



**10am Congregation  
22 March 2020**

*Before you proceed, you are invited to watch Michael's brief introduction at <https://youtu.be/VkVIOvnce2o>*

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We are in a difficult time. But we have a God who is good, who loves us, and whose Son is risen and reigns forever. Despite our fears, he is in control, and he promises to be present with us.

So it is right that we gather in spirit to hear his comforting promises to us, to praise him, and to cast all our anxieties on him.

Spend a few seconds sitting still and quiet, focusing your heart and mind on our Lord. Say a prayer, asking that God would help you to focus on him today. Then, let us sing with confidence and hope in our risen Lord Jesus.

## **Christ Is Risen**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OX-Xt-vBYPc>

How can it be, the One who died,  
Has born our sin through sacrifice  
To conquer every sting of death?  
Sing, sing hallelujah.

For joy awakes as dawning light  
When Christ's disciples lift their eyes.  
Alive He stands, their Friend and King;  
Christ, Christ He is risen.

*Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!  
Oh, sing hallelujah.  
Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed;  
Christ is risen, He is risen indeed.*

Where doubt and darkness once had been,  
They saw Him and their hearts believed.  
But blessed are those who have not seen,  
Yet, sing hallelujah.

Once bound by fear now bold in faith,  
They preached the truth and power of grace.  
And pouring out their lives they gained  
Life, life everlasting.

The power that raised Him from the grave  
Now works in us to powerfully save.  
He frees our hearts to live His grace;  
Go tell of His goodness.

## Confession

**Titus 2:11** *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.*

As disciples of our Lord Jesus and our heavenly Father, we should confess our sin with a repentant and obedient heart, so that we may be forgiven through his boundless goodness and mercy.

So let us approach the throne of our gracious God, with a true heart in full assurance of faith, and pray together,

**Pray Together: Merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed too much the schemes and desires of our own hearts, and have broken your holy laws.**

**We have left undone what we ought to have done, and we have done what we ought not to have done. Yet, good Lord, have mercy on us; restore those who repent, according to the promises declared to us through your Son, Jesus Christ.**

**Grant, merciful Father, for his sake, that from now on, we may live godly and obedient lives, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Pray: Almighty God and loving Father, we rejoice that you forgive those who truly repent and sincerely believe in your Son. By your Holy Spirit, empower us to live godly, righteous and holy lives, as we look forward to eternal glory with you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Hearing God's Word

Pray: Thank you, Father, for making yourself known to us and showing us the way of salvation through faith in your Son. Teach us through your word and equip us for every good work, for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Bible Reading #1 – Psalm 1

- 1 Happy are those  
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread,  
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
- 2 but their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law they meditate day and night.
- 3 They are like trees  
planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper.
- 4 The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
- 6 for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

### Bible Reading #2 – Luke 11:27–28

While he was saying this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!” <sup>28</sup> But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!”

## Sermon

[https://youtu.be/X2\\_IAJDUjew](https://youtu.be/X2_IAJDUjew)

If you like, spend a few minutes reflecting on the sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? What will you do differently or new this week to live it out?

## Great Is Thy Faithfulness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErwiBz1QA4o>

"Great is Thy faithfulness, " O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

*"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
"Great is Thy faithfulness, " Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

## Apostle's Creed

Throughout time and throughout history, God's people have trusted in their Lord even in the most difficult of times. So let us join together in declaring our trust in our Lord, together with all of God's people.

**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.**

## Prayers

*Written by Michael Coyne*

Dear Loving Father. You are the loving God of all the nations and peoples on this earth. Please look with mercy and compassion on all you have created. This day we ask for your help. Please deliver us from the coronavirus and limit its impact on Australia and the world. In your mercy bring a swift end to this crisis. Please protect with your loving care those we love - our families, friends and neighbours. Let your fatherly hand guide, shelter and strengthen them. Cast out all anxious fears and doubts. Give us an increasing trust in you and fill our hearts and minds with your peace. We pray for those around the world now struggling with COVID -19. Heal and comfort those who are sick and suffering. Protect and guide the health

professionals who are at the front line. Please give wisdom and courage to those who bear responsibility for confronting this challenge. We ask these things through the powerful name of Jesus.

Lord of heaven and earth. Give wisdom to all those in authority in every land. We pray especially for Queen Elizabeth and Our Prime Minister Scott Morrison. We pray for Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Lord Mayor Clover Moore. Give them wisdom and wise counsel, that they may lead our communities to respond to this crisis with calm and generosity. Assist them to govern for the good of all. Enable our leaders to properly resource and support Police, Ambulance, and Fire services in such a way that our communities maintain peace and safety.

Lord God, please prosper the work of those who are seeking a vaccine for the coronavirus. Strengthen those who are treating the sick, and comfort those who are mourning the loss of loved ones or living in fear of disease. Protect health care workers from both infection, and the anxious frustrations of the patients they are treating.

Lord God, thank you that you have placed us into a community here at St Mark's so that we can encourage and care for one another. We pray that even though we are not able to meet face to face on Sunday now, that you will help us to find other ways to stay in touch and both encourage and be encouraged. Please guide our leaders Michael, Tim and David as they work out new ways of teaching and discipling us. We ask especially that you will keep them and their families safe and well! Please help all of our other leaders, our Connect Group Leaders, our Pastoral carers and our administrative staff to continue to exercise their ministries whilst keeping both themselves and those in their care free from this virus.

Please help each of us to use this period of enforced lockdown to draw nearer to You. We are reminded yet again of your total dependence upon You for all things – and Your great faithfulness in meeting our needs.

We commend to your keeping, Father, ourselves and each other; our families and our neighbours; our friends and all the people of this city. By your Spirit enable us to live in love for you and for one another. Help us to lay aside our own concerns. Focus our attention and care upon all who are most vulnerable and isolated among us. May we first pursue the good of those who are most anxious, fearful, sick, and the lonely. May we mirror to others, the Fatherly attention and care you daily show us.

Sovereign Lord, you alone are the hope and healer of your people. You have promised us the hope of a world where there will be no more sorrow, sickness, or dying. Comfort and heal, merciful Lord, all who are in sorrow, need, sickness, or any other trouble.

By Jesus death and resurrection you have set your people free from both the penalty of sin and the fear of death. Give us a firm trust in your goodness, and bring us into the joy of the bodily resurrection, and the fulfilment of all your precious promises.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

If you would like to do so, also spend some time giving thanks to God and praying for your own concerns.

**Pray together: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## It Is Well with My Soul

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nz3\\_ZQjk5RE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nz3_ZQjk5RE)

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll  
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say  
It is well, it is well, with my soul

*It is well  
With my soul  
It is well, it is well with my soul*

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,  
Even so, it is well with my soul.

## Closing Prayer

Pray: Eternal God and Father. By your power we are created and by your love we are redeemed. Please guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, so that we may give ourselves to your service and live this week in love to one another and to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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**Once you have finished, call or video-chat** with someone from church to discuss the readings and sermon and to pray together. Ask them how are they going and if they need anything.