
ST THEODORE'S, TOORAK GARDENS

**EASTER 4
21 APRIL 2024**



WELCOME

St Theodore's is an active, caring and supportive community which values liturgy, prayer and preaching to sustain our daily lives, as we seek to foster love, hope and justice to all. You are welcome here as you are, embraced within God's boundless love. It is good to have you here today and we hope that you will feel at home.

PRAYING WITH CANDLES AND STONES

As you enter our church, there are two stations for prayer. One is an invitation to light a candle, symbolising our praying for each other before God. The other is an invitation to drop stones into a bowl of water, symbolising letting go of something (or someone) weighing us down.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion and all are welcome to receive prayers for healing at the back, and/or to use the prayer stations. Due to Covid precautions, intinction (dipping) into the wine is prohibited. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

LIVE-STREAMING

Our 9:30am Sunday Service is live-streamed on Facebook Live. During administration of communion, the camera is adjusted so that no one coming forward is visible online.

HEARING ASSISTANCE SYSTEM

We have a Hearing Assistance System available on Wi-Fi, usable with or without hearing aids. Please ask the stewards for assistance.

Please email office@theodores.org to join our mailing list.

Please stand if you wish

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: CP 143 "Come, ye faithful, raise the strain"

- 1 Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
of triumphant gladness!
God hath brought his Israel
into joy from sadness;
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters;
led them with unmoistened foot
through the Red Sea waters.

- 2 'Tis the spring of souls to-day;
Christ hath burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death
as a sun hath risen:
all the winter of our sins,
long and dark, is flying
from his light, to whom we give
laud and praise undying.

- 3 Now the queen of seasons, bright
with the day of splendour,
with the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem,
who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesu's resurrection.

4 Alleluia now we cry
to our King immortal,
who triumphant burst the bars
of the tomb's dark portal;
Alleluia, with the Son
God the Father praising;
Alleluia yet again
to the Spirit raising.

Words: St John of Damascus *tr* J M
Neale © CP 2001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we gather in worship we acknowledge the Kaurana People as the
custodians of this land.

May we walk together in harmony in a spirit of reconciliation.

INVOCATION AND GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

WELCOME

OPENING SENTENCE

'I am the good shepherd,' says the Lord. 'I know my own and my
own know me.' (John 10.14)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us pray.

**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.**

KYRIES

**Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Christ our Passover Lamb has been offered for us, therefore we come to celebrate the festival.

Silence may be kept.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere and a true heart

Merciful God,
**our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,**

**and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness
to all who turn to him in faith:
† pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA

**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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Jesus, good shepherd of the sheep,
by whom the lost are sought
and guided into the fold:
feed us and we shall be satisfied,
heal us and we shall be whole,
and lead us that we may be with you,
where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

FIRST READING: ACTS 4.5-12

⁵ The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are being questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are being asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

Response: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

- ¹ The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.
- ² He will make me lie down in green pastures:
and lead me beside still waters. **R**
- ³ He will refresh my soul:
and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.
- ⁴ Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me. **R**
- ⁵ You spread a table before me
in the face of those who trouble me:
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup shall be full.
- ⁶ Surely your goodness and loving-kindness
will follow me all the days of my life:
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 3.16-24

¹⁶ We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷ How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts

condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Please stand if you wish

GRADUAL HYMN: CP 594 “The Lord’s My Shepherd”

- 1 The Lord’s my Shepherd, I’ll not want;
he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.
- 2 My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e’en for his own name’s sake.
- 3 Yea, though I walk through death’s dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill;
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

4 My table thou hast furnishèd
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

5 Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me;
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.

Scottish Psalter 1650 Psalm 23 © CP
2001

THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**I am the good shepherd, / says the Lord
I know my sheep and / mine know me.**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

The Holy Gospel according to John 10.11-18
‡ Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹¹ 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one

shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

The sermon is followed by a time of silence for reflection.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Conclusion:

Hear us Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
**who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

NOTICES

Please stand if you wish

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN: CP 138 "At the Lamb's high feast we sing"

- 1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious King,
who hath washed us in the tide
flowing from his pierced side;
praise we him, whose love divine
gives his sacred blood for wine,
gives his body for the feast,
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.

- 2 Mighty victim from the sky,
hell's fierce powers beneath thee lie;
thou hast conquered in the fight,
thou hast brought us life and light.
Now no more can death appal,
now no more the grave enthrall:
thou hast opened paradise,
and in thee thy saints shall rise.

3 Easter triumph, Easter joy,
sin alone can this destroy;
from sin's power do thou set free
souls new-born, O Lord, in thee.
Hymns of glory and of praise,
risen Lord, to thee we raise;
holy Father, praise to thee, Latin Breviary hymn *tr* R Campbell ©
with the Spirit, ever be. CP 2001

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness
we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And now we give you thanks that you raised him to life triumphant,
and exalted him in glory.

By his victory over death, the reign of sin is ended,
a new day has dawned, a broken world is restored
and we are made whole once more.

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.**

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.
On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

† Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for 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, grant us your peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.

This is the table of communion with the earth,
in which Christ became incarnate
So come to this table, those who have much faith
and those who would like to have more;
those who have been here often
and those who have not been for a long time;
those who have tried to follow Jesus;
and we who have failed.
Come.

Please stand if you wish

POST-COMMUNION SENTENCE

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will
fear no evil: for you are with me (Psa 23.4)**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, giver of life,
in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord.
May we who celebrate this holy feast
walk in his risen light and bring new life to all creation.

PRAYER OF SELF-OFFERING

Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.

BLESSING

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

Please stand if you wish

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: CP 150 "Love's redeeming work is done"

- 1 Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,
lo, he sets in blood no more.

- 2 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise.

- 3 Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?

- 4 Soar we now where Christ has led,
following our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

- 5 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection Thou!

Words Charles Wesley © CP 2001

POSTLUDE: RIDOUT: SCHERZO

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Where there is a † in the liturgy, you are invited to make a sign of the cross if you wish.

When the Gospel is read and we say “† Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ”, you are invited to make three tiny signs of the cross, on the forehead, on the lips and on the chest. This symbolises the Word of God in our minds, our words and our hearts.

The sermon is preceded by a short Children’s Talk if there are children present.