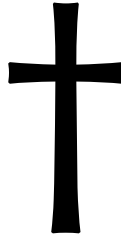


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**ST THEODORE'S, TOORAK GARDENS**

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**LENT 4  
LAETERE / MOTHERING SUNDAY  
30 MARCH 2025**



In recognition of

*International Transgender Day of Visibility, Monday 31 March 2025*

today's Order of Service was prepared in consultation with LGBTIQ+ members of our community, to include their voices and experiences. The sermon commences with the formal apology to LGBTIQ+ people that our Synod passed in 2017.

## 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 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](mailto:office@theodores.org) to join our mailing list.

*Please stand if you wish*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN: SP 307 "SING, MY SOUL"**

- 1 Sing, my soul, when hope is sleeping,  
sing when faith gives way to fears;  
sing to melt the ice of sadness,  
making way for joy through tears.
- 2 Sing, my soul, when sickness lingers,  
sing to dull the sharpest pain;  
sing to set the spirit leaping:  
healing needs a glad refrain.
- 3 Sing, my soul, of God who shaped me,  
let me wander far away,  
ran with open arms to greet me,  
brought me home again to stay.
- 4 Sing, my soul, when light seems darkest,  
sing when night refuses rest,  
sing though death should mock the future:  
what's to come by God is blessed.

Tune: Cross of Jesus  
Music: John Stainer (1840-1901)  
Words: John L Bell (1949-) and  
Graham Maule (1958-)  
© Sing Praise 2010

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

As we gather in worship, we acknowledge the Kaurna 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.**

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
**whose mercy endures for ever.**

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

## WELCOME

## OPENING SENTENCE

God has reconciled us to himself through Christ, and given us the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5.18)

## 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

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

*Silence may be kept.*

Let us then ask for mercy, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of compassion,  
you are slow to anger, and full of mercy,  
welcoming sinners who return to you with penitent hearts:  
receive in your loving embrace all who come home to you,  
and seat them at your bountiful table,  
that, with all your children,  
they may feast with delight on all that satisfies  
the hungry heart.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
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: JOSHUA 5.2-12

<sup>2</sup> At that time the Lord said to Joshua, 'Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites a second time.' <sup>3</sup> So Joshua made flint knives, and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath-haaraloth. <sup>4</sup> This is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the warriors, had died during the journey through the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt. <sup>5</sup> Although all the people who came out had been circumcised, yet all the people born on the journey through the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt had not been circumcised. <sup>6</sup> For the Israelites travelled for forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, the warriors who came out of Egypt, perished, not having listened to the voice of the Lord. To them the Lord swore that he would not let them see the land that he had sworn to their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>7</sup> So it was their children, whom he raised up in their place, that Joshua circumcised; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way.

<sup>8</sup> When the circumcising of all the nation was done, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed. <sup>9</sup> The Lord said to Joshua,

‘Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.’ And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup> While the Israelites were encamped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup> On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup> The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

## PSALM 32

**Response: Happy are they whose sins are forgiven**

- <sup>1</sup> Blessed are those whose sin is forgiven:  
whose iniquity is put away.
- <sup>2</sup> Blessed are those to whom the Lord imputes no blame:  
and in whose spirit there is no guile. **R**
- <sup>3</sup> For whilst I held my tongue:  
my bones wasted away with my daily complaining.
- <sup>4</sup> Your hand was heavy upon me day and night:  
and my moisture was dried up like a drought in summer. **R**
- <sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you:  
and my iniquity I did not hide;
- <sup>6</sup> I said ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’:  
and so you forgave the wickedness of my sin. **R**
- <sup>7</sup> For this cause shall everyone that is faithful  
make their prayer to you in the day of trouble:  
and in the time of the great water-flood,  
it shall not come near them.
- <sup>8</sup> You are a place to hide me in,  
you will preserve me from trouble:  
you will surround me with deliverance on every side. **R**

## **Response: Happy are they whose sins are forgiven**

<sup>9</sup> 'I will instruct you, and direct you in the way that you should go:  
I will fasten my eye upon you, and give you counsel.

<sup>10</sup> 'Be not like horse or mule, that have no understanding:  
whose forward course must be curbed with bit and bridle.' **R**

<sup>11</sup> Great tribulations remain for the ungodly:  
but whoever puts their trust in the Lord,  
mercy embraces them on every side.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and be glad:  
and shout for joy, all you that are true of heart. **R**

## **SECOND READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 5.16-21**

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

*Please stand if you wish*



## GRADUAL HYMN: CP 338 "MY GOD, ACCEPT MY HEART THIS DAY"

- 1 My God, accept my heart this day,  
and make it always thine,  
that I from thee no more may stray,  
no more from thee decline.
- 2 Before the cross of him who died,  
behold, I prostrate fall;  
let every sin be crucified,  
and Christ be all in all.
- 3 Anoint me with thy heavenly grace,  
and seal me for thine own;  
that I may see thy glorious face,  
and worship near thy throne.
- 4 Let every thought and work and word  
to thee be ever given:  
Then life shall be thy service, Lord,  
and death the gate of heaven.
- 5 All glory to the Father be,  
all glory to the Son,  
all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,  
while endless ages run.

Tune: St Peter

Music: Alexander Reinagle (1799-1877)

Words: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)

© Common Praise 2001

## THE GOSPEL

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.  
King of endless glory.**

**I will arise and go to my Father and shall / say to him:  
Father, I have sinned against heaven / and against you**

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.  
King of endless glory.**

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

**The Holy Gospel according to Luke 15.11-32  
‡ Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>11</sup> Then Jesus said, ‘There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’ ” <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ” <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe – the best one – and put it on

him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." '

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

## **SERMON & APOLOGY TO LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE**

*The sermon commences with an invitation to say the following apology, as resolved by The 163rd Annual Session of the Synod of the Diocese of Adelaide in October 2017:*

**We apologise to, and seek forgiveness from, people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer whom we have hurt by words and behaviour that have not displayed the love of God. We are deeply sorry for any harm we have done and repent of such ungodly behaviour.**

*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.**

*The prayers are followed by a time of silence for reflection.*

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.**

*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 301 "GOD IS HERE"

- 1 God is here! As we his people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of his Spirit  
into open minds and hearts.

- 2 Here are symbols to remind us  
of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font and pulpit;  
here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching,  
here in silence, as in speech,  
here in newness and renewal,  
God the Spirit comes to each.
- 3 Here our children find a welcome  
in the Shepherd's flock and fold,  
here as bread and wine are taken,  
Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant  
seek in worship to explore  
what it means in daily living  
to believe and to adore.
- 4 Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt,  
keep us faithful to the gospel,  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive:  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you! We believe.

Tune: Blaenwern  
Music: W P Rowlands (1860-1937)  
Words: F Pratt Green (1903-2000)  
© Common Praise 2001

## PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

As the grain once scattered in the fields  
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
are now united on this table in bread and wine,  
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together  
from the corners of the earth  
into 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.

He was tempted in every way as we are,  
yet he did not sin.

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.  
By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil,  
and to walk in the way of his love.

Here at the Lord's table we remember  
the simple gathering of a chosen family  
that came together for a meal  
that proclaimed a new way of being in this world.

It is here at this table that we find hope and imagination  
to see God's dream and promise of a world of wholeness,  
and it is here that we receive  
the nourishment and strength  
to continue on the paths of justice.

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

**So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (2 Cor 5.17)**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of mercy,  
we celebrate the rich diversity of your creation,  
every beautiful body, every shade of skin,  
every expression of love.  
Through your Spirit,  
open our hearts to the joy  
we can find in the midst of life's challenges.  
Remind us that we are loved — fiercely and forever.  
And however the world may try to hold us down or tell us who to be,  
remind us that nothing can separate us from your presence.

## 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

God, you have chosen  
the spectrum of the rainbow  
to be the sign of your blessing and protection.

May the peace of God be in your heart  
The grace of God be in your words  
The love of God be in your hands  
The joy of God be in your soul  
and in the song that your life sings.  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
† the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## NOTICES

## DISMISSAL

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

## RECESSIONAL HYMN CP 455 "GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT REDEEMER"

- 1 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fiery cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs and praises  
I will ever give to thee.

Tune: CWM Rhondda  
Music: John Hughes (1873-1932)  
Words: William Williams (1717-1791)  
© Common Praise 2001

## POSTLUDE: STANLEY: VOLUNTARY IN C (OPUS 5)

Liturgy from *A Prayer Book for Australia* © Broughton Publishing 1995. All Rights Reserved. The Scripture is from the **New Revised Standard Version** of the Bible, © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission.

Additional prayers and liturgy taken from Rev'd Sam Lundquist, queer pastor and writer ([www.samlundquist.medium.com](http://www.samlundquist.medium.com)).

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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.