



there must be
more to **life...**



Discover
Jesus.

Non-Eucharistic Liturgy

*Congregation, you are invited to say all that is **bold**.*

Please stand for our opening hymn:

Open our lips, Oh Lord, **and we shall declare your praise.**
This is the day the Lord has made, **we will rejoice and be glad in it.**
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Opening Sentence:

Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed. Revelation 15. 3-4

The Opening Canticle:

Yours is the power, Lord; you are the ruler of all peoples: grant peace in our days.

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our Father, for ever and ever.

**Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the victory and the majesty;
for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours.**

Your is the kingdom. O Lord,
and you are exalted as head above all.

Both riches and honour come from you, and you rule over all.

In your hand are power and might;
and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be, world without end. **Amen.** *1 Chronicles 29*

The Bible tells us to approach God confidently, through our Lord Jesus Christ. As we do so we must confess our sins, seeking forgiveness through God's boundless goodness and mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION : *A pause for self reflection*

Lord our Creator, Sanctifier, King and Redeemer:

**you have searched us out and know us,
and all that we are is open to you.**

We confess that we have sinned:

**we have used our power to dominate
and our weakness to manipulate;**

**We have evaded responsibility
and failed to confront evil;**

We have denied dignity

**to ourselves and to each other,
and fallen into despair.**

We turn to you, O God;

we renounce evil;

we claim your love;

we choose to be made whole.

We ask you to cleanse us from all hypocrisy,

**to unite us to our fellow women and men by the bonds of peace and love,
and to confirm us in holiness; now and forever. Amen**

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the perfect offering for our sins. 1 John 4.10

Bible readings as appointed for the day (you will find these in the pew sheet)

Reflections (please can all children come to the front with me for our first reflection time)

We now sit and reflect together:

Voice 1: I was hungry and you fed me. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink.

Voice 2: What do we all hunger and thirst for in our lives? We could answer, food, respect, shelter, a job, peace happiness, a word of encouragement, forgiveness, and love. There are many needs and many ways in which we can respond to people's needs. It may not involve major projects- it may be as simple as a smile or a friendly word of affirmation or gratitude. *(Pause)*

Voice 1: I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

Voice 2: Hospitality is a key gospel value. One scripture scholar has even referred to Jesus as the 'hospitality of God' welcoming of strangers is about our attitude to those who are different from us – be it looks, religion, culture, speech or talent. *(Pause)*

Voice 1: I was naked and you clothed me.

Voice 2: To be naked is to be without...without self-esteem, love, security, peace of mind. What else could be lacking from a person's life? How do we clothe another with friendship, encouragement, affirmations, a good reputation, with speaking the truth? *(Pause)*

Voice 1: I was sick and you took care of me.

Voice 2: Many forms of illness afflict people today. Recently a psychologist specialising in adolescence stated that one in five Australian students suffer some form of psychological problem. One solution he stated was to instil in students a sense of meaning and belonging. Who and what helps us to deal with such concerns in our lives? *(Pause)*

Voice 1: I was a prisoner and you visited me.

Voice 2: In what ways are we prisoners feeling unfree in our lives? What is it that binds us and prevents us from growing and living life to the full? Fear can bind us, so can guilt or loneliness or insecurity. How can a positive outlook melt our fears? (Pause)

Please choose one of the pictures. You might like to use it for your Advent focus.

Stretch forth your hand, God of Compassion. Relieve the suffering of those whose trust has been harmed by any who should have provided care. Bring healing to the memories of all who are still haunted by the events of the past. Enable family and friends to give support and love. Enfold us all in the love and mercy which comes through your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ. You are a King who cares deeply for his people. May we search out those in need, so that love and justice will reign as the Kingdom of God is brought forth within us. We ask our prayer in your name and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn:

Let your requests be made known unto God. **In everything give thanks.**

** Various intercession prayers led by members of the congregation.*

Let us stand and affirm our faith in the Apostle's creed:

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 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.**

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

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

** As is a custom in this church, let us offer a sign of God's peace to one another.*

Hymn and collection:

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.**

As Jesus has taught us, so 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 for ever. Amen.

Concluding Prayers:

Almighty, ever-living God, it is your will to unite the entire universe under your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, the King of heaven and earth. Grant freedom to the whole of creation and let it praise and serve your majesty for ever. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Lord of the past and the future: we thank you for this past Church Year. We thank you for the fellowship and joy of our worship together as a community. We pray for the coming year, that we may benefit from the teaching and wisdom of the church and grow in faith and knowledge of You, **Amen.**

Let us go from here rejoicing that God loves us with open arms. As children of God we take his love into the world that others may also rejoice and be part of his family. **Amen**

Diocesan Prayer for this year:

Lord Jesus, you call us to be your disciples and friend; help us to journey with you on the way of life toward the Father. Enable us by the Spirit to discover not only the fullness of who you are, but also the fullness of life you offer to each one of us.

Amen.

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Please stand:

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

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen

Concluding Hymn

Please print enough copies for all of your congregation to be able to choose one image

