



St Paul's Anglican Church, Wahroonga

*Disciples of Christ
making Disciples for Christ*

Service of Holy Communion

Sunday After the Ascension

24th of May 2020

Welcome:

Sentence of scripture:

⁹And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. Acts 1:9

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you**

A Statement of belief based on Philippians 2:5-11

Christ Jesus was in the form of God,
but he did not cling to equality with God.
He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant and was born in our human likeness.
Being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore, God has highly exalted him
and given him the name above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under
the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God, the Father. Amen.

Collect of the day:

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only begotten Son to have ascended into heaven,
so we may also in heart and mind there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen

Intercessions: (lead by A. Doxat-Pratt)

Jesus Christ, risen, ascended, hear our prayers as we gather in your name though distanced in our own homes. Cast out our fears and fill us with your hope, that in confidence and faith we may entrust our lives to your unfailing care.

Thank You for the Ascension of your son Jesus, oh God: because of him we are given divine authority and guidance here on earth through your Holy Spirit. We give you thanks because we know that someday you will return. May we prepare so we are ready on that day.

Father God, you are the Great Miracle Worker. When the news is often difficult to listen to, it is hard to know how to respond to the justifiable fear and anxiety around us. Please come powerfully to our world in these difficult days. We know our God is not socially distant. We know you will hear our prayers and

answer them. We may not always understand the larger picture of how you work, oh Lord, but we know you will not abandon us.

Please continue to slow the spread of coronavirus throughout the world. Please lay your healing hands upon those who are now infected and restore them to health and strength. Please comfort the families of those who have died from this disease. We ask that you fill their hearts with your presence and comfort and support in their time of loss.

Thank you for the passion and dedication of medical staff everywhere. Please protect and sustain them, and give them the strength, energy, and courage they need to carry on. For those in work, keeping our society functioning, we thank you, Lord. For those without work, may we show your love through prayer and action, helping as our circumstances allow.

Grant those of us, isolated at home, patience. We know it is hard not being able to meet at church or go out as we would wish. We miss the hugs from our families and friends, but hygiene measures are reaping benefits as restrictions begin to lift. We thank you, oh God, for the guidance of our leaders and health experts.

We ask for you peace and strength particularly those whose anxiety seems overwhelming. Give us strength to stay the course, Lord. Remind us to breathe, to look outward and to look inward. Remind us that in praying we are doing your will.

Hear us, Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

Sentences of scripture:

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16-17

General Confession and Declaration of Forgiveness:

You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God and by walking in his holy ways, come with faith and partake this holy sacrament to strengthen and comfort you. But first let us make a humble confession of our sins to Almighty God.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

maker of all things, judge of all,
we acknowledge with shame the sins we have committed,
by thought, word and deed, against your divine majesty,
provoking most justly your wrath and indignation against us.
We earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for all our misdoings.
Have mercy on us, most merciful Father.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ sake,
forgive us all that is past,
and grant that from this time forward
we may serve and please you in newness of life,
to the honour and glory of your name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Declaration of Forgiveness

Merciful Father, we rejoice that you pardon and forgive those who truly repent and trust in your Son.
Deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life, through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING

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.

You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things, making us in your own image
We praise you for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by his death on the cross,
and rising to new life
offered the one true sacrifice for sin and
obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread,
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take and eat. This is my body which is 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
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.'

We eat this bread and drink this cup
to proclaim the death of the Lord.
We do this until he returns.

Come, Lord Jesus!

Father, as we recall his saving death
and glorious resurrection,
may we who share these gifts
be renewed by your Holy Spirit
and united in the body of your Son.

Bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom,
there to feast at your table
and join in your eternal praise:

**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive praise and honour and glory and power for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for us all, preserve our body and soul to everlasting life: take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for each one of us, and feed on him in your heart with thanksgiving.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for us all, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life; drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you and be thankful.

Ministry of the Word

FIRST READING: Luke 24:36-53

The resurrected Jesus stood among them.³⁷ But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit.³⁸ And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts?³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have."⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish,⁴³ and he took it and ate before them.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled."⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high."⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them.⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven.⁵² And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy,⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

SECOND READING: Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers assail me,
uttering slanders against me,^[b]
my adversaries and foes,
they shall stumble and fall.

³ Though a host encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.

⁴ One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD,
and to inquire in his temple.

⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent,
he will set me high upon a rock.

⁶ And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies round about me;
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸ Thou hast said, "Seek ye my face."
My heart says to thee,
"Thy face, LORD, do I seek."

⁹ Hide not thy face from me.

Turn not thy servant away in anger,
thou who hast been my help.
Cast me not off, forsake me not,
O God of my salvation!

SERMON: ASCENSION

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Gracious God, thank you for feeding us with your Word and the spiritual food of the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love, and that we are living members of Christ's body.

Father,

**We offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Equip us through the power of Your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory Amen!**

The Dismissal

Christ our exalted King pour upon you his abundance gifts and bring you to reign with him in glory: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen**

The grace of the LORD Jesus Christ, and love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us ever more Amen

Thank you for participating in Church at home, and next week is Pentecost!

Sermon is on the parish Web Page www.stpaulswahroonga.com &
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVvhnTapPLM>

The Service is based on The LORD'S Supper
from the AABP and Common Prayer.

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