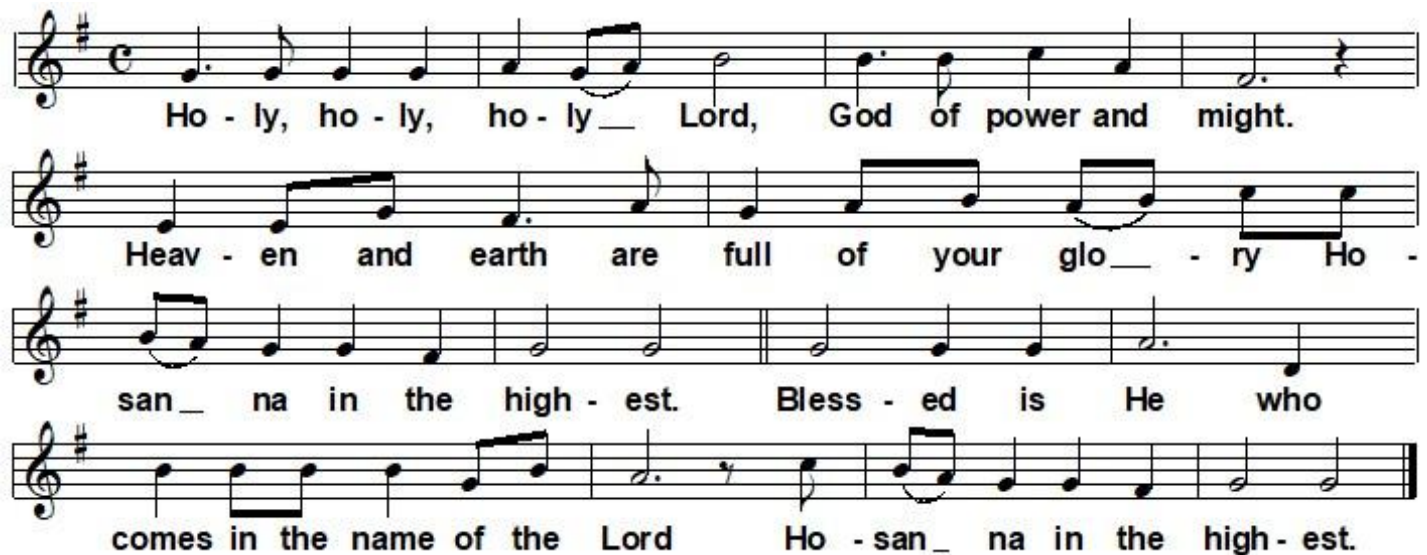
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God our Creator
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We lift our hearts to you, gracious God
because you made the dazzling creation out of nothing,
yet made us to share eternity with you.
In covenant love you called your chosen people to an imagination
as plentiful as the stars in the sky and the sands of the desert.
Your Son Jesus transformed our hearts
from the scarcity of mammon to the wondrous abundance of manna,
and through the church you gather us to share in the holy feast
where your grace abounds for all, forever.
His cross and resurrection turn the emptiness of sin
into the fullness of everlasting life.
And so we join with angels and archangels
and all the company of heaven,
singing the hymn of your unending praise.



We give you thanks and praise, Lord God,
for in your Son Jesus you became the true bread from heaven,
the manna sustaining us in every wilderness
the bread of abundant life that never runs out.
Send down your Holy Spirit upon us now,
that we might become living bread for your hungry world.
Give us your very self in these gifts of bread and wine
and make them for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ:

who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying.

'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me" 🕊

After supper he took the cup,

Again, he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

"Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me 🕊

Great is the mystery of faith.

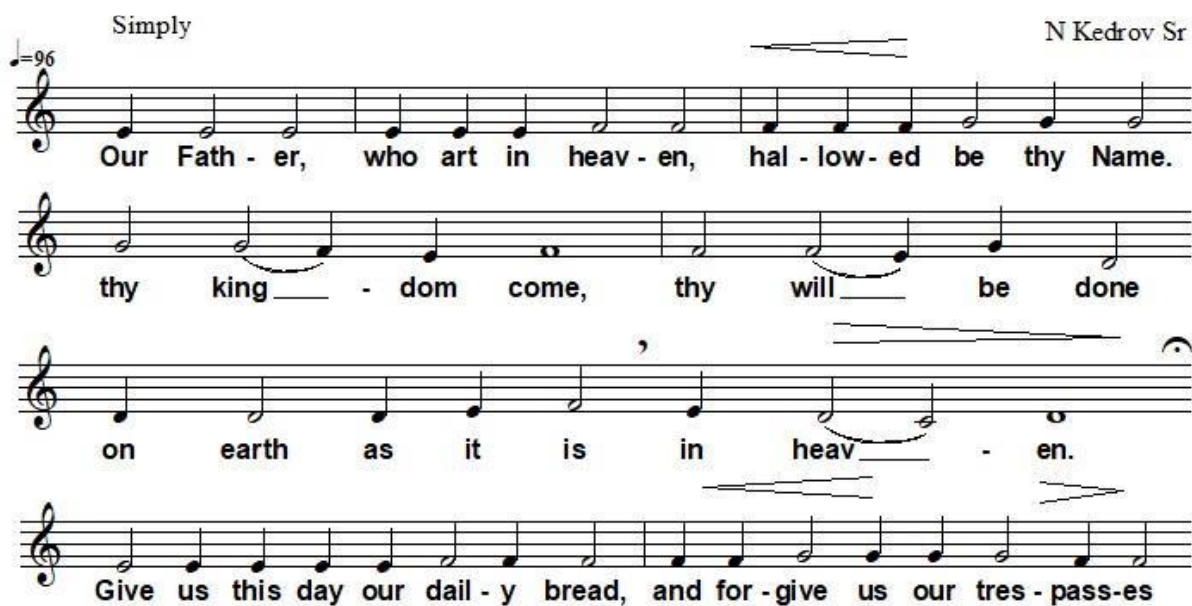


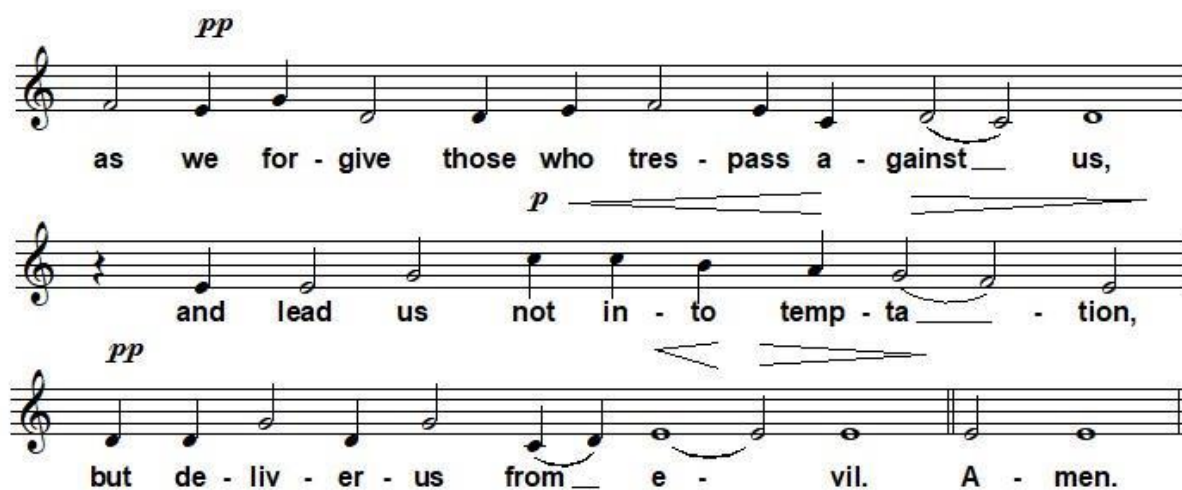
Ever-bountiful God, listen to the hunger of your children
and nourish their true life in you.
Draw near to those who toil for daily wages
and all who wonder where they will find daily bread
Bless any whose days are spent looking for work or waiting for hire.
Give each of your sons and daughters a place in your kingdom
and fruitful work in your vineyard,
not only for a passing day but for eternity
By your Holy Spirit in your holy church,
make the labours of our hands tell the good news
of your harvest of plenty,
and hasten the day when in one great sharing around your table
with your people throughout the ages
we shall taste and see that you are good.
Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
all



Communion Rite -

Being made one by the power of the Spirit, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:





We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, **for we all share in the one bread.**

Agnus Dei

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

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

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

Communion - *Please form a circle around the altar.*

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he gave himself for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to share with us in communion with Jesus who told us to break bread and share wine in remembering him and celebrating the reality of his presence.

Administration of Communion.

The body of Christ [the bread of heaven] keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

The blood of Christ [the cup of salvation] keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

Communion Chant



Prayer of Virtual Communion

Jesus, we believe that You are present in the Holy Sacrament. Our friends online desire to receive You. Since they cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into their hearts. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

Creator of all, in the death and resurrection of Jesus you have reconciled all things in heaven and on earth. May this bread and wine open our eyes to your love and justice woven through all of creation. We ask this through Jesus, your creating Word.

Prayer of self-offering

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.**

Please return to your seat.

Notices

Stewardship:

Thank you to everyone who has been giving to the parish using Direct Debit, it is helping us to balance the books by the end of September.

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Refugee Donations

Please bring non-perishable food, drink, clothing or bedding which we will donate to:
<https://www.westwelcomewagon.org.au/donate/>

A new episcopal structure

Following the consecration on 19 September, the Diocese of Melbourne now has four episcopal areas: Nunawading, led by Bishop Ben Wong; Dandenong, led by Bishop Paul Barker; Geelong, led by Bishop Nigel Pope; and Merri, led by Bishop Megan Curlis-Gibson.

Prayer for Growth

God of the unfolding Mission, you are the quiet breath that makes all things bloom. Let your Spirit sweep through our dreams, giving light to our plans and fire to our footsteps. May we grow like a deep-rooted forest — expanding in number, deepening in devotion, and reaching out as a shelter for our neighbours. Through Jesus, our living hope. Amen.

The Blessing and Dismissal

Go now into the deserts of our world. Go with faith that God still provides. Go to restore damaged land, plant trees, conserve water, protect biodiversity, and stand alongside communities whose lives are threatened by climate change.

Live by God's economy— where generosity overcomes greed, where daily bread is shared, and where all creation has the opportunity to flourish.

May the God who fed Israel in the wilderness sustain you.

May Christ, who calls all people into the vineyard of God's kingdom, fill you with generosity. May the Holy Spirit renew the deserts, refresh the dry places, and make you a source of hope for all creation.

And the blessing of our generous God the Creator who gives living water, the Son who reconciles all things, and the Holy Spirit who renews the face of the Earth, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Creator

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Recessional Hymn TIS 52 Let us sing to the God of Salvation

Please join us after the service for Morning Tea.

Reverend Bruce Everett:

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