

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

Hymn 325 All Things Bright & Beautiful

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning
That brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must be born again of water and the Spirit, and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth. There we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean. There we are clothed with Christ, dying to sin that we may live his risen life. As children of God, we have a new dignity and God calls us to fullness of life.

Let us affirm our trust in God's mercy, and confess that we need forgiveness.

Lord God, you created the world, and made us in your own image. Forgive us when we turn away from you. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord God, through your Son you overcame evil and death. Rescue us from slavery to sin. Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord God, by your Spirit you restore us to fellowship with you and with one another. Breathe your love and freedom into our lives. Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray.

The community may pray silently, followed by The Collect for the Sixth Sunday of Easter
God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: Grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

First Reading: **Acts 16: 9-15**

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district* of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn 643: Be Thou My Vision

1 Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought in the day and the night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

2 Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true heir;
Thou in me dwelling and I in thy care.

3 Be Thou my breast-plate, my sword for the fight;
Be thou my armour, and be thou my might;
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower,
Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

4 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise
Thou mine inheritance through all my days;
Thou and Thou only the first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

5 High King of heaven, when the battle is done,
Grant heaven's joy to me, O bright heaven's sun
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Holy Gospel: **John 14: 23-29**

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. 'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Children's Talk

Hymn 634: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

2 Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
never more they temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

We welcome Lexi who has come to be baptized. I invite her sponsors to present her now.

The sponsors answer

We present Lexi to be baptized.

Parents and godparents, will you accept the responsibilities placed upon you in bringing Lexi for baptism and answer on her behalf?

By your own prayers and example, by your teaching and love, will you encourage her in the life and faith of the Christian Community?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism this child begins his journey in faith.

You speak for her today.

Will you care for her, and help her to take her place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism, God calls us from darkness to his marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all proud rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life?

I come to Christ.

The presiding minister says to the congregation

You have heard these our brothers and sisters respond to Christ.

Will you support them in this calling?

The congregation answers

We will support them.

Water is poured into the font.

Praise God who made heaven and earth.

Who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks that at the beginning of creation your Holy Spirit moved upon the waters to bring forth light and life.

With water you cleanse and replenish the earth; you nourish and sustain all living things.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery into freedom, and brought them through the river Jordan to new life in the land of promise.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks for your Son Jesus Christ: for his baptism by John, for his anointing with the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks that through the deep waters of death Jesus delivered us from our sins and was raised to new life in triumph.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks for the grace of the Holy Spirit who forms us in the likeness of Christ and leads us to proclaim your Kingdom.

Thanks be to God.

And now we give you thanks that you have called this your servant, Lexi, to new birth in your Church through the waters of baptism.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing and sanctify this water so that she who is baptized in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection.

May she die to sin, rise to newness of life, and continue for ever in Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we give you praise and honour in the unity of the Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

The presiding minister shall ask the following question of each candidate for baptism, or, in the case of those unable to answer for themselves, the sponsors of each candidate:

Do you believe and accept the Christian faith into which Lexi is to be baptized?

I do.

The presiding minister addresses the congregation.

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess, together with the candidate's sponsors, the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

The presiding minister baptizes by dipping the candidates in the water, or by pouring water over them, saying

..., I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Those who have been baptized are signed with the cross

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of the cross.

Live as a disciple of Christ, fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith.

Confess Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, look for his coming in glory.

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **Amen.**

The minister continues

God has called you into his Church.

**We therefore receive and welcome you
as a member with us of the body of Christ,
as a child of the one heavenly Father,
and as an inheritor of the kingdom of God.**

Father, we thank you that Lexi has now been born again of water and the Holy Spirit, and has become your own child by adoption, and a member of your Church.

Grant that she may grow in the faith in which she has been baptized; Grant that she herself may profess it when she comes to be confirmed;

Grant that she may bear witness to it by a life of service to others; and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in her; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, bless Lexi's home and family, and give such grace and wisdom to all who have the care of her, that by their word and good example they may teach her to know and love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Father, we ask you to bless those who are preparing for Confirmation, especially those from this parish. **Amen**

Other prayers and thanksgivings are offered

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.

Hymn 562: Blessed Assurance

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;

O what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God,

Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Saviour all the day long.

This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Saviour all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

The Blessing

The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The newly baptized may be given a lighted candle and sent out with these words:
God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints
in light. You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.
Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Go in peace to love and to serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen