

Dear Beloved,

may you have a blessed Easter as we celebrate our wonderful Lord and his love for us



Blessings
Wendy

Morning Tea after the Service in Cooma On 2nd and 4th Sundays
please volunteer for the roster.

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Autumn Open Garden Day 16th April Please pot plants up now and
give Nella any donations towards cost of the raffle prize and other expenses
Tickets are on sale at the Fabric Salon

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Nella also needs volunteers to help with tickets and raffle on the day

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Cakes, slices or sandwiches are needed for the Garden day
Please speak to Sarah Wall at church or ring 6452 1618 and leave a message if you
can provide a plate of food.

Food can be delivered to the church hall on the morning of the 16th April.

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Next Ladies Fellowship Lunch coming up
Talk to Jan.

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Midweek Services every Wednesday at 9/30 all Welcome

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Please volunteer for the roster, well in advance.
--
Concert on 11 June Details TBA
--
Prayer and Praise
Wendy
Edith and Colin Mayhew
--
Glenn Fletcher .. for his recovery

our wardens and Parish Councillors
--
Bernie and Gayle as they grieve for Bernie's Mum
--
Scott's wife Jennie.

Beattie Russell and Jenni Roberts in Yallambie.
--
Liz Pirie
Leanne Lowery
Mary Mitchell
--
Peter & Julie Harris from Bredbo

all congregations in Nimmitabel
--
The New Catholic priest Father Mark Croker as he ministers from Bombala
through to the mountains
--
for each other that we may be salt and light in this community
--
People everywhere who are living through war or disasters of every kind.



HYMN TIS 370 Christ the Lord is Risen today.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Sentence of Scripture

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast.

The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia! 1 Corinthians 5.7–8

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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, through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Two Great Commandments

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

Lord, have mercy on us: and write your law in our hearts by your Holy Spirit.

Prayer of the Day

Glorious Lord of life, by the mighty resurrection of your Son you overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, who celebrate with joy Christ's rising from the dead may be raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Acts 10.34-43

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. ³⁶ You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷ You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. ³⁹ 'We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, ⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen – by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Psalm 118.1-2; 118.14-24

¹ O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good: his mercy endures for ever.

² Let Israel now proclaim: that his mercy endures for ever.

¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my song: and has become my salvation.

¹⁵ The sounds of joy and deliverance: are in the tents of the righteous.

¹⁶ The right hand of the Lord does mighty things: the right hand of the Lord raises up.

¹⁷ I shall not die but live: and proclaim the works of the Lord.

¹⁸ The Lord has disciplined me hard: but he has not given me over to death.

¹⁹ Open me the gates of righteousness: and I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord: the righteous shall enter it.

²¹ I will praise you, for you answered me: and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected: has become the head of the corner.

²³ This is the Lord's doing: and it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Colossians 3.1–4

¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Matthew 28.1–10

¹ After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵ The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: "He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him." Now I have told you.' ⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. 'Greetings,' he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Let us pray for all people, and for the Church throughout the world.

Generous God, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we 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 forever. Amen.

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

Exhortation

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we who would come to the holy communion of the body and blood of our Saviour Christ must consider how St Paul exhorts us to examine ourselves before presuming to eat of that bread and drink of that cup.

For the benefit is great, if with a penitent heart and lively faith we receive that holy sacrament. We then spiritually eat the flesh of Christ and drink his blood; we dwell in Christ and he in us;

we are one with Christ and Christ with us. Yet also the danger is great if we receive the bread and cup unworthily. Judge yourselves therefore, that you be not judged of the Lord.

Repent truly of your sins, having a steadfast faith in Christ our Saviour. Amend your lives and love your neighbour. Above all, give hearty thanks to God for the redemption of the world by the death and passion of our Saviour Christ, truly God and truly human, who humbled himself to death on the cross for us sinners, that he might make us children of God, and raise us to eternal life.

You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God and walking in his holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to strengthen and comfort you. But first, let us make a humble confession of our sins to almighty God.

Invitation to Confession

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled and wandered far off. Let us then ask for mercy, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Confession

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we acknowledge with shame the sins we have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against your divine majesty, provoking most justly your wrath and indignation against us.

We earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for all our misdoings.

Have mercy on us, most merciful Father. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all who with hearty repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy on you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hear the words of assurance for those who truly turn to Christ.

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 Tim 1:15

Hymn TIS 361 The day of resurrection

THE LORD'S SUPPER

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 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 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, for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Glory to you, O Lord most high.

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.

But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.

Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

All glory to you, our heavenly Father, for in your tender mercy you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death on the cross for our redemption: who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until his coming again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that we who receive these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who on the night he was betrayed 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 which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' Likewise, after supper he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, 'Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' **Amen**

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life; take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life; drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you, and be thankful.

AFTER COMMUNION

Most glorious Lord of life,
we thank you that you nourish us in these Easter mysteries.
Fill us with the Spirit of love and unite us in faith,
that we may witness to the resurrection
and show your glory to all the world

Hymn TIS 360 Light's Reddening Dawn

Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you what is pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



Christ is Risen, He is risen indeed!

After Jesus had gone through that walking nightmare of betrayal, agony, separation, and death He is alive again. He went through all that suffering that we have remembered over these last few days and is now alive again. Despite knowing that he could trust his father he still would have much rather avoided that torment if there had been any other way, but he knew that this was the only way that we could be saved, and he knew that his Father was in control through it all. Now he is vindicated, now he is alive.

You can imagine the mixture of terror and delight that gripped the women who had gone to the tomb that morning. They had come to the tomb to mourn, to finish the anointing and wrapping that had not really been done on Friday evening because it had all been a bit rushed. Perhaps they were expecting peace and quiet to do the last loving things they could for the one they loved instead they got an earthquake, an angel, guards swooning and a message to deliver.



The angel refers to Jesus as 'the crucified one' which is not so clear in our translation which reads 'Jesus, who was crucified' but the original Greek makes it a title 'The crucified one' in perfect tense which indicates a completed act with ongoing consequences. Jesus' crucifixion was not a temporary episode in the career of the son of God, a past cancelled out, gone beyond, or exchanged at the resurrection for heavenly glory. As the risen one, he bears marks of his self-giving on the cross as his permanent character. As he later showed Thomas, he bears those marks, that suffering, for ever, for us.



These faithful, now joyful, women are not only the first witnesses of the empty tomb, but they also receive the first appearance of the risen Christ. As they ran to deliver the message Jesus 'meets' them, the Greek word means 'joins and accompanies' them. This usage is deliberate, Matthew wanted us to understand that when we meet Jesus, he thereafter joins us and accompanies us wherever we go, even when we cannot see him. Although or perhaps because this experience made them thunderstruck with amazement and fear these women remembered this day for the rest of their lives. The accounts of this day go back to genuine personal memory, told again and again.

God, as promised, had acted sovereignly in the situation. The God who remained apparently silent on Good Friday, has the last word. He answers the unspoken questions of Jesus' friends and Jesus' own spoken question from the cross. And what God did here is not just an extraordinary miracle, a display of supernatural power for its own sake, or a special favour for Jesus.

What God did is start something new, he began the new world promised long, sending the disciples to gentile Galilee in the first place but then on the ends of the earth with the news of what has happened. Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.



Notice that the disciples are called 'brothers' by Jesus himself. Those disciples who deserted him and fled, Peter who denied him three times, are brothers. The alienation has been healed from the divine side; the disciples can be told that they again/still belong to the family of believers. The women become not only witnesses and bearers of the resurrection message but agents of reconciliation.

These women were not proving a point or offering a new spiritual experience. They were doing what they had been told because God's purpose must be fulfilled. The disciples must see Jesus and that, when they see him, it will become a commissioning, an appointing to a new work, a new life, a new way of life in which everything Jesus had told them before will start to come true.



For those women that day, and all the disciples over the coming weeks their experience of the risen Christ was physical and real. We cannot today meet Jesus in the way that the women did that morning. Of course, it is a vital part of Christian belief that we can and do meet, join and accompany, Jesus in spirit. We get to know him as we worship him and learn from Him. That personal and intimate relationship with the living Lord is central to what being a Christian means in practice.

The resurrection tore a hole in normal history. This event changed the world for ever. It announced, not as a theory but as a fact that God's kingdom had come, that the son of man had been vindicated after his suffering and that there was dawning, not just a new day, not just a new week, not just a new month or even year in the history of the world but the start of the new age that would continue until the nations had been brought into obedience.



If you discount the resurrection of Jesus and assume that it is a nice story you leave Christianity without a gospel. There is amazing historical, secular proof that Jesus lived and died on a cross. The cross is the climax of the story, but it only makes sense if the one who died on the cross was then raised from the dead. All the great teachings of Jesus, the Sermon on the mount and all the rest are only relevant if Jesus is in fact the Messiah who rose from the dead. Jesus gave us the new law of love through which God's new way of being human has been unveiled.

As Peter said:

³⁷ You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

³⁹ “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross,⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.

⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.



The one who proclaimed God's blessing on his followers, the one who announced God's woes on those who would not believe, the one who healed the sick, and the one who spoke God's kingdom in parables is now the risen Lord.

Jesus meets us every day, he joins and accompanies us every day. We have only to acknowledge him, and he will make himself known. The crucified one, the risen Lord, bore all our sins, continues to bear all our sins out of his great love for us and is risen from the dead to live with us for ever. We are his beloved, his brothers and sisters despite everything we have ever done: denied betrayed, sinned; we are totally reconciled to him.

We can say with the Psalmist:

²³ This is the Lord's doing: and it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

He is Risen. His is risen indeed.

