

THE HOLY EUCHARIST FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT DURING THE 2020 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL NEWCASTLE

The service begins with music.

The Bishop says

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
Whose mercy endures for ever.

It is an understatement to say that we are experiencing extraordinary times. The bishops and cathedral clergy are here for this live stream, each at an appropriate physical distance.

This service comes from Christ Church Cathedral, the principal church of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle in Australia. We reach out to First Nations peoples on whose land the ministry of the Diocese takes place - the Awabakal, Biripi, Darkinjung, Geawegal, Kamilaroi, Worimi and Wonnarua peoples. We acknowledge the elders past present and emerging.

In this service we will be reminded of God's overwhelming love for us revealed in Jesus Christ. We will pray for the world, this nation, the church and our communities.

Our hope and prayer is that you will experience God's grace as we hear the scriptures, join in prayer and in a spiritual way share in the holy communion.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Bishop Sonia says

We hear from St Paul's Letter to the Romans – "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Bishop Charlie says

Let us draw near to God with confidence that he forgives our sins.

[pause]

Lord Jesus, you bore our weaknesses and carried our sorrows.

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

You felt compassion for the people, and went among them doing good.

Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

You commanded your apostles to heal the sick in your name.

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

The Bishop prays

May Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray,

God of grace, power and mercy;

look on your creation with compassion,

give your people courage and complete confidence in your protection,

and keep us in peace through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Sub Dean leads Psalm 23

Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose;

Beside restful waters he leads me;

he refreshes my soul. (Response.)

He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage. (Response.)

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. (Response.)

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
for ever. (Response.)

The Dean reads the Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew, chapter 11
beginning at the 25th verse. **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

For the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The sermon – Bishop Peter Stuart

Bishop Sonia leads the affirmation of faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Dean leads the prayers of intercession

Music is played as the altar is prepared.

The Bishop

Lord Jesus, stand beside us in our need and bring your healing love. Grant that we may know your presence as we witness the breaking of the bread. Give us your peace. **Amen.**

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 thanks and praise to you, Loving Father,
for sending your only Son to be our Saviour.

He took upon himself our human nature,
shared our joy and our tears,
bore all our sickness,
and carried all our sorrows.

He brought us through death,
to the life of his glorious resurrection,
giving for our frailty eternal strength,
and restoring us in your perfect image.

Therefore with saints and angels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we praise you 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.'

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

With this bread and this cup,
we remember the saving death of your Son,
his resurrection and ascension,
and his promise to be with us for ever.

In the power of the Holy Spirit,
bring us to eternal life with Christ
as we look for his coming in glory,
and for the heavenly banquet
prepared for all your people.

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

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

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.

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.**

Those present receive communion moving to the altar after each other ensuring an appropriate physical distance between people.

Bishop Charlie prays

Father of all mercies, for your gifts of healing and forgiveness,
for the grace to love and care for one another,
for your hidden blessings,
and for all you have in store for us,
we give you thanks,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Bishop prays

The Almighty God,
who is a most strong tower to all that put their trust in him,
and to whom all things in heave and earth do bow and obey;
be now and always the defence of the people of this region,
and make them to know and feel that there is no other name
in whom we may receive health and salvation
but only through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;
and the blessing of God, almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be upon all people everywhere and remain with them always. **Amen.**

The Dean

Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Music is played as the service concludes