

Parish Eucharist

The Sunday after Ascension Easter
24th May 2020



Welcome on behalf of the community of St. John's Church

St. John's seeks to be an inclusive church community where all are welcomed and valued, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender or sexuality.

This is a very unusual time for the Church where we can't physically be with one another. Today, in line with the Bishops' advice, James will be in St. John's offering the Eucharist, rather than at home. As ever, wherever we are, as the Body of Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit we are united in fellowship with one another and with the whole company of heaven.

As such, whether you are reading this on your own or following along on the live-stream we are delighted to welcome you.

THE GREETING and INTRODUCTION

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All **and also with you.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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,

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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

All **Christ, have mercy.**

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

All **Lord, have mercy.**

ABSOLUTION

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.

All **Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

**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 sins 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

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

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

THE FIRST READING: Acts 1.6-14

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. ⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL: John 17.1-11

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

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

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray for the world and the Church, and thank God for his goodness.

The following response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy *or* Lord, hear us.

All **Hear our prayer Lord, graciously hear us.**

After the names of the departed have been read out:

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord
All **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.

All **Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners
now and at the hour of our death. Amen**

Merciful Father,
All **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE PEACE

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you,
All **and also with you. Alleluia**

- 1. Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
first-begotten from the dead.
Thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Jesus, true and living bread!**
- 2. Here our humblest homage pay we,
here in loving reverence bow;
here for faith's discernment pray we,
lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou art here, we ask not how.**
- 3. Life-imparting heavenly Manna,
stricken Rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the Lamb who died.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Risen, ascended, glorified!**

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Lord of life,
with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise.
As we are fed with the bread of heaven
may we know your resurrection power;
through Christ our risen Lord.

All **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER (B)

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,
it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
And now we give you thanks
because in his victory over the grave a new age has dawned,
the long reign of sin is ended,
a broken world is being renewed
and humanity is once again made whole.
Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

All **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:

All **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 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.

All **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All **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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Jesus says, I am the bread of life, whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

All **Lord, our hearts hunger for you; give us this bread always.**

AGNUS DEI

All **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.

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

If you are making a spiritual communion (i.e. not receiving in person) you may wish to say the below:

In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of your Church,
where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated,

I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving.

I present to you my soul and body with the wish
that they may always be united to you.

And since I can not now receive you in this sacrament,

I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.

I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul.

Let nothing ever separate you from me.

May I live and die in your love. Amen.

HYMN

**1. Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King,
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
hear us as we sing:**

*Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.*

**2. Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,
victim crucified!
death is through the cross defeated,
sinners justified:**

Yours the glory....

**3. Priestly King, enthroned for ever
high in heaven above!
sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love:
*Yours the glory....***

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Almighty God,

All **We give you thanks and praise for our life together.
Fill us all Good Lord, with your Spirit of Love
and as you have fed us with the bread of heaven,
so make us one in hearts and mind,
in Jesus Christ our lord.
Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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.

All **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

With the risen life of Christ within you,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

NOTICES

Virtual services.

Clergy now have permission to lead worship from inside the church building. Recognising that this is important for many of us, but also that worshipping together at home in solidarity is important, James will be offering the Eucharist on Wednesdays and Sundays from inside church and streaming on Facebook Live, but the other offices (evening prayer and compline) will continue to be broadcast from the Vicarage using Facebook and Zoom.

Virtual Coffee

We will continue to have virtual coffee on Wednesdays at 11am and Sundays at 11.15 (NB: back to 11.15 from the 11.30 experiment last week). The Zoom link will be sent out via email. All welcome.

Thy Kingdom Come

The days between Ascension and Pentecost see the return of 'Thy Kingdom Come', a global prayer initiative, praying for the inbreaking of God's Kingdom. As last year, one aspect of this is to pray for five people. Perhaps these are people who don't yet have faith, or people who are seeking faith. Make time each day to pray for these five and that we may all be watchful for the signs of God's Kingdom.

Quiz

Following the success of the last one, we'll be having another Zoom quiz as part of our Pentecost festivities on Saturday 30th at 7.30pm. All welcome! The Zoom link will follow. It would be great to have folks come up with the questions for this – as such, for the General Knowledge round, we're encouraging everyone to come up with two questions each. If you can send them to James by Friday evening that'd be great.

Jigsaws

Lou Skinner has got lots of jigsaws she's happy for folks to have. If you're interested, get in touch with James.

PCC

Meets on Wednesday 27th at 6.30pm. Zoom link to follow.

Evening Prayer

So we can ensure everyone can attend who may want to, Evening Prayer on Fridays will now be at 7pm. Mondays and Wednesdays will remain at 6pm.

Zoom over the phone

For those not online, it is now possible to join in Zoom events using a telephone. Members of our congregation not online have had the information, but if there is anyone else you know who might be interested, do have a word with James.

Bible Study

Will meet via Zoom on Tuesday 26th May (not Wednesday this month) at 7pm on Zoom. All welcome!

Telephone worship

The Church of England has launched a free dial-in worship service to bring prayer to people's homes while churches are closed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Daily Hope, which is available now, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The national line is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044. Do let anyone know who you feel may benefit from it.

Services and events this week

Monday 25th May 6pm	Evening Prayer via Zoom
Tuesday 26th May 7pm 9pm	Bible Study via Zoom Live-streamed compline (on Facebook)
Wednesday 27th May 10am 11am 6pm 6.30pm	Live-streamed Eucharist Zoom coffee Evening Prayer via Zoom PCC
Thursday 28th May 9pm	Live-streamed compline (on Facebook)
Friday 29th May 7pm	Evening Prayer via Zoom
Sunday 31st May 10am 11.15am 7-8pm	Live-streamed Eucharist for Pentecost Zoom coffee 'Vestry Hour'

Church Contacts

MINISTRY TEAM	The Revd. James Pacey 0115 779 9468 revjamespacey@gmail.com <i>(working days, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday – this may need to be changed on occasion)</i>
Vicar	
Minister	Susi Artis 0115 910 3003 / 07903 115327 se.artis@ntlworld.com

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Deputy Churchwardens	Cynthia Hoggett, Carol Lewis, John Glover, Ray Hotson
Organist:	Shaun Hooper
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