



## Holy Communion

9.30am – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025

3<sup>rd</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.

*Alleluia alleluia*

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*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...*

Spread the good news o'er all the earth

Jesus has died and has risen

*Alleluia alleluia...*

We have been crucified with Christ

Now we shall live forever

*Alleluia alleluia...*

God has proclaimed the just reward

Life for all men alleluia

*Alleluia alleluia...*

Come let us praise the Living God

Joyfully sing to our Saviour

*Alleluia alleluia...*

**Welcome** – Revd Philip Sudell

### Prayers of Penitence

Christ our Passover lamb has been  
sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by  
putting away all malice and evil and  
confessing our sins with a sincere and true  
heart.

### 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

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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 9:1-20

<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'

<sup>5</sup> 'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked.

'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. <sup>6</sup> 'Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'

<sup>7</sup> The men travelling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did

not see anyone. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

<sup>10</sup> In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, 'Ananias!'

'Yes, Lord,' he answered.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord told him, 'Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. <sup>12</sup> In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.'

<sup>13</sup> 'Lord,' Ananias answered, 'I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.'

<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. <sup>16</sup> I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.'

<sup>17</sup> Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord – Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here – has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>18</sup> Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptised, <sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. <sup>20</sup> At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All:       **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

### Psalm 30

**O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.**

<sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have raised me up • and have not let my foes triumph over me.

**O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.**

<sup>2</sup> O Lord my God, I cried out to you • and you have healed me.

<sup>3</sup> You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; • you restored me to life from among those that go down to the Pit.

**O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.**

<sup>4</sup> Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; • give thanks to his holy name.

<sup>5</sup> For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, his favour for a lifetime. • Heaviness may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

**O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.**

<sup>6</sup> In my prosperity I said, 'I shall never be moved. • You, Lord, of your goodness, have made my hill so strong.'

<sup>7</sup> Then you hid your face from me • and I was utterly dismayed.

**O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.**

<sup>8</sup> To you, O Lord, I cried; • to the Lord I made my supplication:

<sup>9</sup> 'What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? • Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

<sup>10</sup> 'Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; • O Lord, be my helper.'

**O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.**

<sup>11</sup> You have turned my mourning into dancing; • you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with gladness;

<sup>12</sup> Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; • O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.

## New Testament Reading

### Revelation 5:11-14

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. <sup>12</sup> In a loud voice they were saying:

'Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!'

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: 'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!'

<sup>14</sup> The four living creatures said, 'Amen', and the elders fell down and worshipped.

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: **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

### Matthew 7:24-29

<sup>24</sup> 'Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

<sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.'

<sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

**Sermon** – Revd Philip Sudell

*The Discipleship Agenda*

*The wisdom of the disciple*

## 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 day of resurrection!

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Earth, tell it out abroad;  
the Passover of gladness,  
the Passover of God;  
from death to life eternal,  
from earth unto the sky,  
our God hath brought us over  
with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,  
that we may see aright  
the Lord in rays eternal  
of resurrection-light;  
and, listening to his accents,  
may hear so calm and plain  
his own 'All hail', and, hearing,  
may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful,  
and earth her song begin,  
the round world keep high triumph,  
and all that is therein;  
let all things seen and unseen  
their notes of gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord is risen,  
our joy that hath no end.

John Mason Neale | St. John Of Damascus

## 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

Christ the Lord is risen again, 141  
Christ hath broken every chain.  
Hark, angelic voices cry,  
singing evermore on high, Alleluia!

He who bore all pain and loss  
comfortless upon the cross,  
lives in glory now on high,  
pleads for us, and hears our cry: Alleluia!

He who slumbered in the grave  
is exalted now to save;  
now through Christendom it rings  
that the Lamb is King of kings. Alleluia!

Now he bids us tell abroad  
how the lost may be restored,  
how the penitent forgiven,  
how we too may enter heaven. Alleluia!

Thou, our Paschal Lamb indeed,  
Christ, thy ransomed people feed;  
take our sins and guilt away:  
let us sing by night and day Alleluia!

Michael Weisse (1531); Translator: Catherine Winkworth (1858)

## 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

# Readings for next Sunday

11th May – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

Matthew TBC

CCLI: 777478

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