



## Easter 7-17 May 2026 St Matthew's-Holland Park

### The High Priestly Prayer

**Introduction:** The **High Priestly Prayer** is a significant passage found in the Gospel of John, chapter 17. This prayer is delivered by Jesus Christ shortly before His arrest and crucifixion. It is often referred to as the "High Priestly Prayer" because it reflects **Jesus' role as the intercessor between God and humanity**, akin to the high priest in the Old Testament who interceded for the people of Israel.

**Context:** The prayer occurs after the Last Supper and before Jesus' betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane. It is part of the Farewell Discourse (John 13-17), where Jesus prepares His disciples for His impending departure. This prayer is unique to the Gospel of John and is considered one of the most profound and intimate moments of Jesus' ministry.

**Structure and Themes:** The High Priestly Prayer can be divided into three main sections:

- 1. Jesus Prays for Himself (John 17.1-5):** Jesus begins by addressing the Father, acknowledging the hour has come for His glorification through the crucifixion and resurrection. He prays, "**Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may glorify You**" (John 17.1). Jesus seeks to complete the work given to Him, emphasizing the eternal life He offers through knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.
- 2. Jesus Prays for His Disciples (John 17.6-19):** Jesus intercedes for His disciples, whom He has chosen out of the world. He prays for their **protection, unity, and sanctification**. He states, "I am not asking that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one" (John 17.15). Jesus emphasizes the importance of truth, asking the Father to sanctify them by the truth, which is His word.
- 3. Jesus Prays for All Believers (John 17.20-26):** Extending His prayer beyond the immediate circle of disciples, Jesus prays for all future believers who will come to faith through their message. **He desires unity among believers**, mirroring the unity between the Father and the Son: "I have given them the glory You gave Me, so that they may be one as We are one" (John 17.22). Jesus expresses His longing for believers to be with Him and to witness His glory.

**Theological Significance:** The High Priestly Prayer reveals the intimate relationship between Jesus and the Father, highlighting the divine mission of salvation. It underscores the **themes of glory, unity, truth, and love**. **Jesus' prayer for unity among believers** is particularly significant, reflecting the oneness of the Trinity and serving as a model for the Church.

## Conclusion:

The High Priestly Prayer remains a profound testament to **Jesus' love and concern for His followers, both present and future**. It encapsulates His mission and the heart of His ministry, offering **a glimpse into the divine plan for redemption and the eternal relationship between God and His people**.

[May 17, 2026 - Easter 7A Archives - Center for Excellence in Preaching; Discipleship Ministries | Week 6 – Seventh Sunday of Easter, Year A; Sunday 17 May 2026 - The Methodist Church; 17 May 2026 - Seventh Sunday of Easter – Year A | The Church of Scotland'](#)

**St Matt's Anglicare HC Service** Wed 27 May 10.30

**Ladies Morning Tea Invitation** 10am 27 June Contact Patricia or Annette

**Wine and Cheese Evening 17 July-Kiwi Theme**-Please bring your Kiwiana

**Bible Study Lady Chapel** 10am Friday

**Meditation** 27/5 Wednesday night 5pm

**Op Shop** Every Thursday 9-12 and 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of month

**Wear or bring something Red for Pentecost**

**Next Sunday Pentecost** 9am 7- 17 May: Acts 2.1-21; Psalm 104.26-36;

**1 Corinthians 12.1-13; Gospel: John 20.19-23 Red**

**Ecumenical Pentecost 24 May 2-3.30-**

**Living Water Uniting Church, 481 Broadwater Rd, Mansfield 4122**

## **Parish Directory:**

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Parish website : <https://www.stmatthewshollandpark.com/>

Parish Private Facebook site : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292308270851142>

Public Site: <https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewsHollandPark> ;

Tipper's Treasure's FB site: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559040358754>

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY:**

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Turrbal and Jagera Peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today. We acknowledge their continued spiritual connection to country and surrounding land, sky and water. We pay our respect to their Elders, past present and emerging and pray that we may continue to learn from and nurture one another in the spirit of Reconciliation.