

Holy Communion 25th May 2025: Easter 6

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Opening Hymn: 81 Lord For The Years

1 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

2 Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

3 Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for this and every nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

4 Lord, for our world, when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

5 Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

The Collect for Purity (page 201)

**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.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets. *Matthew 22: 37-39*

Lord, have mercy on us, and write these your laws in our hearts.

Confession

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins, to intercede for us in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought and word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may walk in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Absolution

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

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's 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.

Collect of the Day

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- Isaiah 6:1-8

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121. Page 743

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; ♦
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord, ♦
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not suffer your foot to stumble; ♦
he who watches over you will not sleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel ♦
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The Lord himself watches over you; ♦
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, ♦
neither the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord shall keep you from all evil; ♦
it is he who shall keep your soul.
- 8 The Lord shall keep watch over your going out
and your coming in, ♦
from this time forth for evermore.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:4-9

A Reading from Paul's 1st Letter to the Corinthians:

For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not all too human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and each will receive wages according to their own labour. For we are God's coworkers

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn: 362 O God beyond all praising

1 O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honour and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

2 Then hear, O gracious Saviour, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favour may serve you as our King;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise!

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:40-43

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke:

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

As the sun was setting, all those caring for any who were sick with various kinds of diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on each of them and cured them. Moreover, demons also came out of many, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Messiah. At daybreak he departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowds began looking for him, and when they reached him they tried to keep him from leaving them. But he said to them, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

The Sermon

Hymn: 529 Thy Hand O God Has Guided

1 Thy hand, O God, has guided
thy flock, from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written,
full clear, on every page;
thy people owned thy goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

2 Thy heralds brought glad tidings
to greatest, as to least;
they summoned all to hasten
and share the great King’s feast;
their gospel of redemption,
sin pardoned, earth restored,
was all in this enfolded:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

3 And we, shall we be faithless?
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
Shall we evade the conflict
and cast away our crown?
Not so: in God's deep counsels
some better thing is stored;
we will maintain, unflinching,
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

4 Thy mercy will not fail us,
nor leave thy work undone;
with thy right hand to help us,
the victory shall be won;
and then, by all creation,
thy name shall be adored,
and this shall be our anthem:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Nicene Creed. Page 205

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 by the Holy Spirit of 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.

The Prayers of the People

Prayers for the Church, the World, and the Community, ending with a few moments in silence to lift up our own prayers to God...

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

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.

John 20: 19,20

The peace of the Lord be always with you:
and also with you.

Hymn:431 Lord Enthroned In Heavenly Splendour

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 for faith's discernment praying
lest we fail to know thee now,
here our deepest homage paying,
we in loving reverence bow;
alleluia, alleluia,
thou art here, we ask not how.

3 Now though lowliest form do veil thee
as of old in Bethlehem,
angels in thy mystery hail thee;
we in worship join with them.
Alleluia, alleluia,
branch and flower of Jesse's stem.

4 Paschal Lamb, thine offering finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fulness undiminished
shall for evermore remain,
alleluia, alleluia,
cleansing souls from every stain.

5 Great High Priest of our profession,
through the veil thou wentest in,
by thy mighty intercession
grace and peace for us to win;
alleluia, alleluia,
only sacrifice for sin.

6 Life-imparting, heavenly manna,
stricken rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with one hosanna,
worship thee, the Lamb that died,
alleluia, alleluia,
risen, ascended, glorified!

Celebrating at the Lord's Table

Lord, yours is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory
and the majesty; for all things come from you and of your own we give
you. **Amen.**

The Taking of the Bread and Wine

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us
therefore let us celebrate the feast.

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer 3 Page 216

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Father, Lord of all creation,
we praise you for your goodness and your love.
When we turned away you did not reject us.
You came to meet us in your Son, welcomed us as your children
and prepared a table where we might feast with you.
In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.
**He opened wide his arms upon the cross
and, with love stronger than death,
he made the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

Lord Jesus Christ, our redeemer,
on the night before you died
you came to table with your friends.
Taking bread, you gave thanks, broke it
and gave it to them saying,
Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
**Lord Jesus, we bless you:
you are the bread of life.**

At the end of supper
you took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said,
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 in remembrance of me.
**Lord Jesus, we bless you:
you are the true vine.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ:
**dying, you destroyed our death,
rising, you restored our life;
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Holy Spirit, giver of life,
come upon us now;
may this bread and wine be to us
the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us, who know our need of grace,
one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Blessed Trinity:
with your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of thanks and praise
and lift our voice to join the song of heaven,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Thanks be to you, our God, for your gift beyond words.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**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 the Bread

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

The Administration of Holy Communion

Followed by ***The Great Silence***

Post Communion Prayers

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: May we also thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

(Page 221)

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of 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.

The Blessing

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, raise you up to walk with him in the newness of his risen life: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: 455 Go Forth For God

1 Go forth for God; go forth to the world in peace;
be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,
in God's good Spirit daily to increase,
till in his kingdom we behold his face.

2 Go forth for God; go forth to the world in strength;
hold fast the good, be urgent for the right,
render to no one evil; Christ at length
shall overcome all darkness with his light.

3 Go forth for God; go forth to the world in love;
strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak,
help the afflicted; richly from above
his love supplies the grace and power we seek.

4 Go forth for God; go forth to the world in joy,
to serve God's people every day and hour,
and serving Christ, our every gift employ,
rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.

5 Sing praise to him who brought us on our way,
sing praise to him who bought us with his blood,
sing praise to him who sanctifies each day,
sing praise to him who reigns one Lord and God.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
Thanks be to God. Amen