



25th September 2022 | 16th Sunday in Pentecost Growth

Only Jesus Christ can bridge the chasm.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the triune God, the Creator of heaven and earth and God's ownership of all things (Psalm 24:1). We recognise that God gave stewardship of these lands upon which we meet to the First Nations Peoples of this country (Acts 17:26). We acknowledge the cultures of our First Nations Peoples and are thankful for the community that we share together now. We pay our respects to the traditional custodians of this land and their elders, both past and present, and those who are rising up to become leaders.

Cantor: Thank you for joining our Service today, as we celebrate the 16th Sunday in the season of Pentecost Growth. We welcome those watching via livestream. I invite you to stand to sing our opening hymn.

Opening Hymn: Let the weak say I am strong

Let the weak say, 'I am strong',
let the poor say, 'I am rich',
let the blind say, 'I can see',
it's what the Lord has done in me'.
Let the weak say ...

Into the river I will wade;
there my sins are washed away.
From the heavens mercy streams
of the Saviour's love for me.

Hosanna

*Hosanna, hosanna
to the Lamb that was slain!
Hosanna, hosanna,
Jesus died and rose again.*

I will rise from waters deep
into the saving arms of God.
I will sing salvation songs:
Jesus Christ has set me free.

Hosanna ...

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Minister's Welcome

Grace and peace to you from God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light whom no one has seen or can see.

To him be honour and might for ever and ever. Amen.

Sing to the Lord, praise his name; **proclaim his salvation day after day.**
Declare God's glory among the nations, **his marvellous deeds among all peoples.**

The Sentence

Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. (James 5:16)

Prayer of Approach

Deacon: Knowing the goodness of God and His generous love towards us, let us approach His throne of grace,

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, though Christ our Lord. Amen.

Minister:

Prayer of the Day

O God, from whom light rises in darkness for those who seek you: grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that in your light we may see light, and in your narrow path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Ministry of the Word

The first reading, from the book of Jeremiah, is omitted to allow the entire Psalm to be read.

The Psalm for today is number 91.

¹ Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

² **I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."**

³ Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.

⁴ **He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.**

⁵ You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,

⁶ **nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.**

⁷ A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

⁸ **You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.**

⁹ If you say, "The LORD is my refuge," and you make the Most High your dwelling,

¹⁰ **no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent.**

¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;

¹² **they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.**

¹³ You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

¹⁴ **"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him;**

I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

¹⁵ He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.

¹⁶ **With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."**

Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
as in the beginning, so now and forever. Amen.

The second reading is from Paul's first letter to Timothy, chapter 6 commencing at verse 6 to 19.

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with

many griefs. ¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen. ¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Song: As we are gathered

As we are gathered, Jesus is here,
one with each other, Jesus is here;
joined by the Spirit, washed in His blood,
part of the body, the Church of God.

As we are gathered, Jesus is here,
one with each other, Jesus is here.

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Hearing the Gospel of our Lord

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, chapter 16 verses 19-31. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁹ "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' ²⁵ "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' ²⁷ "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' ²⁹ "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' ³⁰ "No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' ³¹ "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

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

The Sermon: Who can bridge the chasm between Heaven and Hell

Hymn: Bless the Lord, O my Soul

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless His holy name!
He has done great things, He has done great things,
He has done great things,
bless His holy name.

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16th Sunday in Pentecost, 25th September 2022

The Apostles' Creed

Let us affirm the faith of the church,

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayer of the Week

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant us such a measure of your grace that, running in the way of your commandments, we may obtain your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers for the world and our community

Pray for civil leaders in our Southlakes and Lake Macquarie area, give wisdom to our local councillors, and for all who work for peace and justice in our local area of Lake Macquarie.

We praise you, Lord of all, for the gifts of Christ our ascended King: for apostles who take your Gospel to new places, for prophets who call your church to correction, for evangelists who carry your Gospel of truth into the world, for pastors who shepherd your flock, and for teachers who explain and educate your body of believers. We pray for all who do not know your love and have not heard the gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Open their eyes that they may see Jesus and remove the blindness which the enemy has placed over their sight. Send us out as your witnesses, and give us courage to seize every opportunity your Spirit offers, with our testimony of Jesus work in our lives.

Heavenly Father, We pray for those who work to alleviate suffering and hopelessness in our local community. We see these as ministers of peace and reconciliation to those who are hurt, abused, in danger and distress. We pray for those who work to alleviate poverty, domestic violence, homelessness, for support workers of the aged and disabled, for volunteers who work in Op shops, and those who work in the CRU centre. There are so many who desire to bring peace and restoration to those suffering the effects of sin in the world. We pray also for our local police officers and those who defend our freedom and safety. Give them courage and comfort in danger. Eternal Father, whose years extend through all generations: we have but a short span of life and we wear out as a garment: strength us and revive us by the power of your Spirit, grant to us the joy of your presence, and be with us in the time of old age and infirmity.

We give you thanks, O God, for the gift to the world of our Redeemer; as we pray for your glory to fill the earth, and that we may know your presence in our hearts; Jesus Christ our Saviour and our God, now and for ever. Amen.

We conclude by praying as our Saviour taught us:

**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 forever. Amen.

Deacon:

Confession

Let us, in reverence for God, confess our sins, mindful of God's promise to hear us.

**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. Strength us to love and obey you
in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Promise of Forgiveness

The God of all healing and forgiveness draws us to himself. God alone cleanses us from all our sins. Therefore, you are now forgiven. With clean hearts and pure minds, we are now free to behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Greeting of Peace

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also, with you.**

Giving and Offerings

Generous Father, we owe you, our gratitude. You have made us all that we are and all we hope to become. Your bountiful provision is too great for us to authentically understand – we can only wonder. Yet, thanksgiving often fails to proceed from our lips. Mostly we function as those who believe that your provision is due to our own talents and labour. Free us of this notion and make us grateful people once again, in Christ's name. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving and Communion

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 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.

By his death on the cross, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And now we give you thanks that you raised him to the life triumphant, and exalted him in glory.

By his victory over death, the reign of sin is ended, a new day has dawned,
a broken world is restored and we are made whole once more.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name, forever 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 bread and this 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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

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

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.

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 Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

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.**

Let us draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in our hearts with thanksgiving.

Communion Song: Jesus the Lord said 'I am the bread'

Jesus the Lord said: 'I am the bread,
the bread of life for the world am I,
the bread of life for the world am I,
the bread of life for the world am I.'

Jesus the Lord said: 'I am the bread,
the bread of life for the world am I.'

Jesus the Lord said: 'I am the way,
the true and living way am I,
the true and living way am I,
the true and living way am I.'

Jesus the Lord said: 'I am the way,
the true and living way am I.'

Jesus the Lord said: 'I am the Light,
the one true light of the world am I,
the one true light of the world am I,

the one true light of the world am I.'

Jesus the lord said: "I am the light,
the one true light of the world am I.'

Jesus the Lord said: 'I am the shepherd,
the one good shepherd of the sheep am I,
the one good shepherd of the sheep am I,
the one good shepherd of the sheep am I.'

Jesus the Lord said: 'I am the shepherd,
the one good Shepherd of the sheep am I.'

Jesus the Lord said: 'I am the life,
the Resurrection and the life am I,
the Resurrection and the life am I,
the Resurrection and the life am I,

Jesus the Lord said: 'I am the life,
the resurrection and the life am I.

Second Communion Song: The Lord is my shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.
Over the mountains, the waters and by-ways,
Valleys and highways he's waiting for me.

I want to go to meet him there,
To lay myself down in his love.
The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow
Wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.

And while on the journey to where we are going
he promised to be there to help us along
and over the mountains we'll walk on together,
to know all the wonders, he's given to me.

I want to go to meet him there,
To lay myself down in his love.
The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow
Wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.

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Announcements: Please refer to the church newsletter for notices.

Commitment to live out our worship of the Lord

Gracious God, we thank you that in this sacrament you assure us of your goodness and love. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving and help us to grow in love and obedience that we may serve you in the world and finally be brought to that table where all your saints feast with you for ever.

Most loving Father, you send us into the world you love. Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit.

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

We may think that today's service is over. But, let us hear the Spirit's whisper, 'your service has just begun.'

Deacon: Therefore, go in peace to love and serve the Lord, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: Bind us together

*Chorus: Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken;
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together,
O bind us together with love.*

There is only one God,
There is only one King,
There is only one Body,
That is why we sing:
Chorus

Made for the glory of God,
Purchased by His precious Son.
Born with the right to be clean,
For Jesus the victory has won.
Chorus

You are the family of God,
You are the promise divine,
You are God's chosen desire,
You are the glorious new wine.
Chorus

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