
ST THEODORE'S, TOORAK GARDENS

**ORDINARY 15
12 JULY 2026**



WELCOME

St Theodore's is an active, caring and supportive community which values liturgy, prayer and preaching to sustain our daily lives, as we seek to foster love, hope and justice to all. You are welcome here as you are, embraced within God's boundless love. We hope you will feel at home.

PRAYING WITH CANDLES AND STONES

As you enter the church, there are two stations for prayer. One is an invitation to light a candle, symbolising our praying for each other before God. The other is an invitation to drop stones into a bowl of water, symbolising letting go of something (or someone) weighing us down.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

- If there is a queue for the wine, please pause to avoid congestion.
- If you do not wish to drink the wine, you may wish to pause before the chalice to acknowledge the sacramental presence.
- The priest will come to you for communion or prayers, if need be.
- For health reasons, dipping bread into the wine is prohibited.

LIVE-STREAMING

Our 9:30am Sunday Service is live-streamed on YouTube. We endeavour not to show communicants coming forward for Holy Communion.

SUPPORTING OUR MINISTRY

St Theodore's depends on donations to sustain our ministry. You can contribute in person with Cash (Offertory Bowl) or Card (Eftpos Machine) at the church entrance. You can offer via bank transfer a regular gift to our Planned Giving account, or a donation to our FSP Donations account. We very much value your support.

Please email office@theodores.church to subscribe to our mailing list.

Please stand in body or in spirit

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: CP 220 "HOW BEAUTEOUS ARE THEIR FEET"

1 How beauteous are their feet,
who stand on Sion's hill,
who bring salvation on their tongues
and words of peace reveal!

2 How happy are our ears
that hear this happy sound,
which kings and prophets waited for,
and sought, but never found!

3 How blessed are our eyes
that see this heavenly light,
prophets and kings desired it long,
but died without the sight!

4 The Lord makes bare his arm
through all the earth abroad:
Let every nation now behold
their Saviour and their God.

Tune: Venice
Music: William Amps (1824-1910)
Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we gather in worship, we acknowledge the Kaurna People as the traditional owners and custodians of this land.

May we walk together in harmony in a spirit of reconciliation.

INVOCATION AND GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

† Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

WELCOME

OPENING SENTENCE

The words you have spoken are spirit and life, O Lord; you have the words of eternal life. (John 6.63, 68)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us pray.

**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.**

KYRIES

**Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

Silence may be kept.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

**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.
O God, 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.**

GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
† in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Bountiful God,
we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word:
by your Holy Spirit,
help us to receive it with joy, and to live according to it,
that we may grow in faith and hope and love;
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.**

Please be seated

FIRST READING: GENESIS 25.19-34

¹⁹ These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, ²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹ Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. ²² The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the Lord. ²³ And the Lord said to her,

'Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
one shall be stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the younger.'

²⁴ When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵ The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

²⁷ When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. ²⁸ Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. ³⁰ Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.) ³¹ Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' ³² Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?' ³³ Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

For the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 119.105-112

Response: Your commands are the joy of my heart

- ¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lantern to my feet:
and a light to my path.
- ¹⁰⁶ I have vowed and sworn an oath:
to keep your righteous judgements. **R**
- ¹⁰⁷ I have been afflicted beyond measure:
Lord, give me life according to your word.
- ¹⁰⁸ Accept, O Lord, the freewill offerings of my mouth:
and teach me your judgements. **R**
- ¹⁰⁹ I take my life in my hands continually:
yet I do not forget your law.
- ¹¹⁰ The wicked have laid a snare for me:
but I have not strayed from your precepts. **R**
- ¹¹¹ Your commands are my inheritance for ever:
they are the joy of my heart.
- ¹¹² I have set my heart to fulfil your statutes:
always, even to the end. **R**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8.1-11

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

For the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or in spirit

GRADUAL HYMN: CP 321 "RISE AND HEAR! THE LORD IS SPEAKING"

1 Rise and hear! The Lord is speaking,
as the gospel words unfold:
we, in all our agelong seeking,
find no firmer truth to hold.

2 Word of goodness, truth, and beauty,
heard by simple folk and wise,
word of freedom, word of duty,
word of life beyond our eyes.

3 Word of God's forgiveness granted
to the wild or guilty soul,
word of love that works undaunted,
changes, heals, and makes us whole.

4 Speak to us, O Lord, believing,
as we hear, the sower sows;
may our hearts, your word receiving,
be the good ground where it grows.

Tune: Sussex

Music: English traditional, adapted by
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Words: HCA Gaunt (1902-1983)

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THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**The seed is the word of God, Christ / is the sower.
All who come to him will have / life for ever**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23
‡ Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake.

² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil.

⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root,

they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears listen!

¹⁸ 'Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

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

SERMON

The sermon is followed by a time of silence for reflection.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The prayers are followed by a time of silence for reflection.

Conclusion:

Compassionate God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.
God's Spirit is with us.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN: CP 175 "COME DOWN, O LOVE DIVINE"

- 1 Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.
- 2 O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.
- 3 Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing:
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

4 And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till we become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes its dwelling.

Tune: Down Ampney
Music: Ralph Vaughan
Williams (1872-1958)
Words: Bianco Da Siena (*d*
1434) *tr* R F Littledale
(1833-1890)
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PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness
we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

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.

It is indeed right,
it is our duty, our joy and our salvation,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks to you, almighty and everlasting God,
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord.
For he is the true high priest,
who has freed us from our sins
and made us a royal priesthood
to serve you, our God and Father.
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 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 and gracious God,
all creation rightly gives you praise.
All life, all holiness, comes from you
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
whom you sent to share our human nature,
to live and die as one of us,
to reconcile us to you,
the God and Father of all.

Hear us, merciful Lord;
through Christ accept our sacrifice of praise;
and, by the power of your Word and Holy Spirit,
sanctify this bread and wine,
that we who share in this holy sacrament
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

Who, when his hour had come,
on the night before he went up to the cross
to make full atonement for the sins of the whole world,
offering once for all his one sacrifice of himself,
took bread and gave 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.'

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying,
'Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Therefore, in obedience to his command,
we commemorate and celebrate
his saving passion and death,
his mighty resurrection and ascension into heaven
and we eagerly await his coming again in glory.

We thank you that by your grace alone
you have accepted us in Christ;
and here we offer you a spiritual sacrifice,
holy and acceptable in your sight.

Through Christ, receive this our duty and service,
and grant that we who eat and drink these holy gifts
† may, by your Holy Spirit,
be one body in Christ,
and serve you in unity and peace.

In your grace and mercy,
bring us to the joy of your eternal kingdom
with all the company of the redeemed.
May we praise you in union with them,
and give you glory through your Son, Jesus Christ.
Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

we worship you, Father eternal,
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to 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 for ever. Amen.**

BREAKING 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.

AGNUS DEI

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.

This is the table of communion with the earth,
in which Christ became incarnate

So come to this table, those who have much faith
and those who would like to have more;

those who have been here often

and those who have not been for a long time;

those who have tried to follow Jesus;

and we who have failed.

Come.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. At the entrance of the church you are welcome to receive anointing for healing and to use our two stations of prayer, the bowl of water with stones and the bowl of candles.

After Communion has concluded, Please stand in body or in spirit.

POST-COMMUNION SENTENCE

Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light to my path. (Ps 119.105)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, giver of life,

Spirit moving among us,

in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord.

May we who celebrate this holy feast

walk in his risen light

and bring new life to all creation. **Amen**

PRAYER OF SELF-OFFERING

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

BLESSING

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.**

NOTICES

DISMISSAL

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

RECESSIONAL SP82 "You Shall Go Out with Joy"

- 1 You shall go out with joy
and come again in peace;
the mountains and the hills
shall sing and never cease;
the Son of God is ris'n again,
his love has conquered death's domain.

- 2 The trees in every field
shall clap their hands, and say
'Come shout aloud, and help
us celebrate this day!'
Jesus, the King, has burst the grave,
and lives once more to heal and save.

- 3 The Word, like rain or snow,
has come down from above,
and now reveals to all
God's purposes of love;
the Word made flesh, once dead, now lives,
new life to all he freely gives.

- 4 The myrtle for the briar,
the cypress for the thorn,
shall rise to tell the world
of its awaking dawn.
Jesus, the Life, the Truth, the Way,
has ushered in God's great new day.

Tune: Gopsal
Music: Melody and bass by G F
Handel (1685-1759)
Words: N T Wright (b 1948)
@ Sing Praise 2010
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**POSTLUDE: CHORALE PRELUDE 'ERBARM DICH MEIN, O HERRE GOTT'
BWV 721, J.S. BACH (1685-1750)**

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Today's *Thanksgiving* was composed by Rev'd Dr Matthew Anstey, in celebration of Stewart's 50 years as our Director of Music.

Where there is a † in the liturgy, you are invited to make a sign of the cross if you wish. When the Gospel is read and we say "† Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ", you are invited to make three tiny signs of the cross, on the forehead, on the lips and on the chest. This symbolises the Word of God in our minds, our words and our hearts.

Fellow Pilgrims

Only when I open the gates of my attention
do I notice the small green shrine in the leaf
as it trembles in the breeze, a sanctuary
so vibrant I can hardly believe I almost
missed it. And then, gates open, I see them
everywhere: the delicate pink shrine
of the wild rose, the quick streak of shrine
of the rooster as he races across the yard,
and there, at the edge of lawn beside the road,
the heart-leafed shrine of a volunteer sunflower,
its stalk upright, its bud still tight, and all around it
the lines where a mower clearly adjusted its course
so the sunflower might continue to grow. How I smile
then, knowing someone else was a pilgrim here first,
how their actions helped me, too, find my way to the holy.

-- *Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, June 2026*