



The Anglican Church of Australia
Diocese of Wangaratta
The Parish of Kilmore
with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook
3rd April 2016
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



HYMNS 365, 278, 653, 380

A warm welcome to everyone, please stay and enjoy hospitality after the service.



Christ is risen. Alleluia!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

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 Jesus 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.' *John 20.27.*

THE COLLECT

Living God, for whom no door is closed, no heart is locked: draw us beyond our doubts, till we see your Christ and touch his wounds where they bleed in others. This we ask through Christ our Risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 5.27-32

[The apostles, who were previously arrested and were freed from prison by an angel, are arrested again for refusing to stop preaching about Jesus, and when challenged declare that they must obey God rather than human beings.]

A reading from the book of Acts

The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,' he said. 'Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood.' Peter and the other apostles replied: 'We must obey God rather than human beings! The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead – whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Saviour that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 118.14-29

[The king of the Israelites has won a great victory, and goes to the temple to praise God. The procession chants its praise of God's marvellous deed.]

Response: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Response Alan Rees
v. 1 O give thanks to the Lord for he is good.

The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.
Joyful shouts of salvation sound from the tents of the righteous:
'The right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds;
the right hand of the Lord raises up;
the right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds.'/R

I shall not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord.
The Lord has punished me sorely, but he has not given me over to death.
Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.
This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it./R

I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it./R

Come, O Lord, and save us we pray.

Come, Lord, send us now prosperity.

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

we bless you from the house of the Lord./R

The Lord is God; he has given us light;

link the pilgrims with cords right to the horns of the altar.

You are my God and I will thank you; you are my God and I will exalt you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever./R

SECOND READING

Revelation 1.4-8

[John's introduction to the Revelation, praises Jesus as the resurrected witness, the one who has given us life, and who is God eternal.]

A reading from the book of Revelation

John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father – to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. 'Look, he is coming with the clouds,' and 'every eye will see him, even those who pierced him'; and all peoples on earth 'will mourn because of him.' So shall it be! Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, 'who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.'

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!

[Thomas, who is not present at the first appearance of Jesus to the disciples, is confronted with the Risen Christ, and invited to put his doubts to rest. He responds by affirming his faith in the Risen One.]

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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 Lord, there is nothing that can destroy or contain life in you; for your life is always slipping through the cracks of the world and of our lives, always sending out its shoots and scattering its seeds, giving birth to new promises and possibilities, overturning doubts and fears, and bringing peace. Open our eyes and ears, hearts and minds to be so attuned to the signs and songs of life that herald your power breaking through in your world. Teach us, O God, to respond to the life that flows in tears of joy and that stumbles through tears of grief, through cynicism and despair; through the harshest violence, abuse, and exploitation; through life that slowly arises from the ashes of destruction and war to burst out in celebration and song.

For your love and goodness. **We give you thanks O Lord.**

Gracious One, your Church proclaims your resurrection to all the world; bless all who minister in your name, our Diocese, Bishop John, and our parish, that through believing all may have life in your name.

For your love and goodness. **We give you thanks O Lord.**

Loving Lord you come among your people and proclaim peace be with you. We pray for peace in your world, for the peoples of Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan; for all who flee devastation and fear, refugees and asylum seekers, human traffickers and exploiters, all who cast doubt upon the dignity of others; may we all embrace your Spirit of peace and extend your reconciliation to everyone.

For your love and goodness. **We give you thanks O Lord.**

Compassionate One, you visited the disciples in their fear and comforted the grief of your servant Thomas; be present with all who live lives haunted by painful memories and with those who huddle in fear behind locked doors; breathe your healing Spirit of peace upon all who mourn this day.

For your love and goodness. **We give you thanks O Lord.**

Healing One, you too have known human suffering and pain and you were raised with power to become our wounded healer; grant the comfort of your grace for those on our hearts this day, for the sick and the suffering; those on our hearts this day and those who have requested prayer.

Chris Schafer, Karen Goodger, Jean Evans, Denise, Belinda Shannon, Tom and Sandra Davidson, Bianca Davidson, Jenny Curry, Barbara Kaye, Seth Gunter, Tom Scrivens, Mark Bennetts, Susan, Leonie Upton.

We give thanks for healing and blessings wherever received.

For your love and goodness. **We give you thanks O Lord.**

You have granted resurrection life to all who believe; we pray for the recently departed and those whose years mind occurs at this time.

3rd Johannes de Niet; 4th Ian Kelm, John Butler; 5th Stan Cartwright, James Glare; 6th Frederick Schumann; 8th Gordon Kirk; 9th Alick Horwood, Alan Walker.

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

For your love and goodness. **We give you thanks O Lord.**

Loving Lord, hear us as we pray for ourselves

For your love and goodness. **We give you thanks O Lord.**

Gracious God you have promised to hear our prayers, hear us as we pray as our Lord has taught us. **Our Father.....[Pg 124]**

Prayer after Communion

Father, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life. Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other; through Jesus Christ the risen Lord.

Reflections on the Readings

After the headiness and joy of Easter Day, the focus in this week's Gospel reading seems to be about doubt and faith, yet the other readings encourage a slightly different approach, addressing instead a proclamation of praise and celebration. It may be that we make far more of Thomas's doubt than Jesus does. The point of the story, after all, is Thomas' shift to faith – not his doubt. In the Acts passage, it is the faith and determination and steadfastness of the disciples in their worship of Jesus and their calling to be “people of the way”. This makes them bold in the face of the threats from the religious leaders. The Psalmist celebrates at the end of the Psalter, bringing all of the lament, grief, pain and suffering of the Psalms into a moment of final celebration. In the reading from Revelation, John's worship of Jesus, and his faith in the Risen One, moves him to write about his vision of hope and grace in the final consummation of Jesus' saving work. And, in the Gospel, Thomas' journey into faith foreshadows the journey so many of us have to endure to move from doubt and fear, indifference and cynicism into a life of celebration and resurrection. Even so every day we are faced with a challenging choice as Resurrection People: Will our lives be defined and directed by our faith, and the hopeful celebration that flows from it, or by fear and cynicism, and the self-protection and conflict that arises from it? In every community, every home and every relationship, our clearest witness to Christ's resurrection is not the words we speak, but the extent to which our lives reflect the trust, joy and welcome of Christ. To be encouraged to befriend strangers and outcasts, to include the marginalised and the “not like us” in our loving, and to celebrate in the face of war, violence, crime, poverty, dread disease and climate change This is not in flippant denialism, or shallow showiness, or with false piety, but in defiance of pessimism and death, and in the faith that God's life cannot be quenched by the forces of injustice, inequality and evil. In the end, if our lives express the same fear, cynicism, negativity and hostility that we see in the world around us, nothing we say about Christ's resurrection will be heard or believed. It is our capacity to love and celebrate in the midst of life's crises that really witnesses to Christ.

Adapted from John van de Laar (2016). © Sacredise - www.sacredise.com

NOTICES

Thank you to everyone for making the Feast of the Resurrection such a celebration last Sunday.

Parish BBQ next Sunday @ 12.30pm Hosts Val & Barry Watts 57 Main Road Tallarook (next to St Stephens). All welcome bring own meats, salads and desserts to share and refreshments.

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

Parish life this week

First week of April

Wednesday 6th	7.30pm Property Committee Meeting @ Gavan Hall
Thursday 7th	10.00am Eucharist St Matthew's 10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade 4.00pm Eucharist Dianella
Friday 8th	10.00am – 4.00pm Op Shop Church House 12.30pm Deanery Meeting at Christ Church
Saturday 9th	10.00am – 12noon Op Shop Church House

SERVICES

Next Sunday: 10th April 2016: Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9.1-20; Ps 30; Revelation 5.6-14; John 21.1-19

Christ Church	9 am	Sung Eucharist & Holy Baptism
St Matthews	11am	Holy Eucharist
St Stephens	11am	Holy Eucharist
Transfiguration	4pm	No Service this day

Parish Diary

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

1st Wednesday: Property Committee Meeting 7.30pm see notices for venue

1st & 3rd Tuesday: Faith Enhancement Group meets 13 The Parade Broadford.

3rd Tuesday: St Matthew's Friendship Group. Gavan Hall 1.30pm fellowship & afternoon tea; contact Edie Simpson ph.5784 1246 for details.

3rd Wednesday: Parish Council Meeting, 7.30 pm see Notices for venue

Parish Clergy

Rector Revd Dr Kim Benton, 9 Union Street, Kilmore, 3764 Ph 5782 1155
m 0407 569 343; rector@anglicankilmore.org.au

Hon Associate Priest Revd Maryann Leonard, 49 Chloe Drive, Broadford, 3658
m 0439 066 553; associatepriest@anglicankilmore.org.au

Priest (PTO) Fr John Young, 9/40 Powlett St, Broadford, 3658 Ph 5784 2224

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