



St NICOLAS' CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

HOLY COMMUNION



President and Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr Emma Percy
15 May 2022

Image: Peter's Vision.
19th century, from St. Peter's Church, Nottingham
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54209>

Please stand:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Lord be with you
and also with you.



Alleluia, Alleluia, hearts to heaven and voices raise

CP 137

Alleluia, alleluia! hearts to heaven and voices raise:

sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise;
he who on the cross a victim for the world's salvation bled
Jesus Christ, the king of glory, now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ, the first fruits of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance at his second coming yield:
then the golden ears of harvest will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine from the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen! shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain and dew and gleams of glory from the brightness of thy face;
that we, with our hearts in heaven, here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel hands be gathered, and be ever, Lord, with thee.

Alleluia, alleluia! glory be to God on high;
Alleluia! to the Saviour who has gained the victory;
Alleluia! to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity:
Alleluia, alleluia! to the Triune Majesty.

Christopher Wordsworth (1807 – 1885)

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

Like Mary at the empty tomb, we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Like the disciple behind locked doors, we are afraid to be seen as your followers. Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

The Promise 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 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.

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.

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. Amen.

The Collect for the Day:

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Please sit for:

First Reading

Acts 11: 1 - 18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with

them?’ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ‘I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat.” But I replied, “By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.” But a second time the voice answered from heaven, “What God has made clean, you must not call profane.” This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, “Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.” And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, “John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?’ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, ‘Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.’

This is the Word of the Lord
thanks be to God

Second Reading

Revelation 21: 1 - 6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
‘See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.’

And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

This is the Word of the Lord
thanks be to God



Father, Lord of all creation

CP 418

Father, Lord of all creation,
ground of being, life and love;
height and depth beyond description,
only life in you can prove:
you are mortal life's dependence:
thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;
yours is every hour's existence,
sovereign Lord of time and space.

Jesus Christ, the man for others
we, your people, make our prayer
help us love, as sisters, brothers
all whose burdens we can share
where your name binds us together
you, Lord Christ, will surely be
where no selfishness can sever
there you love the world may see.

Holy Spirit, rushing, bringing
wind and flame of Pentecost
fire our hearts afresh with yearning
to regain what we have lost
may your love unite our action
nevermore to speak alone
God, in us, abolish faction
God, through us, your love make known.

Stewart Cross (1928 – 1989)

Gospel

John 13.31-35

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

Alleluia

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going,

you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Please stand to say

Baptismal Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child

Do you receive this child as a gift from God?

Parents: We do.

Do you wish to give thanks to God and seek his blessing?

Parents: We do.

God our creator, we thank you for the wonder of new life and for the mystery of human love. We thank you for all whose support and skill surround and sustain the beginning of life. We thank you that we are known to you by name and loved by you from all eternity. We thank you for Jesus Christ, who has opened to us the way of love. We praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

As Jesus took children in his arms and blessed them, so now we ask God's blessing on this child.

Heavenly Father, we praise you for his birth; surround him with your blessing that he may know your love, be protected from evil, and know your goodness all his days.

May he learn to love all that is true, grow in wisdom and strength and, in due time, come through faith and baptism to the fullness of your grace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

May God the Father of all bless these parents and give them grace to love and care for their children. May God give them wisdom, patience and faith, help them to provide for their children's needs and, by their example, reveal the love and truth that are in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

A copy of the Bible is presented:

Receive this book. It is the good news of God's love.

Take it as your guide.

The congregation is asked

Will you do all that you can to help and support this family?

With the help of God, we will.

God our Creator, we thank you for the gift of the children you have entrusted to our care. May we be patient and understanding, ready to guide and to forgive, so that through our love they may come to know your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen, Blessed be God for ever.

Intercessions

This response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer

Please stand for:

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.

And also with you.

We show a sign of peace to our neighbour, without physical sharing



O Thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray

CP 318

O thou, who at thy Eucharist did pray
that all thy Church might be forever one,
grant us at every Eucharist to say
with longing heart and soul, "Thy will be done."
O may we all one bread, one body be,
through this blest Sacrament of Unity.

For all thy Church, O Lord, we intercede;
make thou our sad divisions soon to cease;
draw us the nearer each, to each we plead,
by drawing all to thee, O Prince of Peace;
thus may we all one bread, one body be,
through this blest Sacrament of Unity.

We pray thee, too, for wanderers from thy fold;
O bring them back, Good Shepherd of the sheep,
back to the faith which saints believed of old,
back to the Church which still that faith doth keep;
soon may we all one bread, one body be,
through this blest Sacrament of Unity.

So, Lord, at length when sacraments shall cease,
may we be one with all thy Church above,
one with thy saints in one unbroken peace,
one with thy saints in one unbounded love;
more blessed still in peace and love to be
One with the Trinity in Unity.

William Turton (1856 – 1938)

The Preparation of the Altar

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
In your loving care you spread before us the table of life
and give us the cup of salvation to drink.
Keep us always in the fold of our Saviour and our Shepherd,
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of St Nicolas, St Helen, St Michael and all the
saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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

Though we are many, we are one body,

because we all share in one bread

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us!

Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

*Please come forward and keep as much social distance as possible;
the president distributes the host with the words of distribution:*

*'The Body of Christ', to which we reply, **Amen***

During Communion please join in singing:



Bread of Heav'n, on Thee we feed

CP 284

Bread of heaven, on thee we feed,
For thy flesh is meat indeed:
ever may our souls be fed
with this true and living bread;
day by day with strength supplied,
through the life of him who died.

Vine of Heaven, thy blood supplies
This blest cup of sacrifice,
Lord, thy wounds our healing give,
To thy cross we look and live:
Jesus, may we ever be
grafted, rooted, built in Thee.

Josiah Conder (1789 – 1855)

Post-Communion Prayer

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen**



All creatures of our God and King

CP 250

vv 1, 2, 3, 4,7

All creatures of our God and King lift up your voice and with us sing,
alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia!

Thou rising morn in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice,
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear, make music for thy Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright, that givest us both warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day, unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia!

The flowers and fruits that in thee grow, let them his glory also show,
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship God in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

William Henry Draper (1855 – 1933)

Based on St Francis of Assisi (1182 – 1226), Ps 148

Blessing and Dismissal

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Acknowledgement: Some of the material in this service is used with permission and taken from Services and Prayers of the Church of England (Common Worship) 2000, Common Worship Initiation Services and Daily Prayer (Common Worship); copyright Archbishop's Council 2006. CCL 57519