St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne

Diocesan Ministry Conference

Tuesday 14 July 2026 3.15pm

Prayer

O Lord of the Harvest,
whose church is bought by Christ
and whose Spirit gives life

Give us great confidence in the work of your Son and Spirit.

Send workers into the harvest.
Grow us as disciples.
Raise up leaders to shepherd your people.
Renew your church in faith, hope and love.

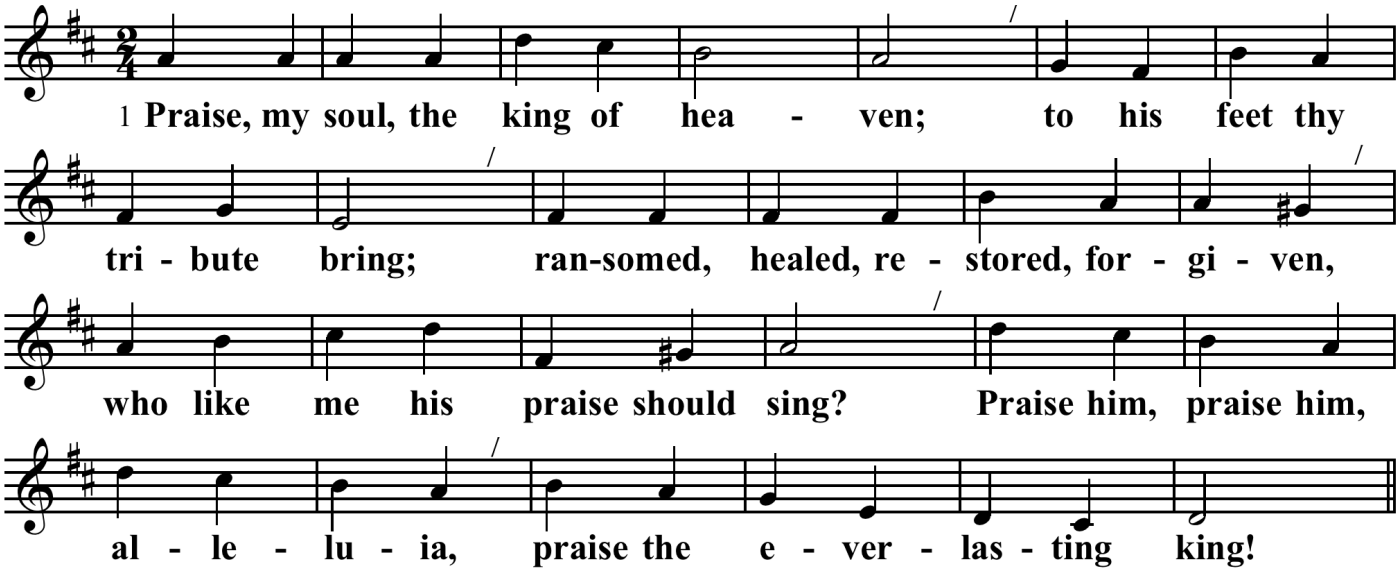
We ask this so that,

every disciple, leader and church will take faithfulsteps of ministry and mission,
for the glory of your Name,
and for the benefit of this world,
which you love and which we serve.

Amen.

Please stand and sing

The Gathering Hymn: Praise My Soul The King of Heaven



2
Praise him for his grace and favour
to our people in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless:
praise him, praise him, alleluia,
glorious in his faithfulness.

3
Father-like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
praise him, praise him, alleluia,
widely as his mercy flows!

4
Angels, help us to adore him,
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
praise him, praise him, alleluia,
praise with us the God of grace

Henry Francis Lyte (1793–1847) alt.
Australian Hymn Book 68

The Greeting and Opening Prayers

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
And also with you.

The Archbishop introduces the service.

Please now join me in saying together the 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.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, whose Son sought out the lost and welcomed home the wandering: grant us such sorrow for our sins and trust in your unfailing love, that, forgiven and restored, we may forgive one another, and know ourselves united as one family in Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

The First Reading

2 Corinthians 5.16–21

Read by the Revd Sarah Coe

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Please stand

The Gospel Reading

Luke 15.17-24a

Read by the Revd Lydia Thangadurai

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When the younger son came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of

your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!'

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

The Reflection

Please be seated

The Archbishop

A Time of Reflective Prayer

Please sit or kneel

- *What do I need to bring before Christ from this day?*
- *Where do I need to receive his mercy?*
- *Where might he be inviting me towards reconciliation, peace or renewed trust?*
- *What is God saying to me personally today?*

The Confession and Absolution

Please stand

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Trusting in God's forgiveness, and seeking to be reconciled with one another and with God, let us turn to him in penitence and faith, and humbly confess our sins.

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

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

Please stand

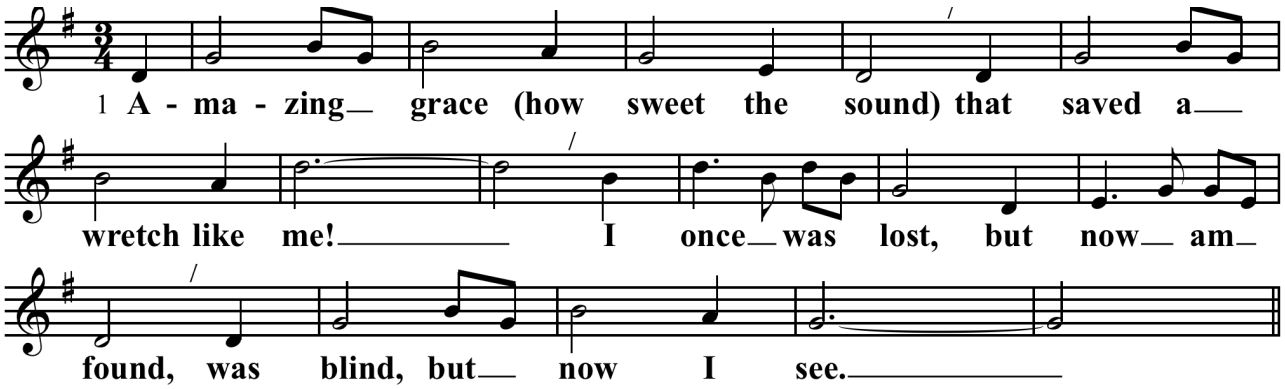
Alleluia, alleluia. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5.17

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

Please take time to share a sign of God's peace with those around you.

The Offertory Hymn – Amazing Grace



2
'Twas grace that taught
my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

3
Through many dangers,
toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4
The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

John Newton (1725-1807)
Australian Hymn Book 56

The Great 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.

All thanks and praise, glory and honour,
be yours at all times, in every place,
holy and loving Father, true and living God.

We praise you that through your eternal Word
you brought the universe into being
and made us in your own image.
You have given us this earth to care for and delight in,
and with its bounty you preserve our life.

We thank you that you bound yourself to the human race
with the promises of a gracious covenant
and called us to serve you in love and peace.

Above all, we give you thanks for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ:
born as one of us, he lived our common life
and offered his life to you in perfect obedience and trust.
By his death he delivered us from sin, brought us new life,
and reconciled us to you and to one another.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
with apostles, and prophets,
with holy men and women of every age,
we proclaim your great and glorious name:

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.

Holy God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine,
and we pray that we who eat and drink them
in obedience to our Saviour Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
may be partakers of his body and blood,
and be made one with him and with each other
in peace and love.

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.'

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

As we eat and drink this holy sacrament,
renew us by your Spirit
that we may be united in the body of your Son
and serve you as a royal priesthood
in the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Receive our praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom and in whom, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you in songs of never-ending praise:
Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Being made one by the power of the Spirit, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray, each in our own language,

Notre Père..., Padre nuestro..., Vater unser..., 我們在天上的父 ...,
हे हमारे स्वरगिक पिता..., Bapa kami..., E to matou Matua..., 天の父よ ...,
Ama namin..., Our Father who art ..., باپ ہمارے اے...، الَّذِي أَبَانَا...،

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.

The Breaking and Sharing of the Bread

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.**

The Invitation to Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, let us take this holy sacrament
of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us,
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The Communion Song – What A Beautiful Name It Is

You were the Word at the beginning
One With God, the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You, our Christ

What a beautiful Name it is,
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus, You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater
What could separate us now?

What a wonderful Name it is
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King
What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring, the praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again
You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever, God You reign
Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name, above all names

What a powerful Name it is
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King
What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Ben Fielding and Brooke Ligertwood
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The Prayer after Communion

Please stand

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace,
and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing and Dismissal

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit,
give to us contrite hearts. **Amen**.

May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree,
heal us by his wounds. **Amen**.

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth,
speak to us words of pardon and peace. **Amen**.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Organ Postlude

Hymn Prelude on 'Rhosymedre' – R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Played by Christopher Cook, Conference Organist

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