
ANGLICAN CHURCH *of the* ASCENSION

19th April 2020
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

EAST BURWOOD



“Seeking God, Serving with love, Sharing hope”

Welcome to Church

Sentence for Today

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1.3



For those who have children with them, there is a children’s corner in the church for the little ones. During school term, children who are pre-school age and above can attend ‘Godzone’ - Special Children’s Activities - shortly after we begin the 9.30am service.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Acclamation

Christ is risen, Alleluia!
He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Welcome

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.**

The 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.'

Kyries: *Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.*

The Gloria:

**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 Prayer of the Day:

Almighty and eternal God,
the strength of those who believe
and the hope of those who doubt:
may we, who have not seen, have faith
and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We join together in the following prayer in time of pandemic disease:

**Lord Jesus Christ, healer and friend,
come and care for all of us
through the danger and uncertainty
of the coronavirus pandemic.
To people who are sick, bring healing.
To people who are displaced, isolated,
or cut off from family, friends or work,
bring comfort and companionship.
Work with medical staff as they care for the sick,
and protect them from harm.
Give skill and fruitful research to scientists
as they search for treatments, prevention and a cure.
To public health authorities, give wisdom
to decide the best ways to manage
both this crisis and our anxieties.
When communities are fearful, give a calm spirit,
and kindness to neighbours and strangers.
Through this testing time,
and through all the risks we face together,
teach us once again how we can love one
another as you have loved us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen**

Godzone talk and Blessing

The ministry of the Word:

The first reading: Acts 2.14a, 2.22-32

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them:
'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and
listen to what I say.

'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a
man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs
that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—
this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and
foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those
outside the law.

But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was
impossible for him to be held in its power.

For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;

moreover, my flesh will live in hope.
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”
‘Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that
he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.
Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to
him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne.
Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,
“He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.”
This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

For the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 16

**Preserve me, O God:
for in you have I taken refuge.
I have said to the Lord, You are my lord:
and all my good depends on you.
As for those who are held holy on the earth:
the other gods in whom people delight,
Though the idols are many that they run after:
their offerings of blood I will not offer,
nor take their name upon my lips.
The Lord is my appointed portion and my cup:
you hold my lot in your hands.
The share that has fallen to me is in pleasant places:
and a fair land is my possession.
I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel:
at night also he has instructed my heart.
I have set the Lord always before me:
he is at my right hand, and I shall not fall.
Therefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices:
my flesh also shall rest secure.
For you will not give me over to the power of death:
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
You will show me the path of life:
in your presence is the fulness of joy,
and from your right hand flow delights for evermore.**

The second reading: 1 Peter 1.1-12

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood: May grace and peace be yours in abundance. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the

power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated, when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look!

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel reading:

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

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to John, chapter 20, beginning at verse 19

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that

Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

For the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Sermon

The Creed:

Let us stand together and affirm the faith of the church:

**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 for the world to come. Amen.**

The prayers of the people:

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

At the conclusion

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.**

Preparation

Jesus said I am the bread of life. Who ever comes to me will never be hungry, and who ever believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6.35

Prayer of Approach:

**We do not presume
to come to your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord,
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen.**

Invitation to Confession:

Christ our Passover Lamb has been offered for us, therefore we come to celebrate the festival.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere and a true heart.

Confession:

**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.**

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.**

The Greeting of Peace:

Christ is risen. Alleluia!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Prayer over the gifts:

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 Great Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And now we give you thanks that you raised him to life triumphant,
and exalted him in glory.

By his victory over death,
the reign of sin is ended,
a new day has dawned,
a broken world is restored
and we are made whole once more.

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 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.**

The breaking of the bread:

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:

**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.**

Invitation to communion:

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 died for us,
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The Communion

Prayer after Communion:

Eternal God, giver of life,
in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord.
May we who celebrate this holy feast
walk in his risen light and bring new life to all creation.
**Most loving God, you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.**

Notices

The Blessing:

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting
covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working
in you what is pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain
with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

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

NOTICES

COVID-19: As public restrictions tighten across the country, and especially in Victoria, we have been directed by our Diocese to keep our church doors locked.

Regretfully this means that private prayer and devotion has ceased in our church space for the time being.

We continue to **BE** the church by praying for one another, seeking God, serving with love, and sharing hope.

We look forward to that day when we can **ALL** gather once more as the body of Christ here at the Church of the Ascension.

The NewsStand is now live on *TMA's* website, using the link
<http://tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/newsstand>

In this week's edition:

- What the World Needs Now: An Easter Message
- Easter in Australia
- Stories of Sacrifice
- Church valuables moved to Tower of London amid looting fears
- Destitution on Australia's hardening border with PNG – and the need for a better aid strategy
- 'He is risen': Easter's great reversal
- Interview with John Polkinghorne: Christ's resurrection — and ours
- In these hours of isolation and grief, Easter bears a vital message
- Coronavirus, Easter and the rebirth of compassion
- Easter service with Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby — from his kitchen!

SAINTS AND HOLY MEN AND WOMEN FOR THIS WEEK

Tuesday Anselm, archbishop of Canterbury, teacher (d. 1109)
Thursday George, martyr (d.c. 303)
Saturday MARK, EVANGELIST AND MARTYR

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Wednesday:

Acts 5.17-26

Psalm 34.1-8

John 3.16-21

Next Sunday: Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2.14a, 2.36-41

Psalm 116.1-4, 116.11-18

1 Peter 1.13-25

Matthew 28.8-15a

WE THANK GOD FOR HIS MANY BLESSINGS, LET US PRAY EACH DAY FOR -

THE CHURCH

Church of Ireland; Ministry to the Defence Force (Bishop Grant Dibden, Chaplains & Members of the Defence Forces); Hospital Chaplaincy (Stephen Delbridge, Co-ordinator & Chaplains); Parish of Oakleigh -Holy Trinity & Emmanuel (Colleen Arnold-Moore, Jennifer Poulter)

The Diocese of Gippsland (Bp Richard Treloar, Clergy & People);

The Diocese of Grafton (Bp Murray Harvey, Clergy & People);

Ministry with the Aboriginal people of Australia (Bp Chris McLeod, National Aboriginal Bishop, Aboriginal Clergy & People)

Ministry with the Torres Strait Islander people of Australia (Torres Strait Islander Clergy & People)

The Diocese of Melbourne (Abp Philip Freier, Bps Paul Barker, Bradly Billings, Genieve Blackwell, Kate Prowd, Clergy & People)

The Diocese of Newcastle (Bp Peter Stuart, Asst Bps Charlie Murry, Sonia Roulston, Clergy & People);

Church congregations as they stay connected without regular services of public worship during the coronavirus pandemic

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Those still recovering from the floods and fires. All who have lost their livelihood due to the Coronavirus. Families, healthcare workers, emergency workers in these uncertain times.

THE WORLD

Containment of the coronavirus pandemic, those suffering and the medical staff

A peaceful solution to the tensions in the Gulf Region and in particular Syria

The Asylum Seekers on Manus Island



THE ASCENSION COMMUNITY

Each other (*names added to the prayer book each week*)

God's presence in the events of the week (*see pew slip*)

Those in special need of prayer: *Muriel Paterson, Yolanda Chan, Helen Daniels, Peggy Horman, Estelle Carman, Gwen McMahan, Jean (& Alan) Close, Carole, Joanne, Nelson, Pauline Le Riche, Paul Maharaj, Graeme Floage (& Lisa), Glenys and Brian Howell, Ethel Lloyd, Elaine Cairns, Elizabeth O'Shannessy, Elaine Cairns, Barbara Stark, others known to us*

Those at the Peter James Centre and Burwood Lodge

Ourselves - as we stay connected through the power of the Holy Spirit in love and prayer

**"Prayer is not a method of using God;
rather prayer is a means of
reporting for duty to God."
(From *Prayer Changes Things* by Charles L. Allen)**

ANGELICAN CHURCH
of the ASCENSION
EAST BURWOOD



378 Blackburn Road, Burwood East, 3151

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation.
We pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.*

PRIEST in CHARGE: Fr. Anthony Frost **Phone:** 0409 012 543

PARISH WEB ADDRESS: www.ascensionchurch.org.au

FACEBOOK Please visit and  www.facebook.com/AscensionBurwoodEast

Email: office@ascensionchurch.org.au

Pastoral Care contact: Fr Anthony

Pew sheet: Please send all items for inclusion in next week's pewsheets to Ron McKenzie by 5:00p.m. Thursday evening (r.mckenzie@novatechsolutions.com.au.)

Baptism, Marriage & funerals by arrangement

Weekly services & activities

Due to our current circumstances we conduct our weekly services in our own homes.

Monday - Sunday

9:30am Morning Prayer

5:00pm Evening Prayer

Commitment to Child Safety: At the Church of the Ascension we follow Christ in being a caring Church welcoming of all, extending his love and invitation of new life.

In ministry to children, young people and vulnerable adults we are committed to providing an environment that is physically, emotionally and spiritually safe and supportive. This includes a culture of child-safety and of inclusivity for people of cultural and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background, people with disability or any other specific group.