
ST THEODORE'S, TOORAK GARDENS

**ORDINARY 23
8 SEPTEMBER 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/or receive anointing for healing at the back. Due to Covid precautions, intinction (dipping) into the wine is prohibited.

If you do not wish to drink the wine, we invite you to pause briefly before the chalice to acknowledge the sacramental presence.

LIVE-STREAMING

Our 9:30am Sunday Service is live-streamed on Facebook Live. During administration of communion, the camera is adjusted so that ideally no one coming forward is visible online, but this cannot be guaranteed.

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 369 “All people that on earth do dwell”

1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
come ye before him, and rejoice.

2 The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

3 O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

4 For why? The Lord our God is good;
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall for age to age endure.

William Kethe © CP 2001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we gather in worship we acknowledge the Kaurana People as the traditional owners and 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.

† Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

WELCOME

OPENING SENTENCE

So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. (James 2.13)

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

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

Silence may be kept

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

**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

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase our faith, hope, and love,
and, that we may receive all you promise,
make us love what you command;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: PROVERBS 22.1-2, 22.8-9, 22.22-23

¹ A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favour is better than silver or gold.

² The rich and the poor have this in common:
the LORD is the maker of them all.

⁸ Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.

⁹ Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.

²² Do not rob the poor because they are poor,
or crush the afflicted at the gate;

²³ for the LORD pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

PSALM 125 (ANSTEY)

Response: Those who trust in the Lord shall endure forever

¹ Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion:
unshakable and established forever.

² As the hills enfold Jerusalem, so the LORD enfolds his people:
now and for evermore. **R**

³ Wicked rulers shall not sieze the lands of the righteous:
lest the righteous pursue injustice.

⁴ Do good, O LORD, to those who are good:
to those who are upright in heart. **R**

⁵ Turn away wrongdoers from their crooked ways:
And may there be peace among your people. **R**

SECOND READING: JAMES 2.1-10, 2.14-17

¹ My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ² For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³ and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷ Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸ You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁹ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Please stand if you wish

GRADUAL HYMN: SP 242 "God of freedom"

- 1 God of freedom, God of justice,
God whose love is strong as death,
God who saw the dark of prison,
God who knew the price of faith:
touch the world of sad oppression
with your Spirit's healing breath.
- 2 Rid the earth of torture's terror,
God whose hands were nailed to wood;
hear the cries of pain and protest,
God who shed both tears and blood;
move in us the power of pity,
restless for the common good.
- 3 Make in us a captive conscience
quick to hear, to act, to plead;
make us truly sisters, brothers
of whatever race or creed:
teach us to be fully human,
open to each other's need.

Shirley Erena Murray © SP 2010

THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Jesus proclaimed the Gospel / of the Kingdom
And cured every disease a/mong the people**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark 7.24-37

‡ **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

²⁴ From there Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' ²⁸ But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' ²⁹ Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go – the demon has left your daughter.' ³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' ³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

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:

Compassionate God, you have promised to hear our prayers.
**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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: SP 161 "Lord of the Church"

1 Lord of the Church, we pray for our renewing:
Christ over all, our undivided aim
Fire of the Spirit, burn for our enduing,
wind of the Spirit, fan the living flame!
We turn to Christ amid our fear and failing,
the will that lacks the courage to be free,
the weary labours, all but unavailing,
to bring us nearer what a church should be.

- 2 Lord of the Church, we seek a Father's blessing,
a true repentance and a faith restored,
a swift obedience and a new possessing,
filled with the Holy Spirit of the Lord!
We turn to Christ from all our restless striving,
unnumbered voices with a single prayer:
the living water for our souls' reviving,
in Christ to live, and love and serve and care.
- 3 Lord of the Church, we long for our uniting,
true to one calling, by one vision stirred;
one cross proclaiming and one creed reciting,
one in the truth of Jesus and his word.
So lead us on; till toil and trouble ended,
one Church triumphant one new song shall sing,
to praise his glory, risen and ascended,
Christ over all, the everlasting King!

Timothy Dudley-Smith © SP 2010

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
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 and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

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.

Holy and gracious God,
all creation rightly gives you praise.
All life, all holiness, comes from you
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
whom you sent to share our human nature,
to live and die as one of us,
to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

Hear us, merciful Lord;
through Christ accept our sacrifice of praise;
and, by the power of your Word and Holy Spirit,
sanctify this bread and wine,
that we who share in this holy sacrament
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

Who, when his hour had come,
on the night before he went up to the cross
to make full atonement for the sins of the whole world,
offering once for all his one sacrifice of himself,
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.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Therefore, in obedience to his command,
we commemorate and celebrate
his saving passion and death,
his mighty resurrection and ascension into heaven
and we eagerly await his coming again in glory.

We thank you that by your grace alone
you have accepted us in Christ;
and here we offer you a spiritual sacrifice,
holy and acceptable in your sight.

Through Christ, receive this our duty and service,
and grant that we who eat and drink these holy gifts
may, by your Holy Spirit,
be one body in Christ,
and serve you in unity and peace.

In your grace and mercy,
bring us to the joy of your eternal kingdom
with all the company of the redeemed.
May we praise you in union with them,
and give you glory through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father eternal,
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

Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom? (James 2.5)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Living God,

in this holy meal you fill us with new hope.

May the power of your love,

which we have known in word and sacrament,

continue your saving work among us,

give us courage for our pilgrimage,

and bring us to the joys you promise.

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 peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts
and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord;
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: TiS 531 "Sent forth by God's blessing"

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from his table take leave.
The supper is ended: may now be extended
the fruits of his service in all who believe.
The seed of his teaching, our hungry souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for all humankind.
His grace shall incite us, his love shall unite us
to work for his kingdom, his purpose to find.

2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living
the tasks of our everyday life we will face,
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing as neighbours all those of each race.
One feast that has fed us, one light that has led us,
unite us as one in his life that we share.
Then may all the living, with praise and thanksgiving,
give honour to Christ and his name that we bear.

Omer Westendorf © TIS 1999

POSTLUDE: YOUNG: PRELUDE IN CLASSICAL STYLE

Liturgy from *A Prayer Book for Australia* © Broughton Publishing 1995.

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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.