



St Paul's Cathedral

Together transforming our City and Diocese

Easter Vigil with Baptism and Confirmation and First Eucharist of Easter

Easter Day, 5 April 2026, 6am

WELCOME

Welcome to St Paul's Cathedral, home church for Anglicans in Melbourne and Victoria. We want to be a place of transformation for our city and church where all people can come to experience and know God's love in Christ Jesus. We are an international community and are delighted that you're here!

SERVICE LEADERS

President and Confirming Bishop: The Most Revd Dr Ric Thorpe, Archbishop of Melbourne; *Preacher:* The Very Revd Dr Andreas Loewe, Dean of Melbourne; *Deacon:* The Revd Canon Dr Tim Watson, Precentor; *Sub-Deacon:* The Revd Lydia Thangadurai, Succentor; *Baptising Ministers:* The Revd Canon Christopher Carolane, Canon Pastor, The Revd Canon Jane Window, Associate Priest, The Revd Simon Li, Assistant Curate; *Organist:* Mrs Roslyn Carolane, Assistant Organist.

THE VIGIL OF EASTER

The congregation gathers outside the Great West Doors. The Dean welcomes the people

The Lord be with you: **and also with you.**

We meet on land that was taken, not ceded—the Sovereign Country of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. We give thanks for their ancestors, acknowledge the ongoing right and responsibility of their elders to care for this Country, and pay our respects to all First Peoples here today.

Dear Friends in Christ, at the time when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites believers throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. We remember his death and celebrate his resurrection, confident that we shall share his victory and live forever with him in God.

Holy God, you revealed your name to Moses from the burning bush: by the blessing of this new fire bring us to stand with awe on this holy ground, our eyes alight with the glory we have seen in Christ, and our hearts aflame with resurrection joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PREPARATION OF THE EASTER CANDLE

The Dean says

Jesus Christ, yesterday and today	<i>tracing the vertical arm of the cross,</i>
the beginning and the end.	<i>the horizontal arm</i>
Alpha	A
and Omega.	Ω
His are the times	2
and the ages.	0
To him be glory and dominion	2
throughout all ages	6
world without end. Amen.	

THE BLESSING OF THE NEW FIRE

The Dean lights the Easter candle from the new fire, and says

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds. **Amen.**

THE ENTRY OF THE LIGHT INTO THE CATHEDRAL

Please follow the Easter Candle into the Cathedral and, once inside, light your candle from the light passed along from the Easter Candle.

The light of Christ: **Thanks be to God.**

As the procession moves down the centre aisle, the response is repeated twice. The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand, and all proceed to their places. Please remain standing as the Precentor leads

THE EXULTET (THE SONG OF EASTER JOY)

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
O Universe, dance around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in glory, revealing the splendour of your creation,
 radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!
 Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you!
 Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!
 The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you!
 Arise then, sleepers! Christ enlightens you!
 Draw near to sing the Easter song of praise!

The first staff is marked 'Precentor' and 'All'. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be— with you and al - so— with you.'
 The second staff is also marked 'Precentor' and 'All'. The lyrics are: 'Lift— up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.'
 The third staff is marked 'Precentor'. The lyrics are: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord— our God.'
 The fourth staff is marked 'All'. The lyrics are: 'It is right to give thanks and praise.—'

We praise you, Father almighty, the unseen God, through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who has saved us by his death, paid the price of Adam's sin, and reconciled us once again to you.

Glory be to you for ever more!

Please join in the response after the Precentor, then as indicated

Glo-ry be to you for e - ver-more!

For this is the Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain. This is the night when you first saved our ancestors, freeing Israel from her slavery and leading her safely through the sea.

Glo-ry be to you for e - ver-more!

This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell, broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave. This is the night when all who believe in him are freed from sin, restored to grace and holiness, and share the victory of Christ.



This is the night that gave us back what we had lost; that made even our sin a happy fault. Beyond our deepest dreams this night, O God, Your hand reached out to raise us up in Christ.



Most blessed of all nights! Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away, lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.



Night truly blessed, when hatred is cast out, peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth and all creation reconciled to you.



Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy accept our sacrifice of praise; anoint your Church with the fire of your Spirit and may this Easter Candle make our darkness light.



For Christ the morning star has risen in glory; Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love still burns within us! Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world! Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever, Amen!

THE WELCOMING OF EASTER

Please stand. Raising his candle, the Archbishop says

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

Bells ring.

During the Gloria the lights are lit and the congregation extinguish their candles.



**Warning for people with photosensitive epilepsy:
as the Cathedral lights warm up, the lights may flash.**

All remain standing to sing

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO (GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST)

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - migh-ty God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord, Jesus Christ, on-ly
Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are sea - ted at the right
hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One,
you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spi-rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Christ Church Mass – Philip Matthias (1954)

All remain standing. The Archbishop prays

THE COLLECT FOR EASTER DAY

Let us pray.

Eternal giver of life and light, may the radiance of the risen Christ shine upon us and renew your Church with the Spirit given to us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth and shine as a light in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Ezekiel 36.24-28

Read by Nicholas Hurley

A reading from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.

²⁴I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. ²⁸Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

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

Please join in saying the verses printed in bold type.

PSALM 19

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God:
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;
- 2 One day tells it to another: and night to night communicates knowledge.**
- 3 There is no speech or language: nor are their voices heard;
- 4 Yet their sound has gone out through all the world:
and their words to the ends of the earth.**
- 5 There he has pitched a tent for the sun:
which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber,
and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.
- 6 Its rising is at one end of the heavens, and its circuit to their farthest bound:
and nothing is hidden from its heat.**

- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul:
the command of the Lord is true, and makes wise the simple.
- 8 The precepts of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart:
the commandment of the Lord is pure, and gives light to the eyes.**
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean, and endures for ever:
the judgements of the Lord are unchanging, and righteous every one.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold:
sweeter also than honey, than the honey that drips from the comb.**
- 11 Moreover, by them is your servant taught:
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can know their own unwitting sins?:
O cleanse me from my secret faults.**
- 13 Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins,
lest they get the mastery over me:
so I shall be clean, and innocent of great offence.
- 14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart:
be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

THE SECOND READING

Romans 6:3-11

Read by Canon Professor Kate Drummond AM

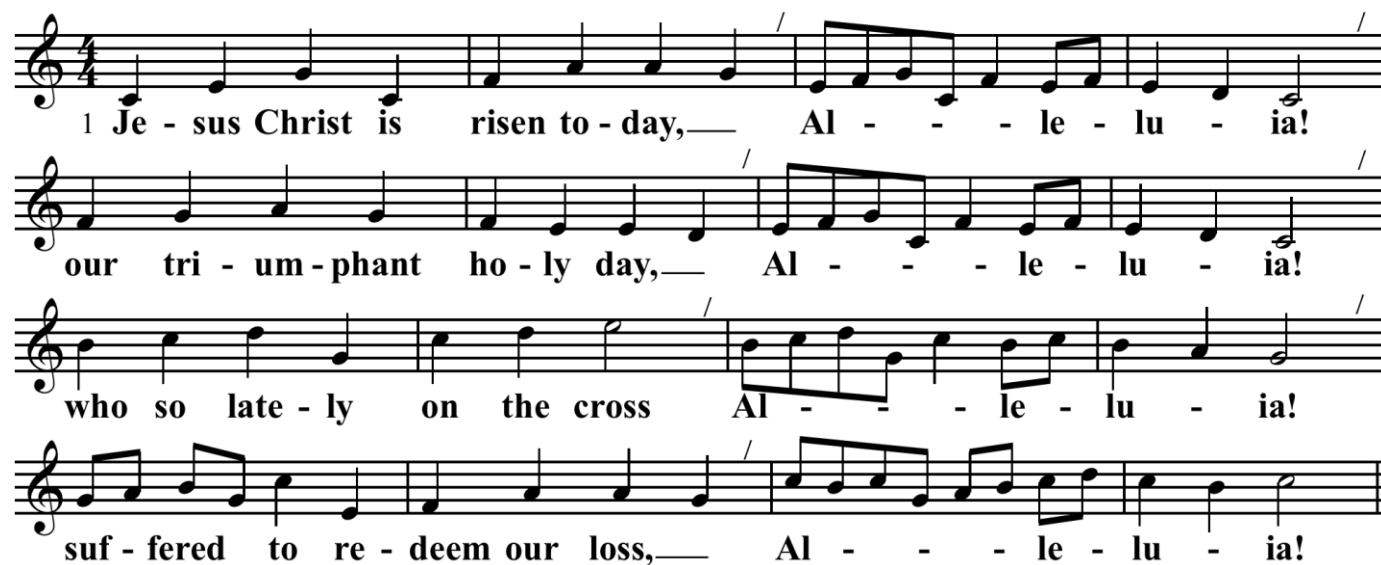
A reading from the Epistle of Paul to the Romans.

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

Please stand to sing

THE GRADUAL HYMN



1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, — Al - - - le - lu - ia!
our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, — Al - - - le - lu - ia!
who so late - ly on the cross Al - - - le - lu - ia!
suf - fered to re - deem our loss, — Al - - - le - lu - ia!

²
Hymns of praise then let us sing *Alleluia!*
unto Christ, our heavenly king, *Alleluia!*
who endured the cross and gave *Alleluia!*
sinners to redeem and save. *Alleluia!*

³
But the pains that he endured
our salvation has procured;
now exalted he is king,
where the angels ever sing:

Anon. *Lyra Davidica* 1708 alt.
Together in Song 362

Remain standing for the

THE GOSPEL

Alleluia! Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. **Alleluia!**
He has defeated the powers of death. **Alleluia!**
Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing. **Alleluia!**
He has the words of eternal life. **Alleluia!**

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew: 28.1-10
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you

will see him.” This is my message for you.’ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings!’ And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’

For the Gospel of the Lord, praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE SERMON

The Very Revd Dr Andreas Loewe, Dean of Melbourne

THE BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

THE CANDIDATES

Baptism and Confirmation

Chantelle Hoyle

Marianne Fisher

Li Jiayue

Ma Qi

Su Yuan

Zhang Li

Bronwyn Clark

Tyler Clark

Jacob Hoyle

Hu Kaiqi

Selena Hicks (Quynh Nhu Do)

Nicholas Hurley

Bella Thakanha

Lara Wallis

St-John Woollacott

Confirmation

Gerard Bormann

Will Bugno

Sunera Mallikage Don

Lin Honghai

Pan Shian

Aileen Thakanha (Annie)

Akira Wang

Olivia Watson

Reception

Jasson Cladius

Colette Gaughran

Thomas Jones

The candidates for baptism and confirmation are invited to stand at the front of the cathedral, facing the congregation as the Archbishop and baptising clergy move to a place in front of them and to their right.

The Archbishop says to the candidates

We welcome you who have come to be baptised and confirmed.

Before God and this congregation, you must affirm that you turn to Christ and reject all that is evil. And so I ask: do you turn to Christ?

Each candidate in turn responds:

I, *Name*, turn to Christ.

All baptised Christians are invited to reaffirm their own baptismal promises with the sponsors and candidates.

Do you repent of your sins? **I repent of my sins.**

Do you reject selfish living, and all that is false and unjust? **I reject them all.**

Do you renounce Satan and all evil? **I renounce all that is evil.**

Almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
and lead you in the light of Christ to his everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

Will you each, by God's grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ, loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself, until your life's end?
I will with God's help.

The Archbishop says to the congregation

You have heard these our brothers and sisters respond to Christ.

Will you support them in this calling?

Congregation: **We will.**

The Archbishop says to all candidates and the congregation

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in God the Son?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith. We believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Archbishop invites the candidates and congregation to move to the place of baptism.

THE BAPTISM

The Archbishop prays for those to be baptised

Grant, merciful God, that these your servants may be so buried with Christ in baptism that the new nature may be raised up in them: May the fruit of your Spirit grow and flourish in them. May they know Christ's forgiving love and continue in the fellowship and service of his Church. May they proclaim, by word and example, the good news of God in Christ. **Amen.**

Water is poured into the font. The Canon Pastor prays

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Almighty God, we give you thanks that you have called us to new birth in your Church through the waters of baptism. Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing and sanctify this water so that those who are baptised in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection. May they die to sin, rise to newness of life, and continue for ever in Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we give you praise and honour in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Canon Jane baptises Bronwyn and Chantelle, saying

Name, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Canon Jane makes a cross on the forehead of the candidates, saying

Name, I sign you with the sign of the cross to show that you are marked as Christ's own for ever.

The Revd Simon Li baptises Li Jiayue, Ma Qi, Su Yuan and Zhang Li (using the baptismal formula as above in Mandarin)

The Canon Pastor baptises by immersion Tyler, Bronwyn, Jacob, Hu Kaiqi, Nicholas, Bella, Lara, Selena and St-John (using the baptismal formula as above).

When all have been baptised and anointed, the Canon Pastor says to all the baptismal candidates:

Live as disciples of Christ:

fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith.

Congregation:

**Confess Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
look for his coming in glory.**

Each of the newly baptised are presented with a lighted candle, as the Canon Pastor says
God has brought you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Congregation:

Shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father.

God has called you into his Church:

Congregation:

**We therefore receive and welcome you as members with us
of the body of Christ, as children of the one heavenly Father
and as inheritors of the kingdom of God.**

THE CONFIRMATION

The confirmations will occur in two groups, those baptised by full immersion will be confirmed first, followed by all other confirmation candidates.

The Archbishop, prays

**Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord
now, and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty and everliving God, you have given your servants new birth by water and the Spirit, and have forgiven them their sins. Strengthen them, we pray, with the Holy Spirit that they may grow in grace. Increase in them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of discernment and inner strength, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and fill them with wonder and awe in your presence through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

As their name is read out, each candidate moves and stands before the Archbishop, who lays a hand upon them saying

**Strengthen, Lord, your servant *Name* with your Holy Spirit.
Empower and sustain *them* for your service. Amen.**

*After all have received the laying on of hands,
the Archbishop invites the congregation to pray*

Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly grace, that they may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until they come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

The newly baptised and confirmed are greeted with applause. Those baptised by full emersion leave to change into dry clothes.

THE RECEPTION

The candidates stand before the Archbishop and are introduced by the Dean.

Jasson Cladius, Colette Gaughran and Thomas Jones have already been baptised and confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church. They now ask to be received into communicant membership of the Anglican Church of Australia and seek our prayers in the fellowship of this Cathedral.

The Archbishop asks each candidate:

Name, do you stand by the Christian confession and commitment made at your baptism?

Candidate: I do.

Do you desire to be admitted into communicant membership of the Anglican Church of Australia and accept her doctrine and order?

Candidate: I do.

The Archbishop then says:

Jasson, Colette and Tom, we recognise you as baptised and communicant members of the Christian Church.

Congregation: We receive and welcome you into the communion of the Anglican Church.

Let us pray for Jason, Colette and Tom, now received into the Anglican Church.

Jasson, Colette and Tom stand before the Archbishop who lays hands on them saying:
Name, may the Holy Spirit direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom in the fellowship of this Church. God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit bless, preserve and keep you. **Amen.**

The Archbishop prays for all who have been baptised, confirmed and received
Almighty and ever living God, watch over these your servants upon whom we have now laid our hands. Let your Holy Spirit always be with them and lead them to know and obey your word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The newly received are greeted with applause.

The Archbishop continues with The Greeting of Peace.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said: 'Peace be with you!'

And the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Alleluia! The peace and joy of the risen Lord be always with you.

And also with you. Alleluia!

When greeting each other with a sign of peace you might like to use the traditional Easter greeting

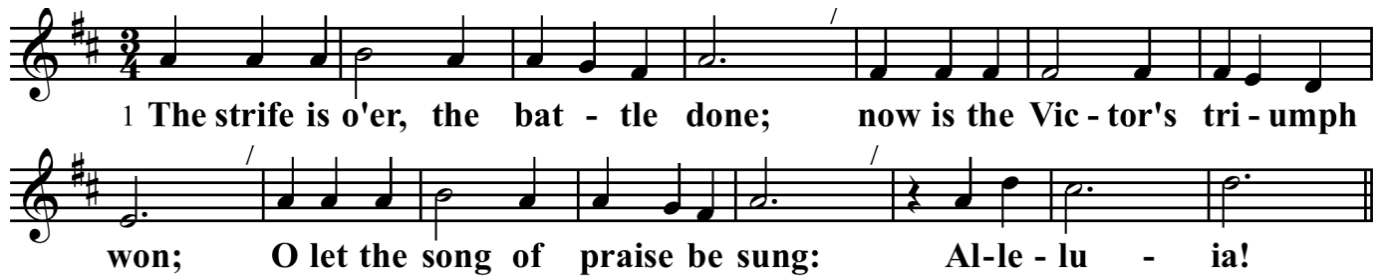
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

We rely entirely on your gift. Please be generous.

You can also donate online via our website www.cathedral.org.au/donate
or by EFT BSB: 083-088, Account: 53-728-8315



1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the Vic - tor's tri - umph
won; O let the song of praise be sung: Al - le - lu - ia!

2
Death's mightiest powers
have done their worst,
and Jesus hath his foes dispersed;
let shouts of praise and joy outburst:
Alleluia!

4
On this most holy day of days,
to God your hearts
and voices raise
in laud and jubilee and praise.
Alleluia!

3
On the third morn he rose again,
glorious in majesty to reign;
O let us swell the joyful strain:
Alleluia!

5
And we with Holy Church unite,
as evermore is just and right,
in glory to the King of Light.
Alleluia!

6
Lord, by the stripes that wounded thee,
from death's dread sting thy servants free,
that we may live and sing to thee:
Alleluia!

Latin tr. Francis Pott (1832-1909) *Hymns Ancient and Modern New Standard* 78ii

THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF EASTER

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Be present, Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest;
make yourself known in the breaking of bread. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

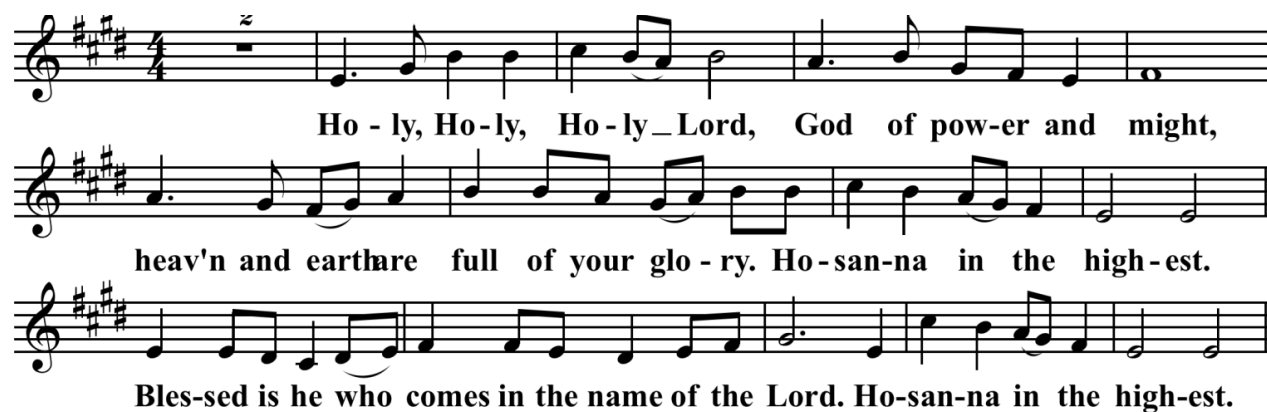
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion, Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly - Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Christ Church Mass – Philip Matthias

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, 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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise.

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus taught us to call God our Father, and by his death on the cross made us children of God by adoption. And so, each in our own language, we pray the prayer that he has given his church:

**Notre Père..., Padre nuestro..., Vater unser..., Πάτερ ἡμῶν..., 天の父よ ...,
हे हमारे स्वरगिक पिता..., Bapa kami..., E to matou Matua..., 我們在天上的父 ...,
Ama namin..., Our Father who art ..., ،... اے اے... ،... اَبَانَا... ،... اَبَانَا...**

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

**Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

THE 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.

All baptised Christians who are accustomed to receive the bread and wine of Communion in their own churches are welcome to do so here at St Paul's. If you require a gluten free wafer, a prayer of blessing, or would prefer to not receive the wine, please tell the priest distributing the bread.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

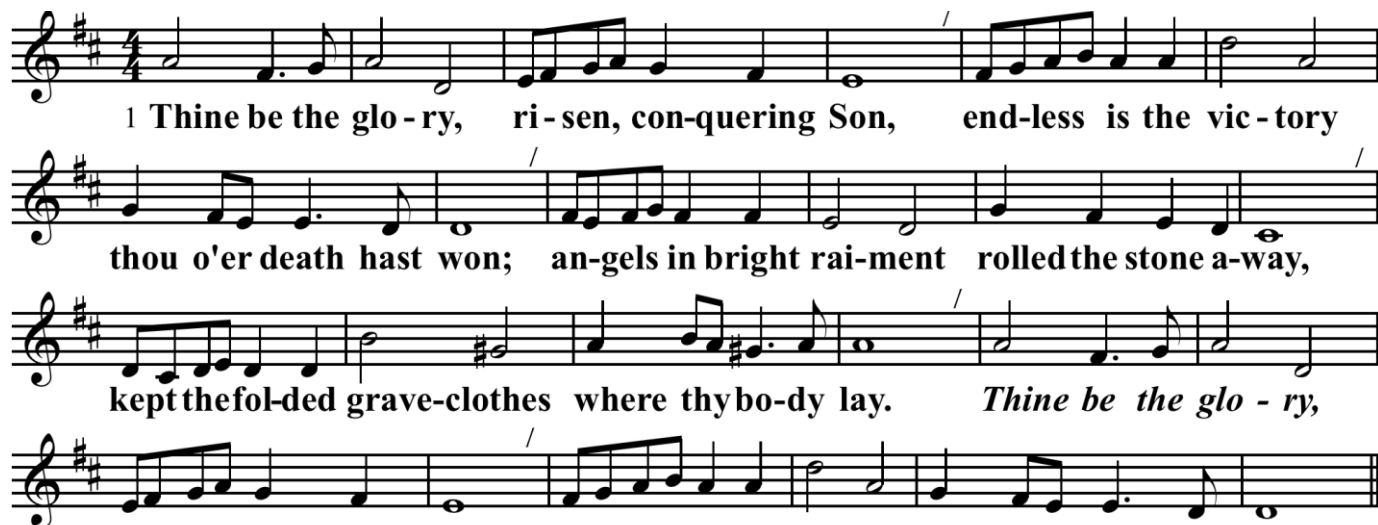
Please stand

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.

Father of all we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we

whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us in this hope that we have grasped; so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name. Amen.

THE DISMISSAL HYMN



1 Thine be the glo-ry, ri-sen, con-quer-ing Son, end-less is the vic-tory
thou o'er death hast won; an-gels in bright rai-ment rolled the stone a-way,
kept the fol-ded grave-clothes where thy bo-dy lay. *Thine be the glo-ry,*
ri-sen, con-quer-ing Son, end-less is the vic-tory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting: *Thine be the glory ...*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above: *Thine be the glory ...*

Edmond Louis Budry (1854-1932), tr. Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)
Hymns Ancient and Modern New Standard 428

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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.

THE DISMISSAL

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

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE

Alleluyas – Simon Preston (1938-2022)
Mrs Roslyn Carolane, Assistant Organist

EASTER FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN MEMORY OF Kathleen and Jim Darby, *donated by Ann Darby*; Wong Man Chong, William Hung, Kwong Sau Yung Tse, Yu Hon Tse, Mabel Tse, *donated by Sui Ting Tse*.

PERMISSIONS Holy Communion Second Order: *A Prayer Book for Australia* © 1995 Broughton Publishing. Texts of Scripture: the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. Hymns are reproduced by permission. © 2026 The Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral.

You are welcome to join us for
breakfast in the Barbara Darling Room
at the conclusion of the service

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT JESUS

Did Jesus actually exist in history?

Yes, Jesus' existence as a historical figure is well-established. Beyond the Gospel accounts (the biographies written by people closely associated with the life of Jesus), Jesus is also mentioned by non-Christian historians like Josephus and Tacitus. Scholars across religious perspectives generally accept that Jesus was a Jewish teacher who lived in first-century Palestine, gathered followers, and was executed by Roman authorities. The non-Christian historical evidence for Jesus' life, and his death on a cross, is compelling. There is no doubt he lived in the first century and died on a cross.

What difference does Jesus' death make for me?

Christians believe Jesus' death addresses our deepest human problem—separation from God through sin. His death was sacrificial: taking upon himself the consequences of human wrongdoing to restore our relationship with God. This means that through Jesus, we can receive forgiveness, reconciliation with God, and freedom from guilt and shame. Jesus' death demonstrates God's profound love and provides a path to transformation and new life, offering hope even in our darkest moments.

How can I be sure that Jesus rose from the dead?

The resurrection rests on several compelling pieces of evidence: the empty tomb discovered by women (significant because women's testimony wasn't valued at that time and in that cultural context); numerous resurrection appearances to individuals and groups; the disciples' transformation from fearful to boldly proclaiming the resurrection despite persecution; the rapid growth of Christianity in Jerusalem where the resurrection could have been easily disproven; and the conversion of sceptics like Paul and James. While certainty comes through faith, these historical factors provide good grounds for believing the extraordinary claims of the resurrection.

I'm curious to learn more about Christianity. What can I do?

If you are new to faith and want to explore Christianity further, consider reading one of the Gospels (perhaps Mark because of its brevity, or John because of its theological depth). Come again to St Paul's and ask a member of the Cathedral clergy with any of your questions, or attend one of our Sunday Bible Studies. St Paul's regularly offers the enquirers' course *Alpha* which is specifically designed for people with questions about our faith. Or you may want to read some thoughtful books like John Stott's *The Radical Disciple*, or Dean Andreas Loewe's *Journeying with Bonhoeffer: Six Steps on the Path of Discipleship*, both of which engage honestly with doubts and questions—they can be bought in our Cathedral shop. Most importantly, remain open to both intellectual discovery and spiritual experience—our faith invites both.

EASTER DAY AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

6.00am Easter Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter

Preacher: The Dean

10.00am Easter Day Choral Eucharist

Preacher: The Archbishop of Melbourne

1.00pm Mandarin Service

Preacher: The Assistant Curate

4.00pm Festival Choral Evensong

Preacher: The Precentor

*The Archbishop, Dean, Chapter, and people of St Paul's Cathedral
wish you a holy and happy Easter.*