



**ST GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
MALVERN**

**SOLEMN EUCHARIST
FOR THE
PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE**



10:00 a.m.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The Congregation stands as a bell is rung and turn to the font, where the ministers and servers have gathered.

Celebrant: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: **Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Dear sisters and brothers, forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people.

As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified,
as we now come to him for cleansing.

In their old age Simeon and Anna, enlightened by the Spirit,
recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory.

So let us, gathered by the same Spirit, bless these candles:

reminders that he is the true light of the world,

and let us recognise him in the breaking of the bread,
until he comes again, revealed in glory.

Let us pray.

The people raise their candles.

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light,
pour into the hearts of your faithful people
the brilliance of your eternal splendour,
that we, who by these kindling flames
light up this temple to your glory,
may have the darkness of our souls dispelled,
and so be counted worthy to stand before you
in that eternal city where you live and reign,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

We wait for your loving-kindness, O Lord,

All in the midst of your temple.

Open to us the gates of righteousness,

All that we may enter and give thanks to the Lord.

God is the Lord who has shown us light.

All Let us offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness.

Deacon: Let us proceed in peace.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

1. Sing how the age-long promise of a Saviour
Spoken through lips of prophets by the Spirit,
In blessed Mary, Mother of the Christ-child,
Finds its fulfilment.
2. Virgin most pure, and wondrously conceiving,
Bearing incarnate God in awed obedience,
Now she presents him for a spotless offering
Unto his Father.
3. In God's high temple, Simeon and Anna
Take to their loving arms with holy rapture
That One for whom their longing eyes had waited,
Jesus, Messiah.
4. Where now his Mother next her Son is seated,
In those fair mansions of the heavenly kingdom,
May Christ our Saviour grant to us his servants
Life everlasting.
5. Father eternal, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Trinity blessed, Maker and Redeemer,
Giver of life, and Author of Salvation,
Thine be the glory. Amen.

Words: Latin, c. 9th century,
Music: 'Iste Confessor', *Poitiers Antiphoner* (1746)

We sing together:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
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.**

Let us pray.

The people pray silently, and then the Celebrant 'collects' the silent prayer:

Almighty and everliving God,
we humbly pray that,
as your only Son was presented in the temple
in accordance with the law,
so we may be dedicated to you with pure and clean hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from the prophecy of Malachi:

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me,
and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.

The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight —
indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

But who can endure the day of his coming,
and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fuller's soap;
he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,
and he will purify the descendants of Levi
and refine them like gold and silver,

until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.

Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord
as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader: Hear the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 24

Response I:

Seek the face of the Lord, and yearn for him.

1 The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

2 Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place? Those with clean hands and pure heart,
who desire not worthless things. **R.**

3 They shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who
saves them. These are the ones who seek him, seek the face of the God of
Jacob. **R.**

Response 2:



- 4 O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! **R.**
- 5 Who is this king of glory? The Lord, the mighty, the valiant;
the Lord, the valiant in war. **R.**
- 6 O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the King of glory! **R.**
- 7 Who is the King of glory? He, the Lord of armies,
he is the King of glory. **R.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 2:14–18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews:

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood,
he himself likewise shared the same things,
so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death,
that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery
by the fear of death.

For it is clear that he did not come to help angels,
but the descendants of Abraham.

Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect,
so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God,
to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

Because he himself was tested by what he suffered,
he is able to help those who are being tested.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand.

GRADUAL HYMN

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true and only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shade of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.
2. Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return,
Till Thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
3. Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiancy divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–88)

Music: Melody from J.G. Werner's *Choralbuch* (Leipzig, 1815)

Harmony by W. H. Havergal (1793–1870)

Remain standing.

The Gospel will be read from among the people, as this symbolises Jesus coming to be with us.

Gospel

Luke 2:22–40



This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people, Israel.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

For the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All sit.

A sermon is preached. After the sermon, silence is kept.

Church Wardens, Members of the Parish Council and of the Incumbency Committee move to the front.

COMMISSIONING OF CHURCH WARDENS, MEMBERS OF PARISH COUNCIL AND OF THE INCUMBENCY COMMITTEE

Vicar: Today we commission those of our number who have been chosen to lead us as Churchwardens, members of Parish Council, and of the Incumbency Committee.

Together with the Vicar, a Parish Council carries responsibility for the health and growth of God's Church in this place.

In addition, Churchwardens bear particular responsibility for its financial and material well-being.

The Incumbency Committee, of which our lay representatives are part, is charged to discern who the next Vicar should be.

The Vicar addresses those to be commissioned:

Lay leaders of this parish, I now ask each of you to answer before God and in the presence of this congregation:

Will you undertake your tasks wholeheartedly and faithfully,
alive to the joy that Christian service brings?

Those appointed and elected respond:

I will, with God's help, and the prayerful support of others.

Vicar: I commission you for the positions to which you have been appointed and elected, and assure you of my prayers and support.

All kneel or sit.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayers are offered for the world and the church and all God's people.

At the end of each petition, the following is said:

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

For the Anglican Church

We pray for The Anglican Church of South America; The Diocese of Bunbury; St Mary's, Caulfield with St Clement's, Elsternwick.

For all in need

May all who are in trouble, in need or sickness find peace and refreshment in you.

We pray for: +John and Janine; +Peter; Angus; Ann; Brian; Chris ; Elizabeth; Geoff; George & Linda; Helen; Ivan; James; Jane; Jenny and Jeff; Joan; Jon; Josie; Keith and Erica; Liza; Mary Therese; Nicola; Noel & Reva; Patrick; Roma; Ron; Sarah; Simon; Stephen; Susan; Vilma and those we name before you in the silence of our hearts.

For the Faithful Departed:

We remember those who have died recently: Christina Tadgell and those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time: Garry O'Dell Armstrong; Harold Braund; Robin Francis Martin Brown; Katina Elliott; Herbert Fowler; Audrey Henry; Peter Howard; Grace Martin; Elise Marie Moss; Violet Newton; Marian Ransome; Ruth Were and Marjory Werner.

After the final petition, the prayers are concluded thus:

Celebrant: Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**All: Grant that what we have asked in faith,
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ:

'I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness,
but shall have the light of life.'

c.f. John 8:12

Silence is kept.

Let us therefore bring our sins into his light
and confess them in penitence and faith.

All Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your **Son Jesus Christ**,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light. **Amen.**

The Celebrant pronounces Absolution, and the people respond

Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1:78,79

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

All are invited to share God's peace with those around them.

OFFERTORY HYMN

During this hymn the offering of people's gifts will be brought forward for blessing.

1. Alleluya, sing to Jesus,
His the sceptre, his the throne;
Alleluya, his the triumph,
His the victory alone:
Hark the songs of peaceful Sion
Thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus, out of every nation,
Hath redeemed us by his blood.
2. Alleluya, not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluya, he is near us,
Faith believes, nor questions how;
Though the cloud from sight received him
When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?
3. Alleluya, Bread of Angels,
Thou on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluya, here the sinful
Flee to thee from day to day;
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.
4. Alleluya, King eternal,
Thee the Lord of lords we own;
Alleluya, born of Mary,
Earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:
Thou within the veil hast entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
Thou on earth both Priest and Victim
In the Eucharistic Feast.

Words: W. Chatterton Dix (1837–98)

Music: 'Hyfrydol', melody by Richard Huw Pritchard (1811–87)

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The gifts are set up on the altar and the Celebrant offers prayers, to which the people respond:

Amen.

The Celebrant then begins the Great Thanksgiving Prayer

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.

The Celebrant continues with a prayer appropriate to the season, concluding with:

... we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues the prayer until:

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues the prayer, which concludes:

...we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

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

Silence is kept.

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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 THE COMMUNION

As the Celebrant breaks the bread, the following is said:

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world

**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Together, we sing:

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; Grant us your peace.**

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always.

The people and ministers receive the sacrament.

All who wish to come to receive communion are welcome.

Please note: in keeping with current health advice, Communion will be administered in both kinds, but 'Intinction' (the 'dipping' of the host into the chalice) is not permitted.

If you wish to receive a blessing rather than the sacrament, please come forward and stand with your arms crossed.

During Communion, the choir will sing the following anthem:

*O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptor saeculi,
Dignare clemens supplicum
Laudes precesque sumere.*

*Qui carne quondam contegi
Dignatus es pro perditis,
Nos membra confer effici
Tui beati corporis.*

O Light born of Light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
with loving-kindness deign to receive
suppliant praise and prayer.

Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
for the sake of the lost,
grant us to be members
of thy blessed body.

Words: Hymn at Lauds on the Feast of the Transfiguration
Music: Thomas Tallis (c. 1505–1585)

After Communion, silence is kept.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All stand.

A prayer is offered by the Celebrant, which ends

Father,
**we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

FINAL HYMN

1. Of the Father's heart begotten,
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.

2. He assumed this mortal body,
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,
That the race from dust created
Might not perish utterly,
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced
In the depths of hell to lie,
3. O how blest that wondrous birthday,
when the Maid the curse retrieved,
brought to birth mankind's salvation,
by the Holy Ghost conceived,
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
in her loving arms received,
4. Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Every tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,

Words: Prudentius (348–413), tr. R. F. Davis (1866–1937)
Music: Divinum Mysterium,
Melody from *Piae Cantiones*
Theoredici Petri Nylandensis (1582)

During this hymn, the clergy and servers move to the font.

When the hymn is concluded, all turn to face the font.

FINAL RESPONSORY

The Celebrant says:

Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth.

**All Help us, in whom he has been born,
to live his life that has no end.**

Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.

**All Help us, who have received the bread of life,
to be thankful for your gift.**

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

**All Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple,
to trust in your eternal promises.**

Here we stand near the place of baptism.

**All Help us, who are marked with the cross,
to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**

Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.

**All Help us, for whom Lent is near,
to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant pronounces:

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
fill you with radiance and scatter the darkness from your path.

All Amen.

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, gladden your eyes and warm your heart.

All Amen.

Christ, the Dayspring from on high,
draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace.

All Amen.

And the + blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude: *In dir ist Freude*, BWV 615 J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

Please remain standing as the choir, clergy and servers leave.

The Service for Holy Communion (Second Order) is taken from A Prayer Book for Australia (Broughton Books, 1995), © The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation.

*The 'common texts' of the Eucharist are from a modern English translation,
prepared by the English Language Liturgical Consultation, 1988.*

*Other material comes from Common Worship: Times and Seasons (Canterbury Press, 2006),
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Words to hymns are taken from The New English Hymnal (Canterbury Press, 1986).

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READINGS FOR THE NEXT WEEK – FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Isaiah 40:21–31

I Corinthians 9:16–23

Psalms 147:1–11

Mark 1:29–39

NOTICES

Spiritual Cafe returns on Tuesday 5 March. Our guest speaker is Judith Buckrich, best known for her histories of Melbourne people, places and institutions. In 2018 she won the Fellowship of Australian Writers (Victoria) Award for “*Acland Street: the Grand Lady of St Kilda*”. She is working a history of life on the Yarra River and a film about bohemian St Kilda. She has been Chair of the PEN International Women Writers’ Committee and President of the Melbourne PEN Centre. Her topic is “The Spirituality of Place”. Join us for dinner at Giorgio’s, 1235 High St Armadale (enter Glenferrie Rd) at 6.30 p.m. For bookings, please email: office@stgeorgesmalvern.org or call 9822 3030 Option 2.

“**THE WEEK AHEAD**” will not be included at the end of future pew sheets. Please refer to your copy of the Australian Lectionary for readings and festivals.

Lenten Study

There will be another book available for Lenten Studies this year; and at least two occasions on which those studies will take place. Please speak with (or email) the Vicar in the coming week if you are interested in participating in a Lenten Study.

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We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we meet.

We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, acknowledge their continuing spiritual connection to Country, and affirm our commitment to walk together the path of reconciliation.