

ST STEPHEN'S UNITING CHURCH

197 Macquarie St, Sydney

An Oasis of Christian Worship, Thought and Action

Minister: Position Vacant
Director of Music: Mark Quarmby
Choral Conductor: Dr David Hood
Organ Scholar: Benjamin McKenzie



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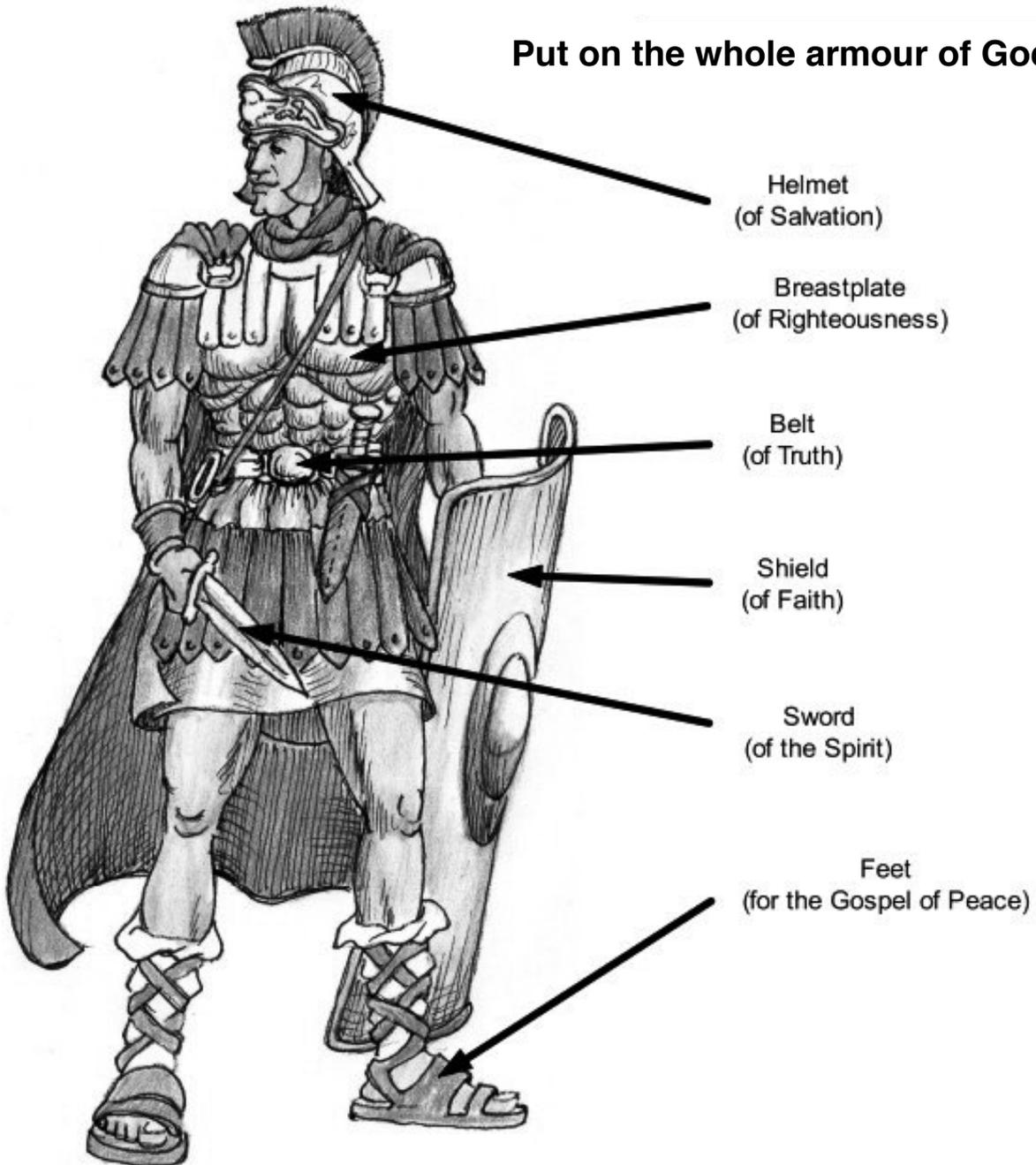
23 August 2015 – 10 am

MORNING WORSHIP

Pentecost 13

Led by Rev. Ross Smith

Put on the whole armour of God



The Gathering of the People of God

Organ Prelude

Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ BWV 639 - J S Bach (1685 - 1750)
[I call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ]

Please stand at the entry of the choir and clergy and remain standing for the...

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Call to Worship

Hymn 133 *O worship the King* (Hanover)

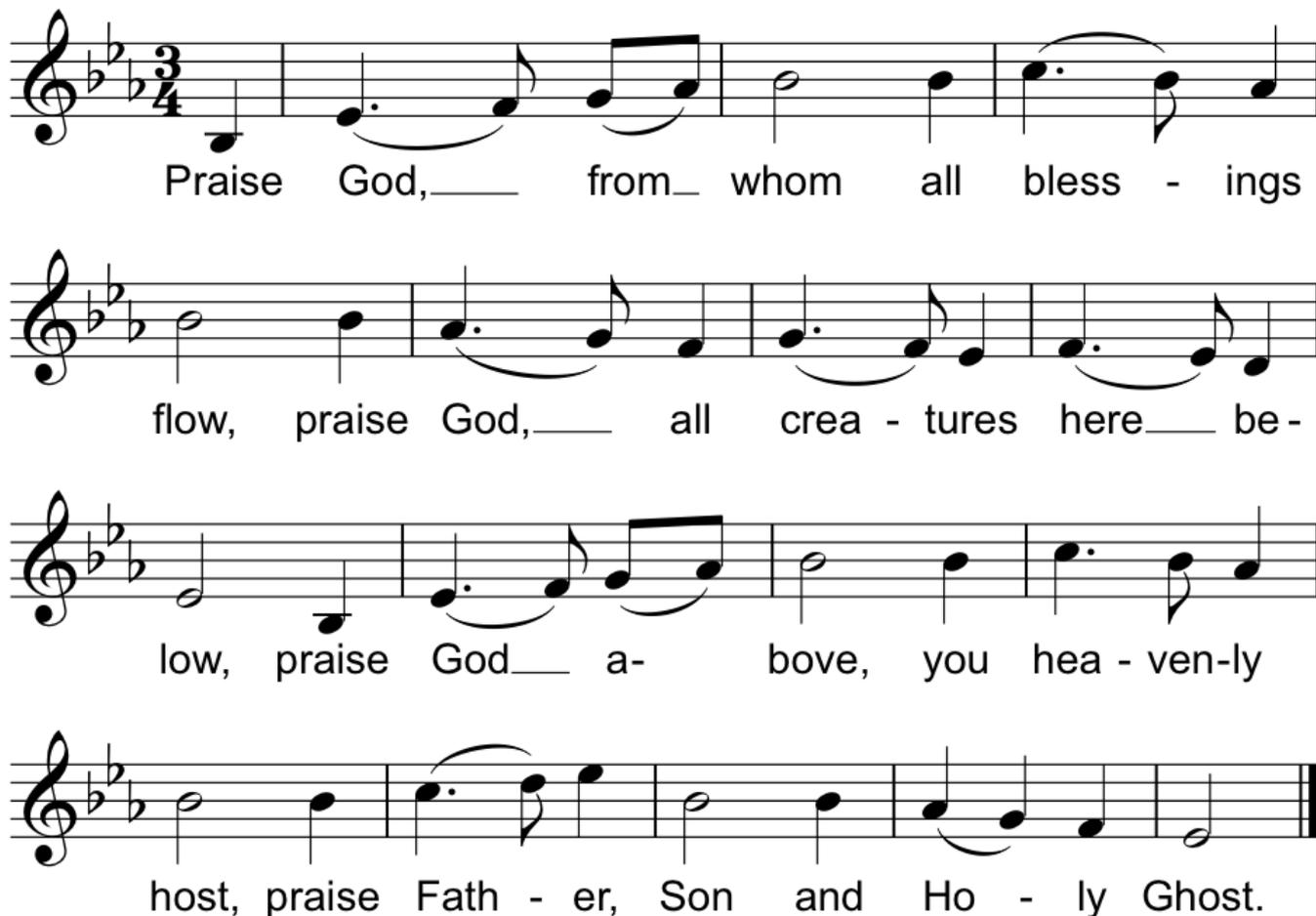
Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

...This is the Gospel.

Thanks be to God.

Doxology 768 *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow* (ii. Fairhill)



Praise God, from whom all blessings
flow, praise God, all creatures here be-
low, praise God above, you hea - ven-ly
host, praise Fath - er, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Congregational greeting and welcome to visitors and newcomers

The Service of the Word

Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet: **A light to our path.**

First Reading

1 Kings 8: 22-30, 41-43

22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. **23** He said, "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, **24** the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. **25** Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, "There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' **26** Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David. **27** "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! **28** Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; **29** that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, "My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. **30** Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

41 "Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name **42** —for they shall

hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, **43** then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

Hymn 144 *Lord, you have been our dwelling place*
(Luther)

[based on Psalm 84]

Second Reading *Ephesians 6: 10-20*

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. **11** Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **12** For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. **13** Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. **14** Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. **15** As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. **16** With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the helmet

of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. **18** Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. **19** Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, **20** for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, **2** and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Anthem

Ave Verum Corpus

Text: 14th century

Music: Edward Elgar (1857 - 1934)

*Ave, verum corpus
natum ex Maria Virgine,
Vere passum immolatum
in cruce pro homine,
Cujus latus perforatum
vero fluxit sanguine,
Esto nobis praegustatum
mortis in examine.*

Hail, true body
born of the Virgin Mary,
Who truly suffered, sacrificed
on the Cross for man,
Whose pierced side overflowed
with water and blood,
Be for us a foretaste
In the test of death.

Gospel Reading

John 6: 56-69

56 Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. **57** Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. **58** This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." **59** He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. **60** When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" **61** But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? **62** Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? **63** It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. **64** But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. **65** And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." **66** Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. **67** So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" **68** Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. **69** We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

May your word live in us:

And bear much fruit to your glory.

Hymn 611 God of grace and God of glory (Bryn Calfaría)

Sermon *Get ready for a fight*

Hymn 594 *Fight the good fight* (Duke Street)

Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

We stand to sing...

The Lord's Prayer

Albert H Malotte

Lento, religioso

Our Fa - ther, _____ which art in heav - en _____
pp

Hal-low-ed be _____ thy name _____ Thy king-dom come.
p

Thy will be done on earth, As it is in heav - en _____
mp *p*

Give us this day our dai - ly bread. And for-give us our
pp *p*

tres - pass - es As we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us.

And lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion; But de -
mp

liv - er us from e - vil: For thine is the king - dom, _____ and the
mf *f*

pow - er, _____ and the glo - ry, _____ for ev - er. _____
ff

_____ A - men. _____
f *mf* *p* *pp*

Offering

Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering.

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 570 *Soldiers of Christ, arise, and put your armour on*
(From Strength to Strength)

Blessing

... and remain with you always.

Dismissal

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

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude

Dialogue (from 'Suite du Second Ton')

Jean-Adam Guilain (1680 - 1739)