

THIS IS AVAILABLE AS A VIDEO [HERE](#)

PART 1 – OPENING PRAYERS

GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Christ is risen, alleluia

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life,’ says the Lord. ‘No one comes to the Father except through me.’

John 14.6

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.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, 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.**

THE 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

Everliving God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
give us grace to love one another,
to follow in the way of his commandments,
and to share his risen life;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

PAUSE VIDEO

PART 2 CHILDREN'S STORY AND 2 VIDEOS, ONE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN, AND ANOTHER FOR OLDER CHILDREN AND ADULTS BY **Sam White** AND DOWNLOADABLE MATERIAL [HERE](#)

PART 3 LOOK UP AND READ THROUGH THE READINGS, LISTEN TO THE SERMON PODCAST (READ ALONG IF YOU WISH) AND PRAY THE INTERCESSIONS, TODAY BY **RICHARD BROOKS.**

READINGS

Psalm 31.1-5, 31.17-18
Gospel: John 14:1-14

SERMON by Rev Sue Brooks

[Available to listen online and/or download - access via Easter 2020 link and notice also a reasonable library of past sermons for you to listen to as you exercise or meditate...](#)

One main thing we learn during Easter time, and from the Gospel of John, is that the Spirit restores, unites and empowers our community to witness today. Alleluia!

Today, in Australia is also known as Mother's Day. This year will be a time of sadness for many of us because of the restrictions imposed on us by the Coronavirus phenomenon. Many of us who still have Mothers alive today won't be able to have a get together for many reasons. That is sad! It also seems harsh, but the good thing is that many of us have already we found other ways of speaking or letting our Mothers and others know that we love them - through phone messages, through Zoom meetings on the computer, through cards or letters and even through flowers when you can get them! I have also seen people learning over the fence, with balloons sending special messages to their loved ones inside.

Families in the dark times of the "Middle-Ages", when children had to be sent all over the country to learn and work, found it extremely hard too. In those times their children only had one holiday a year, known then as Mothering Sunday, to celebrate and come home to get together with family. People in those times had to believe and trust that they would eventually come together! As families travelled throughout the world, Mothering Sunday became confused with Mother's Day and, eventually, in the USA, the second Sunday in May became known as Mother's Day. This day eventually spread all over the world as a day to celebrating our Mothers.

Today's Gospel begins with Jesus' comforting words "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me." In that awful time before the cross, a time of betrayal and execution, Jesus himself had displayed disturbance of heart at the prospect of death and then he found reassurance and peace in his relationship with God. Now he cries out to his disciples to have a similar trust in God in face of the powers of darkness.

When we are in those dark places our own trust can go haywire, panic that something horrible can get in the road sets in and trust in God seems to go out the door. There have been times in my life when this has happened to me - am sure you have felt these dark times too! I have had to learn constantly to believe and trust that God was there and would 'walk with me'. AND YOU KNOW WHAT! God is always there, and God has helped me get through! God has helped me in much bigger and difficult things in my life over the years, and each time I feel that panic gets in the road, I think back of those times when I have doubted, I relax and trust in God. Then that faith and the trust comes flooding back - you know God is with you.

In this reading from John, Jesus uses words of reassurance for his disciples. Jesus has used the Greek word '*pistévo*' six times for the disciples, saying how it was necessary for them to have a relationship with God. The NRSV translates this as 'believe.' For many of us living in the 21st century this word means having an intellectual thought and assent. Other translations of the word - use faith, trust, have confidence, entrust. These meanings would more fully convey the involvement of our whole beings and lives with God. These words of Jesus are not just speaking to his disciples of long-ago times. They are also speaking to us as his disciples today.

The principle cause of the disciples' dismay and reason for their panic is Jesus' talk of his own 'departure'. They have always had Jesus with them - "how are they going to cope without Jesus' presence? He goes on to explain that departure, even though it will deprive them of his physical presence for some time, is ultimately for their benefit. There are "many dwelling places" in his Father's house and the purpose of his going is to "prepare a place for them in that "house". The separation will not be permanent because, after he has prepared a place for them, he will return and

take them to himself, so that the tangible company with him that they have enjoyed up until now will be renewed – literally “where I am, there you may be also.” Jesus used that well known verse – “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”. It is essential that we keep this verse well known in our hearts and minds – ***“I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6***

When you feel yourself becoming lost, when you are in despair, when you feel yourselves in panic, say this verse to yourself over and over again – really believe it – it tells us where our strength comes from. Remember that it is only through God, through the faith that has been given to us through Jesus that we know how and where our faith comes from, where our strength comes from. We discover that it is only through a gift from God that we can really know God’s Way.

This verse tells us everything – we find out more about “the way” - we know that it is only by getting to know the way of Jesus, learning all there is to know about Jesus’ life and faith, being engrossed in the way of Jesus, that we know truly know more about God, and truly discover the way of faith and love.

The discourse between Philip, the disciple, and the Lord (Jesus) where Philip asks Jesus to “*show us the Father and we shall be satisfied...*” (verses 8 – 14) is expanded by Jesus and explores what Jesus says in V.6. Jesus is speaking to all the disciples: (they and us later in life), want to know more, the how and the way of knowing the Father! Jesus insists “*If you have come to know me, you will know the Father also.*” Philip still seems unable to grasp, and Jesus makes a very important statement: ***“Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be gloried in the Son”. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.” John 14:12-14***

Throughout the ages, and living with this strange reality today that we now have, can be fraught with peril, be it because of our own needs to believe, trust, learn, and grow; or from those who see us as an enemy. In all of this, God is faithfully loving and present.

Let us pray:

Faithful God, be our refuge in all of our living and in our dying. Help us when we stumble. Grow us into your fullness of life with all of your people, for your purposes and glory. **Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS – by Richard Brooks

Omnipotent and most merciful God, we give you thanks and praise that you are ever present and raising leaders to shepherd us through the world's crises as we currently experience them. We thank you for experts in so many spheres, and especially for the good things they are accomplishing. By your Grace, grant them everything they need for their work that they may be able to offer ways forward for humanity and the vast array of communities stricken as never before. Merciful God, our hearts are troubled. We long for a world free of hate and destruction. We yearn to know your presence in our daily lives; as we awaken and sleep, as we play and work, as we eat and pray, in moments mundane and profound. Receive us, shelter us, and nurture us as your beloved people, that we may ever strive for your purposes and to your glory.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, comfort those who are fearful, isolated and lonely, that they may feel you near and turn to others as beacons of hope. We pray for our bishops, priests, deacons and ministry leaders throughout the world-wide church, that they may continue to nourish their flocks with clarity of purpose in their day-by-day labour.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for national leaders around the world, that they will continue to strive for wisdom and ways of justice to prevail. We pray for individuals who have the capacity to initiate recovery and reconciliation programs, that they will engage generously with meaningful assistance to those communities and individuals suffering the privations of a hurting world.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, your love is steadfast. Be refuge for those who are ill, for those who are dying, for those struggling to cope, that they may experience the fullness of the hope found in the presence of your Spirit. We pray for carers around the world, that they, too, may know your presence, and experience new stamina and purpose in their attention to the needs of others. We join to appreciate all those who have gone before us to their place in the light of your glory. We pause to remember those whose anniversary falls at the time, especially praying for The Reverend John Leaver. and for the heroes of the faith in every generation. We pray that we may enter with them into the fullness of your unending joy.
Grant this, Holy Father, for Jesus Christ's sake.

Almighty 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

RESUME VIDEO FOR PART 4 – VIDEO OF HOLY COMMUNION

GREETING OF PEACE [PRIEST]

Christ is risen. Alleluia!
The peace of the risen Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Thanksgiving, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son, we offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though we are dispersed from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Salvation we pray that you will unite us with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us.

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.

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God,
for we have tasted your goodness,
and our lives are secure in your hands.

In Jesus the Christ, your promise has been fulfilled.
He came among us as the way, the truth and the life,
and in him we have seen you.

He was rejected and crucified,
committing his spirit into your hands,
but you raised him to new life
and seated him at your right hand.

Now he is preparing a place for us
and drawing us to you,
that we might be a holy priesthood
and offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you.
Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying,

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

And now we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine; may we who receive them, as Jesus said, share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread and gave you thanks.
He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said, 'Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup and gave you thanks. He shared the cup with them and said, 'This is my blood poured out so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me.'

**Christ has died,
Christ has risen,
Christ will come again.**

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ and to remember all he has done for us: Fill us with your Spirit that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say, working for justice and bringing your peace to this world that you have made. Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing and honour and glory and power, are yours forever and ever. Amen

THE BREAKING AND SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

As this broken bread was once many grains,
which have been gathered together and made one bread:
**so may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

**Living God,
make us apostles of the risen Christ.
Give us joyful hearts, words of hope,
and grace to recognize the Lord Jesus when he meets us,
wherever we are on the road.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, who redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ, and has brought us out of slavery into everlasting freedom, give you joy and peace in faith and bring you to your eternal inheritance;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

We go in peace of Christ. **Alleluia! Amen.**