



## Holy Communion

9.30am – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

### Gathering and Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you

Alleluia. Christ is risen

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia, <sup>167</sup>  
to his throne above the skies; Alleluia,  
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, Alleluia,  
enters now the highest heaven. Alleluia!

There for him high triumph waits;  
lift your heads, eternal gates.  
He hath conquered death and sin;  
take the King of Glory in.

Still for us he intercedes,  
his prevailing death he pleads;  
near himself prepares our place,  
he the first-fruits of our race.

Lord, though parted from our sight,  
far above the starry height,  
grant our hearts may thither rise,  
seeking thee above the skies. Art

Charles Wesley | Robert Williams | Thomas Cotterill ©

**Welcome** – Revd. Philip Sudell

### Prayers of Penitence

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God. Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

### Confession

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

### Assurance of forgiveness

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We sing the

### Gloria

Glory to God, Glory to God  
Glory to God in the highest,

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God, Glory to God  
Glory to God in the highest,

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.

Glory to God, Glory to God  
Glory to God in the highest,

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.

Glory to God, Glory to God  
Glory to God in the highest.

## The Collect

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All:       Amen.

## The Liturgy of the Word

### New Testament Reading

Acts 16:16-34

<sup>16</sup> Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, 'These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.' <sup>18</sup> She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned round and said to the spirit, 'In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!' At that moment the spirit left her.

<sup>19</sup> When her owners realised that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place to face the authorities.

<sup>20</sup> They brought them before the magistrates and said, 'These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar <sup>21</sup> by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practise.'

<sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and

the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. <sup>24</sup> When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. <sup>27</sup> The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted, 'Don't harm yourself! We are all here!'

<sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> He then brought them out and asked, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'

<sup>31</sup> They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.' <sup>32</sup> Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. <sup>33</sup> At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptised. <sup>34</sup> The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God – he and his whole household.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All:       Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

Psalm 97

The Lord is King! Let the earth rejoice.

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is king: let the earth rejoice; •  
let the multitude of the isles be glad.

<sup>2</sup> Clouds and darkness are round about him; •  
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

The Lord is King! Let the earth rejoice.

<sup>3</sup> Fire goes before him • and burns up his enemies on every side.

<sup>4</sup> His lightnings lit up the world; • the earth saw it and trembled.

<sup>5</sup> The mountains melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, • at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

**The Lord is King! Let the earth rejoice.**

<sup>6</sup> The heavens declared his righteousness, • and all the peoples have seen his glory.

<sup>7</sup> Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in mere idols. • Bow down before him, all you gods.

**The Lord is King! Let the earth rejoice.**

<sup>8</sup> Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced, • because of your judgements, O Lord.

<sup>9</sup> For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth; • you are exalted far above all gods.

**The Lord is King! Let the earth rejoice.**

<sup>10</sup> The Lord loves those who hate evil; • he preserves the lives of his faithful and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

**The Lord is King! Let the earth rejoice.**

<sup>11</sup> Light has sprung up for the righteous • and joy for the true of heart.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, • and give thanks to his holy name.

**The Lord is King! Let the earth rejoice.**

## **New Testament Reading**

**Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21**

<sup>12</sup> 'See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.' <sup>14</sup> Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

<sup>16</sup> 'It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.' <sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let everyone who hears say, 'Come.' And let everyone who is

thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

<sup>20</sup> The one who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

<sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel**

The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Matthew 22:1-14**

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup> 'The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup> He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. <sup>4</sup> 'Then he sent some more servants and said, "Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet."

<sup>5</sup> 'But they paid no attention and went off – one to his field, another to his business. <sup>6</sup> The rest seized his servants, ill-treated them and killed them. <sup>7</sup> The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

<sup>8</sup> 'Then he said to his servants, "The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. <sup>9</sup> So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find." <sup>10</sup> So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the

bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup> 'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. <sup>12</sup> He asked, "How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?" The man was speechless.

<sup>13</sup> 'Then the king told the attendants, "Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

<sup>14</sup> 'For many are invited, but few are chosen.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

**Sermon** – Revd. John Lenton  
*The kingdom of heaven is like...*  
4. *The wedding banquet*

## Profession of Faith

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down  
from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy  
Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made  
man. For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was  
buried. On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at  
the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the  
living and the dead, and his kingdom will  
have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds  
from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is  
worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and  
apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins. We look for the  
resurrection of the dead, and the life of the  
world to come. Amen.

## Prayers of Intercession

This response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

And at the end: Merciful Father,  
Accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his  
disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'  
Then were they glad when they saw the  
Lord. Alleluia. The peace of the Lord be  
always with you.

All: And also with you.

The bread and wine are brought to the Lord's Table

The head that once was crowned with  
thorns

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is crowned with glory now:  
a royal diadem adorns  
the mighty Victor's brow.

The joy of all who dwell above,  
the joy of all below,  
to whom he manifests his love,  
and grants his name to know.

To them the cross, with all its shame,  
with all its grace, is given:  
their name, an everlasting name,  
their joy, the joy of heaven.

The cross he bore is life and health,  
though shame and death to him;  
his people's hope, his people's wealth,  
their everlasting theme.

Jeremiah Clarke | Thomas Kelly ©

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks  
to the Lord our God

All: **It is right to give  
thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
almighty and eternal Father, and in these  
days of Easter to celebrate with joyful  
hearts the memory of your wonderful  
works. For by the mystery of his passion  
Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered  
the powers of death and hell and restored  
in men and women the image of your glory.  
He has placed them once more in paradise  
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.  
And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth  
and heaven resound with gladness, while  
angels and archangels and the powers of all  
creation sing for ever the hymn of your  
glory.

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.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his  
command, grant that by the power of your  
Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood; who,  
in the same night that he was betrayed,  
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember  
his offering of himself made once for all  
upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty  
resurrection and glorious ascension; we  
look for the coming of your kingdom, and  
with this bread and this cup we make the  
memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus.

All: **Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and  
as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the  
presence of your divine majesty, renew us  
by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and  
unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus  
Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who  
stand before you in earth and heaven, we  
worship you, Father almighty, in songs of  
everlasting praise:

All: **Blessing and honour and glory and  
power be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour  
has taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be  
thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be  
done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us  
this day our daily bread. And forgive us our  
trespasses, as we forgive those who  
trespass against us. And lead us not into



temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

## The Breaking of Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

## Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

## The Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

## Prayer after Communion

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Church family news

Crown him with many crowns, 166  
the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King  
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love;  
behold his hands and side,  
those wounds yet visible above  
in beauty glorified:  
no angel in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning eye  
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace,  
whose power a sceptre sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
and all be prayer and praise:  
his reign shall know no end,  
and round his pierced feet  
fair flowers of paradise extend  
their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years,  
the Potentate of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime:  
all hail, Redeemer, hail!  
for thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail  
throughout eternity.

## Blessing

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All:        **Amen**

## Dismissal

He is not here. He is risen.

Go in peace to love  
and serve the Lord.

All:        **In the name of Christ. Amen**

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## Readings for next Sunday

8th June – Pentecost

2 Chronicles 20:1-17

Psalm 104:26-37

Acts 2:1-21

John 14:8-17