

**Eucharist with Spiritual Communion**  
**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025**  
**Common Worship**



The Stoning of Stephen - A Sacred Rebel

**PREPARATION**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Welcome and Introduction**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

*The priest introduces the theme for the day's Eucharist.*

Today in the joy of Eastertide, we give thanks for our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, the bread of life and the living water, who draws near to us, wherever we may be, and makes himself known to us in the breaking of the bread.

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.  
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil  
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

### **Confession**

Almighty God our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
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 grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.

### **Absolution**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all  
goodness, and keep you in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his 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.

## COLLECT

Let us pray,  
Almighty Father,  
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples  
with the sight of the risen Lord:  
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,  
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life  
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**The Epistle:** Acts 8.1b-8

8 And Saul approved of their killing him. That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria. <sup>2</sup>Devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him. <sup>3</sup>But Saul was ravaging the church by entering house after house; dragging off both men and women, he committed them to prison.

<sup>4</sup>Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. <sup>5</sup>Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. <sup>6</sup>The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did, <sup>7</sup>for unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, came out of many who were possessed; and many others who were paralyzed or lame were cured. <sup>8</sup>So there was great joy in that city.

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 66.1-6

<sup>1</sup>Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

<sup>2</sup>**sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.**

<sup>3</sup>Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.

<sup>4</sup>**All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name."**

<sup>5</sup>Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.

<sup>6</sup>**He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There we rejoiced in him.**

### **The Gospel** : John 6.35-40

Hear the holy Gospel according to John:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. <sup>36</sup>But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup>Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; <sup>38</sup>for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup>And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup>This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Homily** : Canon Daphne Green

#### **Intercessions**

*We use the response*

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

Believing that the risen Christ is alongside us we pray to God in faith, trusting that he always hears us when we call upon him and responds with an open and loving heart.

We pray for the peoples of this world especially those who long for peace, for freedom from oppression and for justice. We pray that the good news of resurrection, new life and salvation will reach into even the darkest places of suffering.

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

We pray for ourselves, our neighbours, our colleagues, families and friends that we may see the risen Christ in them and that they might see him in us. We pray for our church community of Holy Trinity, giving thanks for your many blessings, for our recent AGM and praying that we may be strengthened to play our part in service to others in the place wherever we are.

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

We pray for the forthcoming Cursillo weekend, for all who will take part as participants, those who will lead it and those who will be helping in so many ways. May it be a rich ecumenical encounter and an opportunity for all those taking part to grow in their journey with Christ and to build up good relations with one another.

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

We pray for those who are wounded, distressed, lonely or afraid and those who are sick amongst whom we pray today for We pray for the sick who are known to us, and those caring for them, especially for Christian Barker, Mary Brice, Jann Coppen, Jonathan Bezzola, Sybil Sheppard, Chris Talbot, Joan Tye, Annemarie Hester, André Vivas, Timothy Creffield, Tianna Dagher, Edith Tanner, Livia Varju, Brenda Hand, Valerie Offord, Phil Thomas, Diana Mason, Robin Bailey, Judi Cianci, Ruth Wyler, Germain, Samuel Kalibala, Joyce McNulty, Trevor Thomas, Diana Dickinson, Denise Muhlethaler, Maya Mortimer, Silvio -Morson, Anna Porraccin, Valerie Slessor, Frances Boo, Jenny Syrathev, George Thomasz, Lorensz Ranasinghe.

We pray especially those whose earthly lives are drawing to a close that they may know the healing presence and peace of Christ alongside them.

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

We remember those departed this life, and especially those we have known and loved and who have helped us by their lives and examples, Rosabelle de Silva and Katie Orchard. May they rest in peace and rise in glory with the saints.

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

Heavenly Father we offer these prayers to you trusting that you hear us and answer us in your love and compassion. We pray that your will may be done in our lives and in the lives of all those for whom we pray and that you will show us what we need to do to bring your kingdom into our world. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And with your spirit.**

*The table is prepared.*

### **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour. By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us; he opened wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks  
because in his victory over the grave a new age has dawned,  
the long reign of sin is ended,  
a broken world is being renewed  
and humanity is once again made whole.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,  
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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.  
In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink 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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.  
Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever. **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.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ:  
Though we are many, we are one body because we all share in the  
one bread.

### **Agnus Dei**

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, give us your peace.

Let us prepare ourselves to make our spiritual communion.  
We offer and present to you, Lord our heavenly Father, ourselves, our  
souls and bodies, to be a holy and living sacrifice; grant that being  
present together in heart and mind at this holy communion we may now  
be filled with your heavenly blessing through the redeeming grace of  
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ... [ short pause ]

Lord Jesus Christ, in outward signs of bread and wine you have made  
known your presence among us; as we unite with one another from the  
places where we are, may your communion be fulfilled in us now through  
the work of the life-giving Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Post Communion Prayers**

Living God,  
your Son made himself known to his disciples  
in the breaking of bread:  
open the eyes of our faith,  
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.



Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Blessing**

The God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep,  
through the blood of the eternal covenant,  
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,  
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;  
and the blessing of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.  
In the name of Christ, Alleluia, Alleluia.