

## Order of service

18 April

Easter 3

### Acknowledgement of country

As we gather in this place, we give thanks for the Darug and Gundungurra People. We acknowledge the commitment their ancestors made, across the generations, to nurturing this Land. Together, may we walk into the future, recognising the sacred footsteps that continue to lead us to the promise of Heaven.

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Call to worship

L: We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God.

**P: Surely, God is in this place and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.**

L: God's love is for you and for all people everywhere.

**P: That we may share God's love and life, may we be renewed in the refreshing Spirit of the living Christ.**

L: The living Christ is with us.

**P: Praise the Lord!**

**Hymn** 568 O for a heart to praise my God

1 Oh, for a heart to praise my God,  
A heart from sin set free,  
a heart that always feels your blood  
So freely shed for me.

2 A heart resigned, submissive, meek,  
My great Redeemer's throne;  
Where only Christ is heard to speak,  
Where Jesus reigns alone.

3 A humble, lowly, contrite heart,  
Believing, true, and clean,  
Which neither life nor death can part  
From Christ who dwells within.

5 Your nature, gracious Lord, impart,  
Come quickly from above;  
Write your new name upon my heart,  
your new, best name of Love.

CCLI Song # 2648565  
Charles Wesley  
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### Prayer of confession

St John said: Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that Christ was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. Therefore,

let us confess our sins to God our Father and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Gracious God, we confess we have written our own version of the story, that does not align with You. We have made excuses for selfish behaviour, justified putting ourselves first, and creatively interpreted Scripture to ignore those in need around us. Forgive us for not looking to Your intention for our lives. Forgive us for not seeking Your intention as we interpret Scripture. Forgive us for not understanding Your intention when we refuse to recognize who our neighbours are. Forgive us of our sins. Restore us by filling us with Your wisdom and insight, to understand our role in the book of life, to live out Your love in this world. We pray in Your name, Author of Salvation. Amen.

### **Words of Assurance**

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God.

If we confess our sins, God is faithfulness and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I thus share this glad assurance in the name of the gracious God, the Father, the Mother and the holy one, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

### **Scripture reading**

Your word , O Lord, is a lamp to our feet

**A light to our path.**

**1 John 3:1-7**

**Luke 24:36b-48**

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**Sermon** “The Power of sharing a bread together”



‘한 솔밥’( Han Sot Barp)

Luke 24: 36- 48, 1 John 3: 1-7  
“The power of breaking the bread together.”

Prayer

*God of Wisdom, help us trust Your voice, trust what we have been taught that is rooted in love, and question what we have been taught that is rooted in dominance and control. Help us break the chains of oppression and injustice, seek others' well-being, and live by Your ways of love, justice, and peace. Amen.*

When I was growing up, my sisters and a brother ate from the same rice bowl at meal time.

We were a large family, so the rice bowl on the table was bigger than a salad bowl. We all had our own spoons and chopsticks but ate from the same bowl. It was easy for my mother, but we had to watch the traffic jams over the rice bowl with our spoons coming from all directions.

Not every family had the same practice, but eating from the same pot ‘Han Sot Barp.’ has a special meaning for Koreans. People eating ‘Han Sot Barp’ style, eating from the same pot are either family members or people who are close as family members.

Often people describe their special and committed relationship with someone as “we are like eating ‘Han Sot Barp’”.

Because eating from the same pot means a close relationship for the Korean mind, any eating together becomes special. So people readily say to each other, “let’s have a meal together” to bond a relationship, especially when they meet someone for the first time.

No doubt, a similar practice is found in other cultures because eating together is the most common human experience which boosts relationship as well as deepens our spirituality.

I apologise for using a difficult foreign language to your ears. So I looked up a similar concept in the English dictionary. And that word is ‘Company’ which has its root in a French, word, ‘Compagnie’. Com means “with or together”, and Panis is “Bread”. People of ‘Han Sot Barp’ therefore become like the western concept of ‘company.’ Or ‘companion’.

In today’s reading from the gospel of Saint Luke, we read about an interaction between the risen Lord and the disciples who were still confused and unsure about their lives after the death of their master. Here as they were in their locked room, the risen Lord came and said “Peace be with you!” They were agitated by the appearance of the dead man walking toward them! The frightened and confused disciples thought they were seeing a ghost.

So the risen Lord showed them his hands and feet and even invited them to touch.

The disciples were overjoyed, but they still couldn’t believe it. Maybe they just accepted him as he was but were not able to figure it out what this is all about in their own minds. They stood there dumbfounded.

Then Jesus asked them, “Have you anything here to eat?” He was asking for one of the most basic human activities, eating. They brought a piece of grilled fish, and the risen Lord ate the fish in front of their very eyes.

This simple act of eating shifted the story. The disciples experienced something becoming possible that was impossible before.

Jesus opened their minds to understanding the scriptures, about the suffering of the Messiah, and the resurrection from the dead. Furthermore, Jesus called them to be the witness of the amazing love of God brought back to reality in their lives.

Dr Beatrice Bruteau, the founder of Schola Contemplatonis, said in *The Easter Mysteries*, “*Easter is about transformation. This transformation is symbolically, mythically, sacramentally, imaged as death/ resurrection, in turn, imaged as Baptism.*”

The disciples experienced this transformation as they watch the risen Lord eating the grilled fish they had brought. After eating the fish, the Risen Lord said to the disciples, “You are witness of these things”, reminding them of who they really are and of their calling to live as “the resurrection people, the people of transformation”.

Last week, I went to Brahma Kumaris for an excellent event, a sharing of thoughts and reflection on ‘Our spirituality and our Land’ organised by the Blue Mountains Interfaith Group.

People from different religious and spiritual traditions in the Blue Mountains shared their understandings and passions on spirituality and its connection with the land. Though the stories, the songs and the images were varied reflecting their different traditions, all those reflections weaved through the spirit of the gathering and created a strong sense of communion and offered hope for the day.

To me, it was like eating from ‘Han Sot Barp’. It was like the Easter experience where people embraced each other, for they were connected through the love of the land, which we all share, are part of and called to care for.

The transformation of Easter, the miracle of the Risen Christ, brought to all creation, the awareness that nothing comes between the creator and the creation.

Friends, although we are further from the first Easter event, the transformation of Easter experienced by the disciples, we too can be experienced as children of God when share a meal together, eating from ‘Han Sot Barp’, breaking the bread together at the Communion table, and witnessing the amazing grace of God as we work together for peace and unity for God’s creation.

May our sharing the bread at the table today be the reminder for us who we really are in this place. As resurrection people let us strive for peace and justice in the hope that we find in Christ Jesus, the risen Lord. Amen.

### **Hymn** TiS 473 Community of Christ

1. Community of Christ,  
who make the Cross your own,  
live out your creed and risk your life  
for God alone:  
the God who wears your face,  
to whom all worlds belong,  
whose children are of every race  
and every song.

2. Community of Christ,  
look past the Church's door  
and see the refugee, the hungry,  
and the poor.

Take hands with the oppressed,  
the jobless in your street,  
take towel and water, that you wash  
your neighbour's feet.

3. Community of Christ,  
through whom the word must sound --  
cry out for justice and for peace  
the whole world round:  
disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy,  
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.

4. When menace melts away,  
so shall God's will be done,  
the climate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;  
our currency be love and kindness our law,  
our food and faith be shared as one forevermore.

CCLI Song # 3755392  
Shirley Erena Murray  
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### **Offertory Prayer**

Holy one, your heart abounds with gifts. Receive this offering as a sign of our trust in you and our intention to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE.**

Lord,

We live in a world where the threat of violence is ever present. It is also a world where weaponry is ever more sophisticated and deadly. We rue the fact that we live in a world where the production of weapons has an economic logic and that we do not have the moral fibre to reject that logic. We are saddened that troops and weapons are massing on the Ukraine border and pray that there is no hidden imperative to use them. We pray that any efforts to circumvent violent exchanges in this area may come to fruition.

Lord in your mercy.

### **Hear our Prayer**

We think also of the situation in Northern Ireland and the increasing violence that is evident there. We pray that the Good Friday Accord may not falter under the weight of violence. We pray that the poverty and inequality that is, in a large part, fuelling this deterioration may be addressed and that we may not witness a return of the 'Troubles'.

Lord, in your mercy.

### **Hear our Prayer**

Lord we have known for a very long time that the grossly unequal distribution of resources lies at the base of much of the violence that is just so much a part of everyday life. We are much less willing to accept the proposition that materialism lies at the base of unequal distribution. We cannot seem to realise that the pursuit of materialism actually impoverishes our culture. This remains a conundrum for us. And this seemingly is how we wish it to be, for we ignore the works of our best thinkers who hold differing views to this prevailing one. We especially ignore those thinkers who suggest that there is nothing we resent so much as to be robbed of our follies. Lord, draw us into your teachings and give us the discernment to realise just what is our daily bread.

Lord, in your mercy.

### **Hear our Prayer.**

Lord, we have heard a lot in the recent pandemic times about 'pulling together' and 'being in this together', but we have developed a temporary and convenient amnesia when it comes to the distribution of vaccines. We seem to have conveniently forgotten who our neighbour is. We progressively spiral down our boundaries: country, state, region, neighbourhood, family and ultimately self. Draw us into your teachings to keep us from morally and ethically shrivelling up.

Lord in your mercy.

### **Hear our Prayer.**

Lord, there are few areas where the failure to follow your precepts and appreciate your gifts to us are more evident than in our natural environment. This is the yard stick for whether we have followed your teachings, or our desires, and we have followed our desires in the main. Help us Lord to appreciate that, unless we move away from our consumption fetishes life is going to be very difficult for following generations. Help us to act justly and morally in relation to the environment, but firstly, let us truthfully address the philosopher's penetrating question: 'Whose Justice, which morality'?

Lord in your mercy.

### **Hear our Prayer.**

Lord, we think of the work of our congregation in this area. We pray that we may 'live in unity' as the Psalmist describes it. Help us to keep to the forefront of our minds the words

of the Psalmist that as we live in unity with those around us, as we respond to need, that we are doing your work and that our efforts have your imprimatur and that is the ultimate reward, in and of itself.

Lord in your Mercy.

**Hear our Prayer.**

Now, let us say together the Prayer that Jesus taught us.

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and 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 forever.

AMEN.

## **The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

### **The Peace**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

***And also with you.***

**Hymn** TiS 514 Be known to us

1. Be known to us in breaking bread,  
but do not then depart;  
Saviour, abide with us, and spread  
your table in our heart.

2. There sup with us in love divine;  
your body and your blood,  
that living bread, that heavenly wine,  
be our immortal food.

CCLI Song # 145342  
James Montgomery | William Gardiner  
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### Invitation

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the gospels tell us that on the first day of the week, the same day on which our Lord rose from the dead, he appeared to his disciples and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. Come then to the joyful feast of the Lord!

## **The Great prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them up to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right for us to give our thanks and praise.***

For Jesus is the true Lamb who has taken away  
the sins of the world.

By his death he has destroyed death for us.

By his rising again, he has restored life to us.

Therefore, with the whole company of saints—  
in heaven and on earth—

We worship and glorify you, God most holy,  
and we sing with joy:

***Your name we bless, O risen Lord,  
And sing today with one accord  
The life laid down, the life restored.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

## The Institution and Memorial

We give thanks to God the Father that our Savior, Jesus Christ, gave us this memorial of his sacrifice, until his coming again. For the Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way the cup, after supper saying, "This cup is a new covenant of my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

## Prayer of Consecration

Let us pray.

Lord God, send your Holy Spirit upon us, that the bread which we break may be to us the communion of the body of Christ, and the cup which we bless the communion of his blood. Grant that being joined together in him we may attain to the unity of the faith and grow up in all things unto him who is the head, Christ our risen Lord.

## The Invitation and Dedication

The Lord has prepared this table for all who love him and trust in him alone for their salvation. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Saviour, and who desire to live in obedience to him, are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord.

## The Communion

(During the distribution TiS 714 "Eat This Bread," )

**Eat this Bread, drink this Cup.  
Come to him and never be hungry.  
Eat this Bread, drink this Cup.  
Trust in him and you will not thirst.**

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## Prayer after Communion

Almighty and merciful God, your son made himself to his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work. As he has come to us in this meal, remind us that he is always with us, and that we now share in his resurrection. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Hymn** TiS 375 Come let us with our Lord arise,

1. Come, let us with our Lord arise,  
our Lord, who made both earth and skies;  
who died to save the world he made,  
and rose triumphant from the dead;  
he rose, the prince of life and peace,  
and stamped the day forever his.

2. This is the day the Lord has made,  
that all may see his love displayed,  
may feel his resurrection's power,  
and rise again to fall no more,  
in perfect righteousness renewed,  
and filled with all the life of God.

3. Then let us render him his own,  
with solemn prayer approach the throne,  
with meekness hear the Gospel Word,

with thanks his dying love record;  
our joyful hearts and voices raise,  
and fill his courts with songs of praise

Charles Wesley,  
Public domain

### **Word of dismissal**

### **Benediction**

If the God who raised Jesus from the dead is for us, who dare be against us?

***We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.***

Step out into the world in humble confidence:  
there is nothing about to happen that God has not foreseen,  
and no situation where Christ will not be there ahead of you,  
preparing a place and an opportunity for you.

***Thanks be to God.***

May the blessing of God who want us to share the bread together with everyone  
will be with you now and always.

***Amen!***