



The Diocese of Wangaratta
The Anglican Parish of Kilmore
with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook
9th February 2014
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Hymns: 416, Pewsheet, 675, 687



Introit Hymn

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.

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

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. *Matthew 5.16*

THE COLLECT

Faithful God, you have appointed us your witnesses, to be a light that shines in the world: let us not hide the bright hope you have given us, but tell everyone your love, revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58. 1-12

A reading from the book of prophet Isaiah

‘Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins. For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them. “Why have we fasted,” they say, “and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?” Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarrelling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: here am I. ‘If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Response: Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Blessed are those who fear the Lord
and have great delight in his commandments.
Their descendants will be mighty in the land,
a generation of the faithful that will be blest./R

Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness endures for ever.
Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
Gracious and full of compassion are the righteous./R

It goes well with those who are generous in lending
and order their affairs with justice,
For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be held in everlasting remembrance./R

They will not be afraid of any evil tidings;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.
Their heart is sustained and will not fear,
until they see the downfall of their foes./R

They have given freely to the poor;
their righteousness stands fast for ever;
their head will be exalted with honour./R

The wicked shall see it and be angry;
they shall gnash their teeth in despair;
the desire of the wicked shall perish./R

SECOND READING**I Corinthians 2.1-16**

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: 'What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has

conceived' – the things God has prepared for those who love him – these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for, 'Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?' But we have the mind of Christ.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Jesus says, I am the light of the world;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 5. 13-20

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Lord of all, exquisite and down to earth, luxurious and everyday, rare and commonplace: this Christ, your Son, calls us his followers to invade and infect our neighbourhood, making a difference by living in light, to be salt of the earth, and inviting others to taste the goodness of God. You invite us to show beauty and life, to flaunt your marvellous creation until all are drawn to your wonderful light.

You have called us together: **equip us and send us to work for your kingdom.**

Lord of all, we pray for the peoples of the world and for all tasked with leadership; we pray justice, integrity and care in their governing and we pray for the people of Egypt, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Syria, Nigeria, South Sudan and Thailand, as they seek to solve political differences; for the peace talks in Syria and in Afghanistan; for our own country, Prime Minister and Cabinet that we may rightly governed; for all all refugees, and all who seek asylum and for those held in detention particularly children. We continue to pray for the indigenous peoples of Australia acknowledging the traditional owners and custodians of the land.

You have called us together: **equip us and send us to work for your kingdom.**

Lord of all, we pray for the Church; for those working in dangerous and difficult situations; for ABM, AngliCORD, & Anglicare, and all agencies in their work of bringing relief and support to those in need; for our John our Bishop, and our parish as we seek to live as the people of God in this place.

You have called us together: **equip us and send us to work for your kingdom.**

Lord of all, we pray for those in our community for whom the journey of life is hard, beset by pain, sickness, and sorrow, or overwhelmed by disaster, deprivation, and injustice. In the trials they face and the burdens they struggle with may your love break through and may the gospel message bring strength and comfort, help healing and inspiration. Guide us as we respond with your love that your light may shine in the darkness; we continue to pray for those impacted by the recent bush fires and those suffering with the heat wave.

You have called us together: **equip us and send us to work for your kingdom.**

We pray for those in need; the homeless and unemployed and those whose jobs are threatened, and in particular for those who have requested prayer;

Request for prayer from: *Chris Schafer, Glen Turnbull, Karen Goodger, Lyn Ryan, Seth Gunter, Cliff & Gwenda Stomann, Tom & Sandra Davidson & Bianca Davidson, Adrian Walsh, Dianne Mitsakis, Peter Cannon, Bruce Mitchell, Mark Bennetts.*

You have called us together: **equip us and send us to work for your kingdom.**

Lord of all, you offer to those who love you the joy of welcome into your heavenly presence; we pray for the recently departed and those whose years mind occurs at this time.

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

You have called us together: **equip us and send us to work for your kingdom.**

Lord of all, gracious and Holy One, we give thanks for all the blessings of this life, for miracles of grace, of birth, of air and water, of food, song and prayer, of peace; enlighten us, salt from salt, bread of life, cup of your delight, and hear us as we pray for ourselves give us the courage to proclaim your scandalous love and equip us and send us to work for your kingdom. We gather our prayers in the words our Lord taught us; **Our Father ...[pg. 124].**

Year's mind: Today we remember before God those whose anniversary of death occurs this week: 9th Allie Harwood; 10th Henry Murray; 12th Joan Pate; 13th Rhoda Wilkie, Sidney Bryant, Herbert Holcombe.

Saint's Days and Holy Days: 14th Cyril (d. 869) and Methodius, bishop (d. 885).

Reflections on the Readings

What is authentic spirituality? In what ways do we know – and do others experience – that we have a real, vibrant relationship with God? These are the questions raised by the Lectionary this week. In Isaiah a contrast is drawn between the indulgent spirituality of the people, which leaves them disconnected from God and from God's purposes, with the result that they feel no answer from God when they fast and pray, and true fasting and prayer which are expressed in lives of justice and compassion. In the Psalm, those who live justly and righteously are celebrated, and are assured of God's care. In Paul's letter, we are reminded that God is not known by the usual means that the world tries to find life and goodness, but only in Christ and Christ's crucifixion. It is as we open to God's Spirit that we receive God's presence and power, and that we receive "the mind of Christ" which will inevitably lead us into lives that emulate Christ's selfless service and sacrifice. In the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew's Gospel, we discover that true righteousness is not that of the Pharisees – legalistic, individualistic obedience to law – but is to be light and salt in the world, fulfilling the heart of the law by bringing life and goodness to others, and drawing them into healing and saving knowledge of God. Clearly, for the Lectionary this week, true spirituality is seen in a living, vibrant relationship with God through Christ, and by God's Spirit, which is then reflected and expressed through actions of compassion, justice and service in the world. If we live this kind of spirituality, it will inevitably draw others to this God we serve – and that's

a huge bonus for us! BUT!! It is all too easy to allow our spirituality to become “otherworldly” and disconnected from life’s realities. It is very easy to allow our sense of call to be reduced to becoming the conscience, or the moral watch dogs, to point fingers and judge, to identify evil and, like Pharisees, make our religion about separating ourselves from “others” who don’t live up to our standards. Such engagement with the world seldom brings any real change. It is when we are salt and light – those who live out in our own lives what we seek to see in the world – that we make a real difference. Salt and light people are those who bring flavour and colour, integrity and insight, healing and compassion into the world by the way they live, love and interact. Their influence is felt not through judgement or legalism, but through a life lived with a completely different quality, that touches others with grace and truth and compassion and calls out to the best in them, leaving them longing to live better lives themselves. This is what it means to let our good deeds be seen so that others will praise God, and it’s the only thing that really brings change into the world. As Gandhi famously said: “Be the change you wish to see in the world”.

Adapted from John van de Laar (2014); www.sacredise.com

Salt and Light are Found in Me [Tune 212 –Heathlands]

1. You are the salt of the earth; But if your life has become Tasteless, it has lost its worth. Can you be sure of welcome In God’s kingdom as it nears— When the Son of Man appears?	2. We are God’s light in this place. A city set on a height Cannot hide the light of grace But shines forth with God’s true light. Let your light shine now that then, People praise God in heaven.
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3. I have come to fulfill all
The Law and the Prophets stress.
No matter if it seems small;
It is mandate nonetheless.
Now “it’s finished”; can't you see?
Salt and light are found in me.

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Notices

Meeting of Wardens 6.30pm today. Bring & share meal at Caroline Burges

Retiring Collections & Appeals - Please continue to support the Bishop’s NSW Bushfire Appeal, the ABM Philippines Appeal & South Sudan Appeal.

Parish Directory: The latest version (yellow cover) of the Parish Directory has been distributed. This will be a draft copy only - any name and contact details not included or need to be corrected, please contact Caroline Burge.

Request for prayer list - the list has been reviewed. Requests for names to be included should be given to a Warden or to Fr Kim. A person must have given consent for any name to be listed.

Notice is given of the Annual General Meeting of Parishioners Sunday 9th March. There will be one service at 10am at St Matthews Broadford followed by the meeting and lunch in Gavan Hall. Annual Reports, Adoption of the Budget, Election of Parish Council, Synod representative & supplementaries, and Parish Nominators.

Direct Debit Offerings - Parish Account details: CBA Account Name 'Kilmore Anglican Parish'. BSB 063-698. Account Number 1018 4649.

Parish life this week

Second week of February

Wednesday 12th 7.30pm Property Committee Meeting @ Christ Church
Thursday 13th 10.00am Eucharist St Matthews
10.30am Eucharist Willowmeade
2.30pm Eucharist Caladenia
4.00pm Eucharist Dianella
Friday 14th 10am - 4pm Op Shop Church House
Saturday 15th 10am-12.30pm Op Shop Church House

Next Sunday: 16th February 2014 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 10. 10-22; Ps 119.1-8; I Cor. 3. 1-9; Matthew 5. 21-37

Christ Church	9am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11am	Holy Eucharist
St Stephens	11am	Morning Prayer
Transfiguration	4pm	Holy Eucharist

Parish Clergy:

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