



The Anglican Church of
Australia
The Diocese of Wangaratta



26th March 2017

**Fourth Sunday in Lent
Mothering/Refreshment Sunday**

Hymns: 477, 246, 683, 213ii



Introit Hymn

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

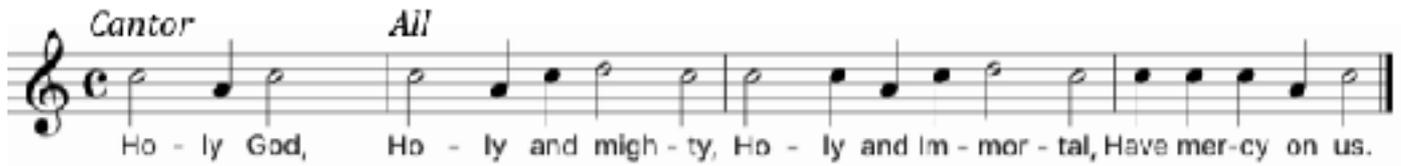
All may exchange a sign of peace.

The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book

SENTENCE

‘I am the light of the world,’ says the Lord; ‘those who follow me will have the light of life.’ John 8.12

For the Gloria we sing The Trisagion



THE COLLECT

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16.1-13

[God instructs Samuel to stop mourning for Saul and to anoint a new king for Israel in Bethlehem. After examining seven of Jesse’s sons and rejecting them, Samuel finally anoints the youngest boy, David, and God’s Spirit comes upon him.]

A reading from the first book of Samuel

The Lord said to Samuel, ‘How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.’ But Samuel said, ‘How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.’ The Lord said, ‘Take a heifer with you and say, “I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.” Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.’ Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, ‘Do you come in peace?’ Samuel replied, ‘Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.’ Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.’ But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, ‘The Lord has not chosen this one either.’ Jesse then made Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, ‘Nor has the Lord chosen this one.’ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, ‘The Lord has not chosen these.’ So he asked Jesse, ‘Are these all the sons you have?’ ‘There is still the youngest,’ Jesse answered. ‘He is tending the sheep.’ Samuel said, ‘Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.’ So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, ‘Rise and anoint him; this is the one.’ So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Jesus says, I am the light | of the world;

whoever follows me will have the | light of life.

Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

GOSPEL

John 9.1-41

[Jesus heals a man who was born blind, and, because his was done on the Sabbath, the religious leaders start an investigation, calling in the man's parents and ultimately throwing the man out of the synagogue. Then, Jesus teaches that he came to bring sight to the blind and to reveal the blindness of those who think they see.]

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.' They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.' The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.' So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to

God! We know that this man is a sinner.’ He answered, ‘I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.’ They said to him, ‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’ He answered them, ‘I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?’ Then they reviled him, saying, ‘You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.’ The man answered, ‘Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.’ They answered him, ‘You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?’ And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ He answered, ‘And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.’ He said, ‘Lord, I believe.’ And he worshipped him. Jesus said, ‘I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.’ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, ‘Surely we are not blind, are we?’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, “We see”, your sin remains.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Lord God, you sent Samuel to anoint David in front of his brothers, and your Spirit came mightily upon him all the days of his life; may we know your anointing with your Holy Spirit, that we may serve you all the days of our lives.

Jesus anointed with the Spirit: **anoint us and make us holy.**

Loving Lord, we pray for your world and for all peoples; especially those suffering famine and drought in Somalia and South Sudan; for all impacted by violence and war; for the people of Syria and Iraq and for all impacted by the London terrorist attack; turn the hearts of those who inflict terror so that peace may abound.

Lord God the lover of peace; **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you are our Good Shepherd; talked about by the Psalmist, until you were revealed as the shepherd of all of us; become for us not only the subject of our holy conversation, but also our dearest confidant, and constant companion and guide; we pray for all who shepherd your people, for John our Bishop and our parish that we may be bringers of healing and light in your name.

Jesus the Good Shepherd: **guide us and hold us as your own.**

Holy Spirit, help us understand what is pleasing to the Lord so that we may be children of the light; wake up our sleeping spirits so that the light of Christ may shine on us and through us.

Jesus light of world; **shine in us.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Light of the World; as you opened the eyes of the blind, open our eyes to see your presence everywhere, and give us the courage to confess our faith boldly, like one who knows from whom all blessings flow.

Jesus, proclaimer of the kingdom; **come and speak through us to all who would hear.**

Jesus the healer, your touch brought healing to this came seeking you; we commend to your healing touch all who are sick and suffering of body and mind, those of spiritual blindness and lost souls; heal the broken hearted and the abused, the wounded and the grieving, those known to us and those who have requested prayer; *Chris Schafer, Karen Goodger, Jean Evans, Belinda Shannon, Jenny Curry, Barbara Kaye, Seth Gunter, Tom Scrivens, Mark Bennetts, Fay Muddyman, Rob Muddyman, Elaine Haddock, Joy Rowe, Francis Piva, Sharon De Battista.*

We give thanks for healing and blessings wherever received.

Jesus the healer: **touch us and we shall be healed.**

Holy God, though we remember we are dust and to dust we shall return, we know that we are your precious dust; we pray for the recently departed, for all who died in Landon this week; and those whose years mind occurs this time:

26th Beatrice Lazarus, William Thomas, Earnest Hughes; 27th James Foster, Anthony Burge (priest), Herbert Haetel; 28th David Hiscock; 29th Vern Dodge, Joseph Kranz, Wendy Hitchman; 30th Margaret Dumaresq; 31st Francis Walker, Bruce Walter, Graeme Martin; April 1st Shannon Burr, William Rhue.

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord; **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

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

Lord God, discerner of hearts, you look beneath our outward appearance and see your image in each of us, hear us as we pray for ourselves; banish in us the blindness that prevents us from recognising truth, so we may see the world through your eyes and with the compassion of Jesus Christ who redeems us.

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

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray: **Our Father, in heaven [pg. 124].**

Simnel Cake Blessing

Gracious and living God, giver of all joy and bounty; receive from our hands this Simple Cake;

As its flour was once wheat scattered over the land, now mixed with the sweetness of spices and fruits and made one, so may we be one people in your name.

May it be for us a symbol of your generosity and joy, and of our communion with you and with one another.

May we be refreshed and sustained for our pilgrimage to the foot of the cross and beyond to the joyous hope of your son's resurrection.

Hear us O Lord, as we pray in thanksgiving through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reflections on the Readings

The themes in today's readings are well known and are rich in metaphor and meaning and are so familiar. Blindness and sight, light and darkness, rejection of those in power and anointing of those who are unknown – these are the threads in the Lectionary readings of this week. The heart of the theme is this: how do we choose to see? Samuel is tempted to look at Jesse's sons in an ordinary human way – outward strength and primacy in the family hierarchy – but God commands him to look differently, ultimately choosing the son who is the least. Paul encourages believers to walk in God's light, avoiding the “deeds of darkness” that cause brokenness, stumbling and pain, but rather seeking to live in the light – seeing clearly and moving securely through the world because we can see. David's famous psalm gives a picture of what this “living in the light” looks like – being shepherded by God in grace and nurture. Finally, and most importantly, the Gospel uses a dramatic story to show the difference between those who claim to see but don't, and those who truly can see. The corruption, power-grabbing and judgmental condemnation of anything new and different is a mark of those who cannot see – although they always protest that they see clearly. On the other hand, the acceptance, healing and grace that Jesus shows – and the response in worship of those who have been made to see by Christ's touch – is the mark of those who “live in the light”. Our choice, then, as individuals and as Church, is whether we will allow God's light to change how we see, or whether we will go through the motions and continue to see as the rest of society does, while claiming falsely that we see as God does.

Adapted from John van de Laar (2017) <http://sacredise.com>

Notices

Choral Evensong Holy Trinity Cathedral 5.00p.m this evening, Fr Kim is preacher.

Note from the Christ Church Wardens - help required for Christ Church Memorial Garden (between the church and the Rectory driveway) which requires weeding and trimming - please just turn up as you can - your assistance appreciated.

Thank you to the few willing helpers who turned up last Sunday to prepare the floor at Christ Church for carpet laying. A great job done in 6 hours..

Lent Study will be postponed for this week.- final study for 2017, Friday 7th April 7.30pm at Caroline Burge, 20 Chrystobel Way Kilmore.

ABM Lenten Appeals - Envelopes have been made available. Please donate generously, either sending directly to ABM or leave in the collection.

Direct Debit /EFT Offerings - Account details: BENDIGO BANK - Account Name 'Anglican Parish of Kilmore'; BSB 633-000; Account Number 158946921. Parishioners using direct debit or electronic funds transfer please use these bank details when making offerings.

Parish life this week

Thursday 30th 10.00am Eucharist St Matthews
10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade
11.30pm Eucharist Caladenia
4.00pm Eucharist Dianella
Friday 31st 10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop Church House
Saturday 1st April 10.00am - 12.00pm Op Shop Church House

Next Sunday: 2nd April 2017 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37.1-14; Ps 130; Romans 8.6-11; John 11.1-45

Christ Church at Senior Citizens Club	9am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11am	Morning Prayer
St Stephens	11am	Holy Eucharist
Transfiguration	4pm	Holy Eucharist

Parish Clergy:

Rector Revd Dr Kim Benton, 9 Union Street, Kilmore, 3764; Ph 5782 1155 m 0407 569 343; rector@anglicankilmore.org.au

Priest (PTO) Fr John Young 9/40 Powlett Street Broadford 3658 Ph 5784 2224

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Parishioners and visitors are advised that photographs may be taken of activities in the Parish from time to time for use on Parish website, Facebook and for publication in the Advocate. If you do not wish to be included in a photo please stand clear of the group at the time. Photos are never taken without a warning.