



**Order of Service**

**6<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**Lent 1**

**Introit:** 703 (TiS) 'As the deer pants for the water'

**Acknowledgement:**

I pay my respect to the traditional custodians of the land in which we live, work and worship. To the members and elders of the Bangarang people of the Yorta Yorta nation past, present, and emerging.

**Call to Worship:**

We begin this season of Lent with honest reflection and courageous acknowledgement of the ways we are tempted to turn away from trusting in God.

We come with eyes open, ready to face the snares and pitfalls that threaten to capture us away from our trust in God.

May the gift of grace surround us on our way.

**Hymn:** 150 (TiS) 'The love of God is greater far'

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession:**

It is good to be thankful for the love of God.

In God's love we are happy, free, and sheltered with hope.

Thank you, God, for the bread of wisdom that fills us with courage and insight to face the challenges of our days.

Thank you, God, for your steadfast presence that we never need to test, for your promises are true and trustworthy.

Thank you, God, for your splendour, robed in peace and light surpassing all the wonders of this world.

When we find our centre in you, we know there is nothing to compare to the vision you hold for us of abundance and joy.

Forgiving God, we cannot live our lives in silence or hide away our guilty feelings. We are invited to bring ourselves out into the open space of God's loving kindness; to seek the light of God's forgiveness so that we might be free of the enclosure of regret and shame and know joy.

Merciful God draw near to us in the grace of Jesus Christ as we confess those things that have turned us away from you.

Let us find abiding acceptance and renewed hope in our ability to live as people liberated by love.

We pray that you will save us, Lord, in the time of trial, those times when we are tempted to turn away from love.

In all that we do and all that we are, we remember your claim upon us. Your love surrounds us, and we are FREE indeed. Amen.

**Declaration of Forgiveness:**

We are freed by the love of God and in the gift of grace in Jesus Christ to live open, joyful lives.

We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.



**Doxology:** 771 (TiS) 'Now to him who loved, gave us'

**Readings:** Deuteronomy 26: 1-11, Luke 4: 1-13

**Sermon brief:**

- The temptation of Jesus happened in the wilderness where he had fasted for forty days.
- He is tempted the same way the people of Israel were tempted in the wilderness of Sinai.
- The first temptation was about 'trust'. His trust on God or trusting his own power to provide for his own needs. "If you are the Son of God, command this bread to become a loaf of bread" (Lk 4: 1-3)
- The second temptation is about 'faithfulness'. Faithfulness to God or to Satan who flatters him with power and glory. "If you then, will worship me, it will be yours". (Lk 4: 5-8)
- The third temptation is about 'identity'. "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here." (Lk 4: 9-12)
- Jesus' response to these temptations, unlike the Israelites in the wilderness ( Deuteronomy 6-8), he remained trusting in the power of God to provide, he remained faithful to his relationship with the Father, and he is the Son of God precisely because he did not succumb to the temptation of earthly power and glory.
- When Jesus took on human flesh, he took on all that we are including our very human weaknesses and showed us why, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).
- The whole episode of the temptation of Jesus is based on the idea that he is the Son of God "If you are the Son of God..." (Lk 4:3, 4:9)
- What is Jesus going to do with the power and glory as the Son of God? Does he have to prove that to himself?
- The people of Israel were tempted in the desert to try and test God but, as Beswick reminded us 'It is an affront to the love of God to put him to the test. Even in ordinary human relationships, to put your loved ones love to the test is already an act of betrayal'.
- We all have our own temptations, external and personal temptations which may depend on our circumstances, who we are, what we aspire to.
- We can learn from Jesus and how he responds to his temptation on how to respond when we are tempted.
- First temptation, Jesus said, "It is written..." (4:4). Jesus made reference to Scripture which the devil seems to understand.
- In the second temptation, Jesus again respond with "It is written..." (4:8).
- It is helpful to remember that Scripture is at the centre of Jesus' mission and ours. We must make time to study and reflect upon it for our own response for when we are tempted with what we think we need, with power and prestige and privileges.
- How we respond to temptation has life changing consequences.
- Imagine what would have happened if Jesus had turned aside from his calling as God's servant king and had create luxuries for himself.
- The temptation to work solely to meet our needs is favourable to many, but it not only to meet our needs (2 Thessalonians 3: 10), our work is meant to serve others also.

**Hymn:** 591 (TiS) 'Forty days and forty nights'

**Holy Communion:**

**The Narrative of the Institution:**

## **The great Prayer of 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.

It is right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.  
And so, we praise you with the faithful of every time and place, joining with choirs of angels and the whole creation in the eternal hymn:  
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.  
The breaking of the bread:

Father, we now celebrate the memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you. Lord we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Grant that all who share this bread and this cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ to the praise of your name.  
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honour and glory are yours, almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## **The 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.

## **The breaking of the bread:**

Lamb of God:  
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.



## **The Communion:**

### **Prayer after Communion:**

We thank you, God our Father, that through word and sacrament you have given us your Son who is the true bread of heaven and food of eternal life.

So, strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Notices:**

### **Joys and Concerns:**

### **Offering:**

O God, it is with joy that we bring our gifts to you this day. We find joy in the beauty of your life and in the sharing in that life in the world. Receive these our offerings, we pray. Amen.

### **Prayers of the People:**

Sheltering God, you are our refuge and strength. You have created us with a purpose, to join you in your victorious life and love, to plant seeds of righteousness and justice, to care for and nurture the earth and all her creatures, to dance and join creation's everlasting song of praise.

We give you thanks for your Son, Jesus Christ – the fruition of your love song for us, and who leads us on this Lenten journey towards the cross.

Send your Spirit to protect us as we enter the wilderness of Lent.

The shadows of temptation follow us closely, seeking to distract us from our truest selves – the selves we find in your righteousness and peace.

We pray for this day especially those who struggle with temptations – temptations of the flesh...temptations of the mind...temptations of addictions and substance abuse...temptations of wealth and oppression...temptations of self-righteousness and selfishness.

In the Lenten journey, Jesus stands in solidarity with us. Because of his victorious act, we remember this day that we are called to stand in solidarity with those in need.

We pray this day for those who are cold and hungry in Ukraine and in Europe; that they be warmed and sheltered and fed.

We pray this day for those who have been recently hospitalised as victims of war and disease; may they be healed and returned to their homes.

We pray this day for those who suffer depression and mental disorder; that they may find hope within the darkness.

We pray this day for those whom we lift up to you in silence...

Good and gracious God give us courage to follow your Son, and wisdom to walk the way. Gather us, shelter us, protect us as we are led to the cross.

Amen.

**Hymn:** 569 (TiS) 'Guide me, O thou great Redeemer'

### **Blessing:**

The way is often found by passing through the wilderness. Go in courage because Christ has walked that way before us.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

Amen.

778 (TiS) 'Shalom to you now'

