

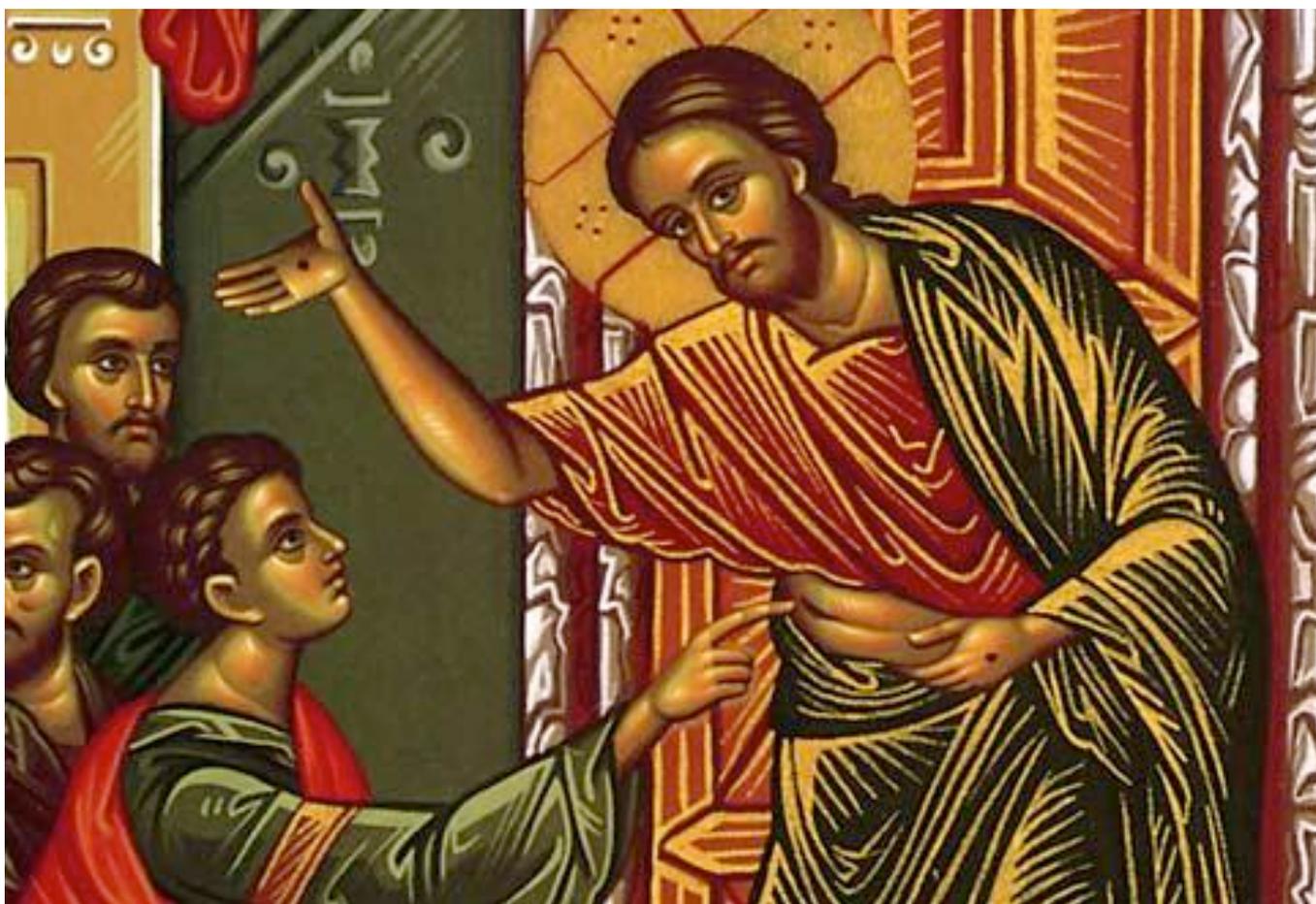


The Anglican Church
of Australia
The Diocese of Wangaratta



23rd April 2017
Second Sunday of Easter

Hymns: 367, 691, Pewsheet, 210



Introit Hymn

Christ is risen. Alleluia.

He is risen indeed Alleluia

Lord be with you:

And also with you.

We are the body of the risen 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

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*

THE COLLECT

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.**

FIRST READING

Acts 2.14a, 22-32

[Peter, preaching on the Day of Pentecost, proclaims that Jesus is risen and quotes from David's Psalm (16) as a prophecy of the resurrection of Christ.]

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 'Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. David said about him: "I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence." 'Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have come to believe.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 20.19-31

[The resurrected Jesus appears to his disciples and breathes the Holy Spirit on them, then he appears to Thomas who had doubted the witness of the other disciples, and shows Thomas his wounds, leading Thomas to faith and worship. After telling this story, John explains the purpose of his Gospel, to show who Jesus is and to lead his readers to faith.]

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

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 PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Risen Christ, in these early days after the resurrection, we too wonder what it all means; the women fleeing the tomb with terror and amazement; Thomas and his need for physical proof of touching wounds and seeing the marks of nails; the fear and confusion keeping the disciples in the shadow cast by closed doors; we too dare to believe in the things we cannot see; honour our doubts and strengthen our faith in your risen power and we pray that your peace may be known in every human heart;

Wounded Jesus, we have seen your crucified and risen love;

work your resurrection in the lives of your people.

Jesus, wounded and risen we bring our prayers for your broken and suffering world; we pray for your people in places of war and unrest, for the people of Syria and Iraq; as the machines of greed and war trample the world and its peoples, we remember that there are seeds of justice and love and goodness and grace that are planted and watered every moment of every day - visible signs of resurrection hope; we give thanks for those agencies who seek to bring relief to all afflicted by famine and drought in South Sudan and Somalia.

Wounded Creator, we have seen your crucified and risen love;

work your resurrection in the lives of your people.

O Risen Christ, we give thanks like Peter and the disciples for those who proclaim your resurrection joy; for your Church around the world, and in this Diocese; we pray for our Bishop John, for our parish, as we rejoice in your promise of freedom, love and resurrection life.

Wounded Redeemer, we have seen your crucified and risen love;

work your resurrection in the lives of your people.

We bring our prayers and concerns for our fractured community; for those hurt by prejudice and exclusion, by neglect and abuse; for refugees and asylum seekers and all held in detention; for those who search the night streets for lost children and for all who are homeless and unemployed.

Wounded Lover, we have seen your crucified and risen love;

work your resurrection in the lives of your people.

We bring our prayers for all who are hurt, for those with bodies burdened with pain, for those whose minds are confused and disturbed; for the friendless and the

lonely; those who live with anxiety and without hope; for the sick and the dying and those who wait with them; we pray for the particular needs of those we know and for those who have requested prayer;

Chris Schafer, Karen Goodger, Jean Evans, Belinda Shannon, Jenny Curry, Seth Gunter, Tom Scrivens, Mark Bennetts, Fay Muddyman, Rob Muddyman, Elaine Haddock, Joy Rowe, Francis Piva, Sharon De Battista, Iris Haywood, Joan Hiscock.;

we give thanks for healing and blessings wherever received.

Wounded Healer, we have seen your crucified and risen love;

work your resurrection in the lives of your people.

We offer our prayers for all who have died, we remember the ANZACs, and all those who gave their lives in the wars and conflicts our country has defended; for *Barbara Kaye*, and the recently departed; and those years mind occurs at this time; *20th Michael Nelson (priest); 23rd Leonard Lang; 24th Dudley Rogash; 25th Albert Fletcher; 27th Jessie Payne, Leslie Cook, Margaret Caplehorn, John Callaghan, Kevin Sharp, Ray Sharp, Wally Bennett, Rex Young.*

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord: **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Jesus, wounded and risen, we have seen your crucified and risen love;

work your resurrection in the lives of your people.

Holy God, you have called us to follow in the way of your risen Son, and to care for those who are our companions, not only with words of comfort, but with acts of love; hear us as we pray for ourselves; guide us in the path of discipleship, so that, in having been blessed, we may be a blessing for others, bringing the promise of the kingdom near by our words and deeds.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who taught us to pray:

Our Father[pg. 124]

Hymn: Christ Alive! Tune TiS 211(ii) HOLLINGSIDE 77.77D

1. Christ alive! The story told;
Jesus' friends become quite bold;
Christ alive! The Church has said
Jesus lives in wine and bread;
Christ alive in heart and mind,
Those who follow Him shall find
As they struggle, as they strive,
Courage grows. "Christ is alive!"

2. Christ alive in stress and strain,
Gives a strength to ease the pain.
Christ alive! When failures hurt,
When the wicked wrongs subvert.
Christ alive! When all is lost,
Life is struggle, stress and cost.
When we think we can't survive,
Strength renews. "Christ is alive!"

3. Christ alive! He's with us still;
Helping us to do His will.
Christ alive in human care,
Prompting us to love and share.
Christ alive! When we forgive;
Giving others strength to live.
Justice, gentleness still thrive;
Love is strong. "Christ is alive!"

4. Christ alive! Love often dies.
When we kill it, it will rise.
Christ alive! The message clear.
Never distant; always near.
Christ alive! Look at his hands;
Feel His side where he now stands.
Faith, conviction, hope arrive;
Christ alive! "Christ is alive!"

Reflections on the Readings

Easter is not over! While we celebrated Easter Sunday last week, the fifty day Easter Season continues until Pentecost Sunday. During this time the Lectionary invites us to dig deep into the meaning of Jesus' resurrection. This season flows out of Holy Week as a kind of mirror of Lent which led us into it – Lent being a preparation for the powerful and challenging journey of Holy Week, and Easter being an outworking of the Holy Week experience. This week the readings offer a gift of assurance – a confidence that our faith is not just a fantasy, or a distant dream, but is something real and transforming that we can experience and live each day. The resurrection may be seen as an interesting event, but if that's all it is, it has little value for us today. This week's readings make it clear, however, that the resurrection of Jesus is way more than just an event of the past. Every reading offers the assurance that God's life is available to us now in Christ. In both Peter's preaching and his letter he affirms that Christ's resurrection is real and is a promise that God's life is available to all. The Psalm, which Peter quotes in his Pentecost sermon, expresses the Psalmist's assurance of God's care and life, and is taken by Peter as a prophecy of Christ's resurrection. Finally, in the Gospel reading, John demonstrates how Christ's resurrection inspires and empowers his disciples, and how Thomas is dramatically drawn into faith. Put together, these readings give us a basis for confidence as we face the challenges – the 'little deaths' – of each day, and they invite us to experience Christ's resurrection life now, not just after we have died. So, resurrection is not just an amazing thing that happened long ago. It can be our lived experience every moment.

Adapted from John van de Laar (2017). © Sacredise - www.sacredise.com

Notices

Parish BBQ is today 12.30pm - Hosts Len and Robyn Whitehouse; 4 Kurkurac Court, High Camp; BYO meat. salad or desert to share and refreshments All welcome.

Fr Kim's Farewell: Fr Kim's final service in the parish will be NEXT SUNDAY 10.30am 30th April at Christ Church (there will be only one service in the parish). Bishop John will be presiding and preaching. Lunch is a bring and share soup and finger food (quiches, sandwiches, cheese and fruit platters etc) in the hospitality area at Christ Church. For more information, contact the wardens at Kilmore - Robyn, Norman or Caroline.

Act For Peace East Africa Famine Emergency Appeal - the National Council of Churches Christmas Bowl has launched an appeal to help mitigate the largest humanitarian crisis since 1945. Over 1 million are at risk of starvation. Please use the envelopes to give generously.

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 Diary

1st Wed of the month: Property Committee Meeting 7.30pm (venue TBA)

2nd Sun of the month: Parish BBQ - 12.30pm. See Notices for details

3rd Tues of the month: St Matthew's Friendship Group. Gavan Hall 1.30pm
contact Edie Simpson ph. 5784 1246 for details.

3rd Wed of the month: Parish Council Meeting, 7.30 pm venue TBA

Parish life this week

Thursday 27th 10.00am Eucharist St Matthews
10.30am Eucharist Willowmeade
11.00am Eucharist Caledonia
4.00pm Eucharist Dianella
Friday 28th 10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop Church House
Saturday 29th 10.00am - 12.00pm Op Shop Church House

Next Sunday: 30th May 2014 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER Acts 2.14a,36-41; Ps 116.1-4,11-18; 1 Peter 1.13-25; Matthew 28.8-15a		
Christ Church	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Presider Bishop John Parkes
St Matthews	11am	No service this day combined with Christ Church
St Stephens	11am	No service this day combined with Christ Church
Transfiguration	4pm	No service this day combined with Christ Church

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

PO Box 289 Kilmore 3764
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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.