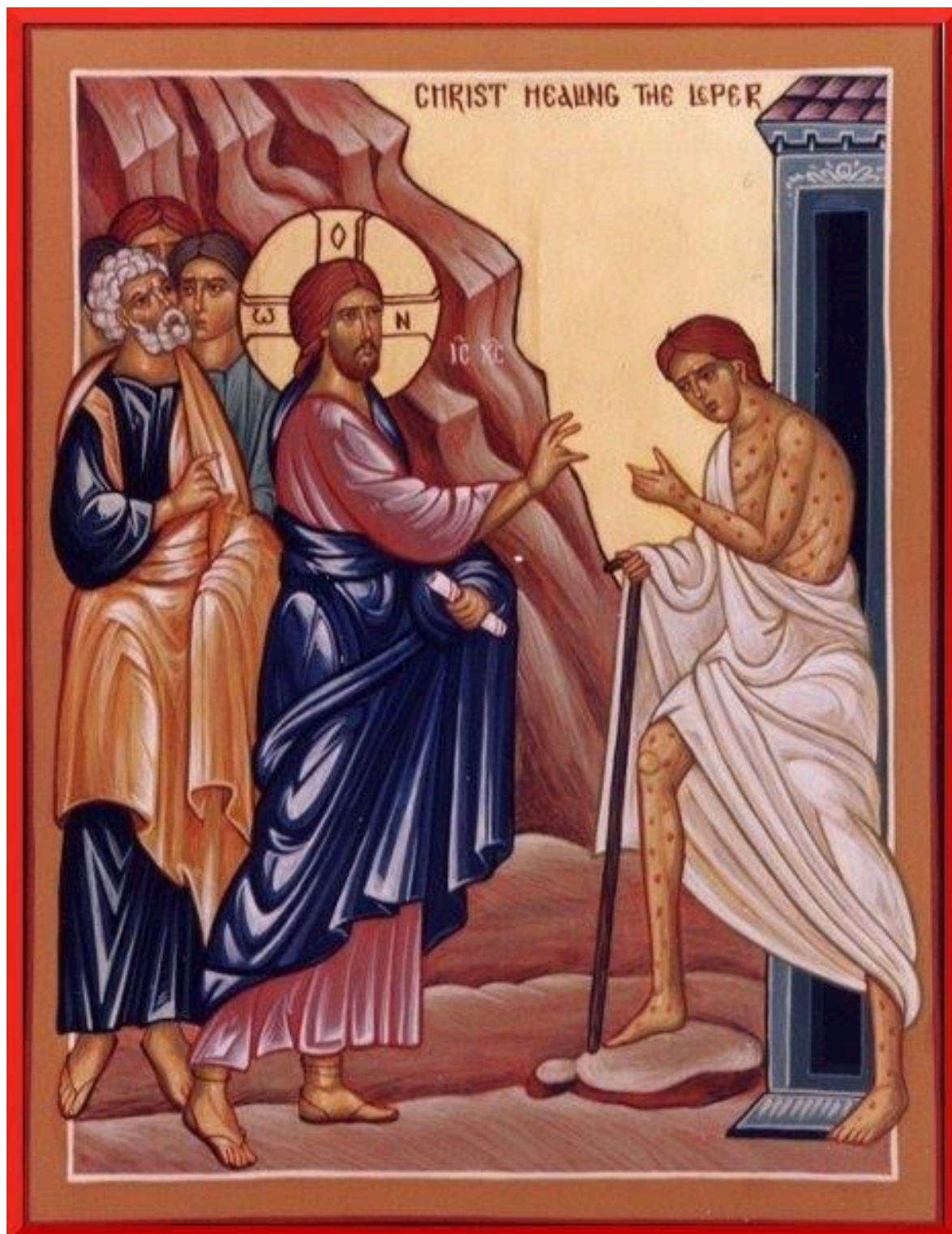




**ST GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
MALVERN**

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

11 February, 2024



8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.m.

Before the service, speak with God; during the service, let God speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

Setting (10:00 a.m.):

Christ Church Mass – Philip Matthias (b. 1954)

The service may be followed from p. 119 in An Australian Prayer Book (with seasonal material on p.150)

OPENING HYMN

1. O Christ, the healer, we have come
To pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored,
When reached by love that never ends?
2. From ev'ry ailment flesh endures
Our bodies clamour to be freed;
Yet in our hearts we would confess
That wholeness is our deepest need.
3. How strong, O Lord, are our desires,
How weak our knowledge of ourselves!
Release in us those healing truths
Unconscious pride resists or shelves.
4. In conflicts that destroy our health
We recognize the world's disease;
Our common life declares our ills:
Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
5. Grant that we all, made one in faith,
In your community may find
The wholeness that, enriching us,
Shall reach the whole of humankind.

Words: Frederic Pratt Green (1903–2000)
Music: 'Invercarry', David McCarthy (b. 1931)

Sentence:

A great prophet has arisen among us! God has visited his people!

c.f. Luke 7:16

Collect:

Everliving God,
your Son, Jesus Christ, healed the lepers
and brought good news to the despised and outcast:
grant us your gifts of compassion and self-control,
that in serving others in their need we may strive for the imperishable wreath
that you bestow on all who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

2 Kings 5:1-14

A reading from the second book of Kings.

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, 'If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.' So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, 'Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel.'

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, 'When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy.' When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, 'Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.'

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, 'Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.' So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, 'Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.' But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, 'I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in

them, and be clean?’ He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, ‘Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, “Wash, and be clean”?’ So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 30 (at 8:00 a.m.)

**Response: O Lord my God, I cry out to you,
and you restored me to health.**

1. I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up,
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.
2. O Lord my God, I cried to you,
and you restored me to health.
3. You brought up, O Lord, from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave. **R.**
4. Sing to the Lord, you servant of his;
give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.
5. For he endures but the twinkling of an eye, his favour is for a lifetime.
6. Weeping may spend the night, but joy comes with the morning. **R.**
7. While I felt secure, I said, ‘I shall never be disturbed.
You, Lord, with your favour, made me as a strong mountains’
8. Then you hid your face; and I was filled with fear. **R.**
9. I cried to you, O Lord; I pleaded to the Lord, saying,
10. ‘What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit?
will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?’
11. Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; O Lord, be my helper.’ **R.**
12. You have turned my wailing into dancing;
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy;
13. Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever. **R.**

Response (at 10:00 a.m.):



1. I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me,
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead,
Restored me to life from those who sink into the grave. **R.**
2. Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him,
give thanks to his holy name.
His anger lasts but a moment; his favour all through life.
At night there are tears, but joy comes with the dawn. **R.**
3. The Lord listened and had pity.
The Lord came to my help.
For me you have changed my mourning into dancing,
O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 9:24–27

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable garland, but we an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: 376

GOSPEL

Mark 1:40-45



A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him,

‘If you choose, you can make me clean.’

Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him,

and said to him, ‘I do choose. Be made clean!’

Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

After sternly warning him he sent him away at once,

saying to him, ‘See that you say nothing to anyone;

but go, show yourself to the priest,

and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded,

as a testimony to them.’

But he went out and began to proclaim it freely,

and to spread the word,

so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly,

but stayed out in the country;

and people came to him from every quarter.

For the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

LITURGICAL WELCOME OF THEOLOGICAL STUDENT

Vicar: We are called to be the Body of Christ, the community of the Holy Spirit. The risen Lord Jesus pours out on his baptized people gifts and graces for the various tasks of the Church.

Today, we welcome Andrew Murray, who is, with the people of God, discerning the way he will fulfil his baptismal calling in the Church of God. Andrew has been sent by Trinity College Theological School to serve as a student on placement in this parish of St George, Malvern. It is here that Andrew will use those gifts the Holy Spirit has given for tasks he will undertake, and from which he will learn. Together with the people of God in this place, he will undertake further discernment.

Andrew, I ask you now, in the presence of those amongst whom you will learn, reflect and serve, do you promise to be faithful in fulfilling the tasks and responsibilities you will undertake?

Andrew: I will, the Lord being my helper.

Vicar: People of St George's, you have heard Andrew commit himself to serve and work with you, the people of God in this place, as he discerns the manner of God's calling in his life. Will you pray for him, encourage him, work with him that we may all be ambassadors of Christ and the peace he brings in this place?

All: **We will, by God's grace.**

Vicar: Andrew, on behalf of the people of God gathered here, I welcome you, and greatly and warmly look forward to working with you in ministry to this community and the wider Church.

The congregation responds with applause.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For the Anglican Church

We pray for Ministry with the Torres Strait Islander people of Australia; Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan; Redemption Church Craigieburn; St Alban's Coburg West and Pascoe Vale South; St James' Dandenong; Bellarine Parish; Clyde North; Ormond Anglican Church and Brotherhood of St Laurence.

For all in need

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

We pray for those in urgent need: His Majesty the King; Cathy; Chris; Malcolm, Hamish and Stephanie and family; Patrick; Susan; Vilma; and those we name before you in the silence of our hearts.

For the Faithful Departed:

We remember those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time: Marguherita Burrell; Lydia Constance (Connie) Checcucci; Alfreda Cruth; Cassandra Duffield; Ninette Duncan; Jacqueline Marjorie Harris; Catherine Horne; Ivan Mercer; Geoffrey Parsons; Gwenthelleyan (Gwen) Richards; John Richards; Anna Shepherd and Jessie Willers.

In your charity, please pray for those in long term need or sickness: Angus; Ann; Coral; Geoff; George and Linda; Ivan and Liza; Jenny and Jeff; Joan; +John and Janine; Jane; Josie; Keith and Erica; Mary Therese; Nicola; Noel and Reva; +Peter; Roma; Ron; Sarah; Simon and Stephen.

Offertory Hymn: 383

During Communion, the following Anthem is sung:

*Jesu, the very thought of Thee
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see,
And in Thy presence rest.*

Words: attrib. St Bernard of Clairvaux (12th century)
trans. E. Caswall
Music: Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)

Final Hymn: 385

Postlude: *Fugue sur les anches* – François Couperin (1688–1733)

READINGS FOR THE NEXT WEEK – FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 9:8–17
I Peter 3:18–22

Psalm 25:1–10
Mark 1:9–15

NOTICES

We welcome Andrew Murray on placement from Trinity College Theological School this morning. Andrew will be with us all year. Please introduce yourself and make him welcome.

Book club will meet this Monday at 2:00 p.m. in the North Room to discuss *Wifedom* by Anna Funder. All are welcome to join our group, we meet on the second Monday of each month. Contact Sandra Morgan 0448 884 306.

Tuesday, February 13 is “Shrove (or ‘Pancake’) Tuesday”, (*Carnivale* in Italian; *Mardi Gras* in French). **Please come, and share pancakes with us in the Vicarage garden** (weather permitting – or the hall if it rains) from 6:00 p.m. **Please also bring with you your palm crosses from last year**, which will be burned to prepare ashes for Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday, on Wednesday February 14. Eucharist with imposition of ashes will be at 8:00 a.m., noon, and 6:00 p.m.

Parish Council “Away Day” is on Saturday February 17. Please pray for all members of the Parish Council for this important planning day.

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.

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.

A Eucharist will be celebrated on Tuesday, February 20 at Cabrini Hospital, 181-183 Wattletree Road Malvern. For further information please contact Fr Aaron on 9822 3030 Option 4.

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.

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The Reverend Matthew Dowsey

0412 852 697

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ORGANIST AND DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

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CHURCH OFFICE

Adrian Chong

Monday-Friday

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