



# St Paul's Cathedral

*Together transforming our City and Diocese*

## Choral Eucharist

Easter Day

5 April 2026, 10 am

### WELCOME

Happy Easter!

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:* The Very Revd Dr Andreas Loewe, Dean of Melbourne; *Preacher:* The Most Revd Dr Ric Thorpe, Archbishop of Melbourne; *Deacon:* The Revd Lydia Thangadurai, Succentor; *Sub-Deacon:* The Revd Canon Jane Window, Associate Priest; The Revd Canon Dr Tim Watson, Precentor; Choir of St Paul's Cathedral, directed by Canon Philip Nicholls, Director of Music.

**We are delighted you have joined our service** If you have any questions and would like to speak to a staff member, please phone the Cathedral office 9653 4333. If we cannot answer, please always leave a message and someone will get back to you – these messages are checked seven days a week and urgent pastoral concerns will be addressed in a timely way. If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please fill out a Welcome Card available from the back of the Cathedral, so we can keep in touch with you.

**Communion** At this service we follow Christ's command to remember him in the breaking of the bread. All baptised Christians are welcome to receive and eat the bread and wine. A welcomer will direct you. At the main altar rail, the common cup will be used. In the two side aisles, Communion is by intinction: the priest will dip the bread in the wine and place it into your hand. Please tell the priest if you would like to receive only bread, a gluten free wafer, or a blessing instead. If you require neither communion nor a blessing, please remain in your seat.

*Please join in singing the hymns and saying the responses printed in **bold** type.*

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE

## THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

1 Light's red - dening dawn gleams through the sky; heaven  
thun - ders forth its vic - to - ry; al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
lu - ia! The glad earth shouts her tri - umph high and  
groan - ing hell makes wild re - ply: al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - - ia!

While our Lord Christ, the mighty king,  
despoiling death of all its sting

*alleluia, alleluia!*

and trampling down the powers of night  
brings forth his ransomed souls to light.

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

His tomb of late the threefold guard  
of watch and stone and seal had barred;

*alleluia, alleluia!*

but now in power and triumph high  
he comes from death to victory.

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

The pains of hell are loosed at last;  
the days of mourning now are past;

*alleluia, alleluia!*

an angel robed in light has said,  
‘The Lord has risen from the dead!’

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Latin, 8<sup>th</sup> century, tr. John Mason Neale (1818–66) alt.

*Together in Song 360*

## THE GREETING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*The Archbishop welcomes the people, and acknowledges the Country on which we meet*  
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.

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

## THE PRAYER OF PREPARATION

We pray together.

**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.**

## KYRIE ELEISON

*Mass in G – Franz Schubert (1797-1828)*

*Kyrie eleison.* Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Christe eleison.* Christ, have mercy upon us.

*Kyrie eleison.* Lord, have mercy upon us.

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.

**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.**

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.**

*Remain standing as the choir sings the Gloria in Latin from Schubert's Mass in G*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo  
et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis.  
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.  
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.  
Gratias agimus tibi propter  
magnam gloriam tuam.  
Domine Deus. Rex cælestis.  
Deus Pater omnipotens.  
Domine Fili unigenite,  
Jesu Christe.  
Domine Deus. Agnus Dei. Filius Patris.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
suscipe deprecationem nostram.  
Qui sedes  
ad dexteram Patris,  
miserere nobis.  
Quoniam tu solus sanctus.  
Tu solus Dominus.  
Tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe.  
Cum Sancto Spiritu  
in gloria Dei Patris.  
Amen.*

Glory to God in the highest  
and on earth peace, goodwill to all people.  
We praise you. We bless you.  
We worship you. We glorify you.  
We give you thanks for  
your great glory.  
Lord God. Heavenly King.  
God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only begotten Son,  
Jesus Christ.  
Lord God. Lamb of God. Son of the Father.  
You take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
You take away the sin of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
You are seated  
at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy upon us.  
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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Brightness of God's glory, whom death could not conquer nor the tomb imprison: as you have shared our frailty in human flesh, help us to share your immortality in the Spirit; let no shadow of the grave terrify us, and no fear of darkness turn our hearts from you. Reveal yourself to us this day and all our days, as the First and the Last, the Living One, our immortal Saviour and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*The people are seated for the readings and psalm.*

### THE FIRST READING

Acts 10.34-43

*Read by Jill Morshead*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is

acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

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

**THE EASTER ANTHEMS**

*Please sing the response after the Choir, then as indicated*



Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us:  
 so let us celebrate the feast,  
 Not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:  
 but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.  
 Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:  
 Death has no more dominion over him.  
 In dying he died to sin once for all:  
 in living he lives to God.

***Response***

See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:  
 and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
 Christ has been raised from the dead:  
 the firstfruits of those who sleep.  
 For as by one man came death:  
 by another has come also resurrection of the dead;  
 For as in Adam all die:  
 even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

***Response***

Antiphon: Plainsong; Chant: George Garrett (1834-1897)

Read by Canon Professor Kate Drummond AM

A reading from the Epistle to the Colossians.

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

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

*Please stand to sing*

### THE GRADUAL HYMN

1 Christ the Lord is risen to-day, — Al - - - le - lu - ia!  
 let the whole cre - a - tion say, — Al - - - le - lu - ia!  
 raise your joys and tri - umphs high: Al - - - le - lu - ia!  
 sing — now, — heaven, and earth re - ply: — Al - - - le - lu - ia!

Love's redeeming work is done; *Alleluia!*  
 fought the fight, the battle won; *Alleluia!*  
 vain the stone, the watch, the seal: *Alleluia!*  
 Christ has burst the gates of hell. *Alleluia!*

Lives again our glorious king; *Alleluia!*  
 where, O death, is now your sting? *Alleluia!*  
 Once he died our souls to save; *Alleluia!*  
 where your victory, O grave? *Alleluia!*

Soar we now where Christ has led, *Alleluia!*  
 following our exalted Head; *Alleluia!*  
 made like him, like him we rise: *Alleluia!*  
 ours the cross, the grave, the skies. *Alleluia!*

John Wesley (1707-88) alt.  
*Together in Song 370*

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.  
**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 people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.*

## THE SERMON

The Most Revd Dr Ric Thorpe  
*Archbishop of Melbourne*

*The people stand.*

## THE REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM VOWS

As we celebrate the new life we share through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we give thanks for the love, grace and forgiveness we know as his people, the Church. Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

In our baptism in Christ, we share in the cleansing from sin that Jesus' death and resurrection make possible. In the early church, baptisms were conducted on Easter Day, so I invite those of you in the congregation who are baptised to join me in affirming our baptismal promises:

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek to serve Christ by loving your neighbour as yourself?

**With the help of God, I will.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Please sit or kneel*

*Led by the Revd Canon Ruth Redpath AO*

Let us pray for the world and for the church.

*After each prayer*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*At the end of the prayers the presider concludes*

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.**

## **THE GREETING OF PEACE**

Alleluia! The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, "Peace be with you": Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. **Alleluia!**

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

**And also with you. Alleluia!**

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace, or may greet one another with a traditional Easter Greeting:

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

## THE OFFERTORY HYMN

We rely entirely on your gift. During the Covid-19 pandemic, overall giving has dropped significantly. Please be generous.

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



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to-rious King:  
who hath washed us in the tide flow-ing from his pier-ced side;  
praise we him whose love di-vine gives the guests his blood for wine,  
gives his bo - dy for the feast, Love the Vic-tim, Love the Priest.

2  
Where the paschal blood is poured,  
death's dark angel sheathes his sword;  
Israel's hosts triumphant go  
through the wave that drowns the foe.  
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,  
paschal victim, paschal bread;  
with sincerity and love  
eat we manna from above.

3  
Mighty victim from on high  
hell's fierce powers beneath thee lie;  
thou hast conquered in the fight,  
thou hast brought us life and light.  
Now no more can death appal,  
now no more the grave enthrall:  
thou hast opened Paradise,  
and in thee thy saints shall rise.

4  
Easter triumph, Easter joy,  
sin alone can this destroy;  
from sin's power do thou set free  
souls new-born, O Lord, in thee.  
Hymns of glory and of praise,  
risen Lord, to thee we raise;  
holy Father, praise to thee,  
with the Spirit, ever be.

Latin, tr. Robert Campbell (1814-68)  
New English Hymnal 104

## THE 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 to your glory and for the service of your kingdom: **Blessed be God forever.**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### 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.

He is the true Paschal Lamb  
who was offered for us  
and has taken away the sin of the world.

And now we give you thanks  
that you raised him in triumph from the dead.  
By his death he has destroyed death,  
and by his rising to life again  
has restored us to eternal life.

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:

*The Choir sings Sanctus and Benedictus in Latin – Schubert’s Mass in G*

<i>Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus</i>	Holy, holy, holy Lord,
<i>Dominus Deus Sabaoth.</i>	God of power and might,
<i>Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.</i>	heaven and earth are full of your glory.
<i>Hosanna in excelsis.</i>	Hosanna in the highest.
<i>Benedictus qui venit</i>	Blessed is he who comes
<i>in nomine Domini.</i>	in the name of the Lord.
<i>Hosanna in excelsis.</i>	Hosanna in the highest.

*The priest continues with the words of institution*

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  
your Son Jesus Christ 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’.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Being made one by the power of the Spirit, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray,  
each in our own language,

Notre Père..., Padre nuestro..., Vater unser..., 我們在天上的父 ...,  
हे हमारे स्वरगिक पिता..., Bapa kami..., E to matou Matua..., 天の父よ ...,  
Ama namin..., ای پدر ما که در آسمانی...,  
... الَّذِي أَبَاتْنَا..., ... باپ ہمارے اے..., ...

**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 AND COMMUNION

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.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.  
**So let us celebrate the feast. Alleluia!**

*During the administration of Holy Communion the choir sings*

#### AGNUS DEI

*Mass in G – Schubert*

*Agnus Dei,  
qui tollis peccata mundi:  
miserere nobis ... dona nobis pacem.*

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy upon us ... grant us your peace.

## THE ANTHEM

*Greater love – John Ireland (1879-1962)*

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.  
Love is strong as death. *Song of Songs 8.6-7*  
Greater love hath no man than this,  
that a man lay down his life for his friends. *John 15.13*  
Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,  
that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness. *1 Peter 2.24*  
Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified  
in the name of the Lord Jesus. *1 Corinthians 6.11*  
Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation;  
that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you  
out of darkness into his marvellous light. *1 Peter 2.9*

I beseech you brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies,  
a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto to God,  
which is your reasonable service. *Romans 12.1*

## THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Said by the president and people, standing.*

Let us pray.

Most glorious Lord of life, we thank you that you nourish us in these Easter mysteries. Fill us with the Spirit of love and unite us in faith, that we may witness to the resurrection and show your glory to all the world.

**Living God, make us apostles of the risen Christ. Give us joyful hearts, words of hope, and grace to recognise the Lord Jesus when he meets us, wherever we are on the road. Amen.**

*There will be no Morning Tea after the service today. Regular Morning Tea will resume next Sunday in the Barbara Darling Room.*

## 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 is living, death has lost its sting:  
*Thine be the glory ...*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;  
life is nought 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)  
*Australian Hymn Book 303*

## 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 eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-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.**

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

## THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Chorus of Judas Maccabaeus, Op.90, No.16* – Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)  
Mr Siegfried Franke, Cathedral Organist

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## REGULAR SERVICES & EVENTS

<b>Mondays</b>	12.15pm Holy Communion 2.30pm English Conversation Corner* 5.10pm Evening Prayer in Simple English*
<b>Tuesdays</b>	12.15pm Holy Communion 5.10pm Choral Evensong*
<b>Wednesdays</b>	12.15pm Holy Communion 1pm Lunchtime Concert 5.10pm Choral Evensong*
<b>Thursdays and Fridays</b>	12.15pm Holy Communion 5.10pm Choral Evensong*
<b>Saturdays</b>	12.15pm Holy Communion
<b>Sundays</b>	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Choral Eucharist 4pm Choral Evensong 6pm Gather at St Paul's Sung Eucharist*

*\*Starts back 19 April*

### CATHEDRAL OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 10am-4pm, Sundays during Services

### LIVESTREAMED SERVICES

Sunday 8am & 10am

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*.

# 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.