

Welcome! Haere Mai!
St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday, 17 May 2026
Easter 7 (Sunday after Ascension)

Processional Hymn:

Alleluia, Alleluia
Give thanks to the risen Lord
Alleluia, alleluia
give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth
He is the king of creation.

Alleluia, Alleluia
Give thanks to the risen Lord
Alleluia, alleluia
give praise to his name.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth
Jesus has died and has risen.

Alleluia, Alleluia
Give thanks to the risen Lord
Alleluia, alleluia
give praise to his name.

We have been crucified with Christ,
now we shall live for ever.

Alleluia, Alleluia
Give thanks to the risen Lord
Alleluia, alleluia
give praise to his name

Come let us praise the Living God
Joyfully sing to our Saviour.

Alleluia, Alleluia
Give thanks to the risen Lord
Alleluia, alleluia
give praise to his name

Welcome and Greeting:

Alleluia Christ is Risen
Christ is risen indeed, alleluia
Amen.

Call to Worship:

E te whānau a te Karaiti, welcome to this holy table; welcome to you, for we are Christ's body, Christ's work in the world. Welcome to you whose baptism makes you salt of the earth and light to the world.

Rejoice and be glad. Praise God who gives us forgiveness and hope.

Amen. Christ is our light, the joy of our salvation.

Praise and glory to Christ, God's new beginning for humanity making ritual water gospel wine, cleansing all our worship.

Love and loyalty to Christ Who gives us the gospel.

Praise to Christ Who calls us to holiness.

Song of Praise:

Christ is the good Shepherd who knows and cares for every one of the sheep in different folds. In Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile; in Christ there is no discrimination of gender, class or race. In Christ the poor are blessed; the simple receive truth hidden from the wise.

Alleluia! God of justice and compassion
You give us a work to do and a baptism
of suffering and resurrection.

**From You comes the power to give to others
the care we have ourselves received,
so that we and all who love Your world,
may live in harmony and trust.**

Confession:

We come seeking forgiveness for all we have failed to be
and do as members of Christ's body.

Silence

In God there is forgiveness.

**Loving and all-seeing God, forgive us where we have failed
to support one another and to be what we claim to be.**

**Forgive us where we have failed to serve You;
and where our thoughts and actions have been
contrary to Yours we ask Your pardon.**

Absolution:

God forgives us; be at peace.

Silence

Rejoice and be glad, for Christ is resurrection,
reconciliation for all the human race.

**We shall all be one in Christ, one in our life together.
Praise to God who has created us,
praise to God who has accepted us,
praise to God who sends us into the world.**

Sentence:

This is eternal life, that we may know you, the only true God, and
Jesus Christ whom you have sent. *John 17:3*

Collect:

**Christ our great high priest,
you understand our weakness;
you pray for us while we are sinners.
Help us, through you,
to find a new and living way to God;
for the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles: Acts 1:1-14

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 47

Clap your hands all you peoples:
cry out to God with shouts of joy.

For the Lord most high is to be feared:
and is the great sovereign over all the earth.

The Lord has subdued the peoples under us:
and the nations under our feet.

The Lord chose a land to be our heritage:
it is the pride of Jacob whom God loves.

God has gone up with shouts of triumph:
the Lord has gone up with a fanfare of trumpets.

Sing praises, sing praises to God:
sing praises, sing praises to our king.

For God is the king of all the earth:
sing praises with your utmost skill.

God reigns over the nations:
God is seated on a holy throne.

The princes of the nations assemble:
with the people of the God of Abraham.

For the mighty ones of the earth have become the servants of God:
the Lord is exalted over all.

**Glory to God, Source of all being, Incarnate Word,
and Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and
will be forever. Amen.**

A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians: *Ephesians 1: 15-23*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn:

Fight the good fight with all your might,
Christ is your strength, and Christ your right;
lay hold on life, and it shall be
your joy and crown eternally,

Run the straight race though God's good grace,
lift up your eyes, and seek his face:
life with its way before you lies
Christ is the path and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on your guide,
his boundless mercy will provide;
trust, and your trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

Faint not, not fear, his arms are near;
he does not change, and you are dear;
only believe and Christ shall be
your all-in-all eternally.

Gospel:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

John 17: 1-11

Praise and glory to God.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ, the Word.

Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith:

**You, O God are supreme and holy
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to You.
You have revealed and proved Your love for us in Jesus Christ,
Who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be Your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; You overcome death.**

**You are our God.
We worship You.**

Prayers of the People:

Let us pray for the Church and the world giving thanks for God's goodness.

Today we pray for the bishops, clergy and people of our Dioceses and Hui Amorangi, and for the RSA Mount Maunganui, the RNZAF and the Training Ship Chatham Sea Cadets Chaplain in Tauranga.

We pray also for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Craig, Viv, Lawrence, Lynda, Reg, Jon, Angela R.

**Praise to You abundant God, for when we ask, You give;
when we seek, You show the way.
When we knock, You answer.
Praise to You for Your unfailing grace.
Make us now Your faithful people. Amen.**

The Peace:

Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace.

Who breaks down the walls that divide.

The peace of God be always with you.

Praise to Christ Who unites us in peace.

Offertory Hymn:

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

The Great Thanksgiving:

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Lift your hearts to heaven.

Where Christ in glory reigns.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is the joy of our salvation, God of the universe, to give You thanks through Jesus Christ.

You said: 'Let there be light'; there was light. Your light shines on in our darkness. For You the earth has brought forth life in all its forms.

You have created us to hear Your Word, to do Your will and to be fulfilled in Your love. It is right to thank You. You sent Your Son to be for us the way we need to follow and the truth we need to know.

You sent Your Son to give His life to release us from our sin. His cross has taken our guilt away.

Christ is risen from the dead.

Love is come again:

Christ is sovereign over space and time.

You send Your Holy Spirit to strengthen and to guide, to warn and to revive Your Church.

Therefore, with all Your witnesses who surround us on every side, countless as heaven's stars, we praise You for our creation and our calling with loving and with joyful hearts.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just, glory and goodness come from You. Glory to You, most high and gracious God.

Blessed are You, most holy in Your Son, who washed His disciples' feet. 'I am among you' He said, 'as one who serves.'

On that night before He died, He took bread, and gave You thanks. He broke it, gave it to His disciples and said:

'Take eat this is My body, which is given for you;
do this to remember Me.'

After supper, He took the cup, and gave You thanks.
He gave it to them and said:

'Drink this. It is My blood of the new covenant
shed for you, shed for all to forgive sin;
do this to remember Me.

Therefore, with this bread and wine we recall Your goodness to us.

**God of the past and the present, we Your people remember
Your Son. We thank You for His cross and rising again,
we take courage from His ascension; we look for His
coming again in glory, and in Him we give ourselves to You.**

Send Your Holy Spirit, that we who receive Christ's body
may indeed be the body of Christ, and we who share His cup
draw strength from the one true vine.

**Called to follow Christ, help us to reconcile and unite.
Called to suffer, give us hope in our calling.**

For You the heavenly One make all things new;
You are the beginning and the end, the last and the first.

**Praise, glory, and love be Yours, this and every day,
from us and all people, here and everywhere. Amen.**

Silence

As our Lord has taught us, let's 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.
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 of Bread:

Christ's body was broken for us on the cross.

Christ is the bread of life.

His blood was shed for our forgiveness.

Christ is risen from the dead.

The Invitation:

Come God's people, come to receive Christ's heavenly food.

Post Communion Sentence:

Tender God,
we have seen with our eyes
and touched with our hands
the bread of life.
Strengthen our faith
that we may grow in love for you and for each other;
through Jesus Christ the risen Lord.

Prayers after Communion:

Blessed be God who calls us together.

Praise to God who makes us one people.

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.

Praise God who gives hope and freedom.

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed.

Praise to God who is revealed as love.

Blessed be God who alone has called us.

**Therefore, we offer all that we are
and all that we shall become.**

Accept O God, our sacrifice of praise.

**Amen. Accept our thanks for all You have done.
Our hands were empty, and You filled them.**

Blessing:

May Christ, who is human and divine, who is of heaven and also of earth, lift up your hearts, lift up your lives to God...

and the blessing of God, Source of All Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit rest upon you, those you love, those who love you and those you struggle to love, this day and always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn:

Christ is ascending
let creation sing:
suffering is ending,
now Christ rules as King.
Friends who stand disheartened
soon are helped to know
Christ shall come in glory,
as they see him go

*Christ is ascending, let creation sing:
suffering is ending,
now Christ rules as King.*

Watch the out-pouring
from our Lord above,
Pentecost restoring
faith and hope and love;
brothers shall see visions,
sisters prophesy,
sun and stars be darkened,
wonders fill the sky!

*Christ is ascending, let creation sing:
suffering is ending,
now Christ rules as King.*

Come, Holy Spirit,
strengthen us today:
let us each inherit
gifts from Christ we pray;
not for praise by others,
but that they may give
glory to the Father
by whose power we love!

*Christ is ascending, let creation sing;
suffering is ending,
now Christ rules as King.*

Dismissal:

Haere i runga i te rangimarie, i runga i te aroha,
me te ngakau hihiko, ki te mahi, ki te Ariki.

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

This service comes from "A New Zealand Prayer Book: He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa" p. 476
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