

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Service of Holy Communion

Sunday 2nd May 2021, 10.30am

This sheet has the seasonal and weekly additional material to go alongside our new orders of service which can be found at www.holytrinitypottenend.org.uk/worship.

The Gathering

The Greeting

The Lord be with you
All Amen.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Prayer of Preparation

Musical Meditation: *Hills of the north, rejoice*

Prayers of Penitence

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.
Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

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.

Gloria in Excelsis

The Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
 you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen 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 8. 26-40

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road – the desert road – that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
 and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
 so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” [³⁷] ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading – John 15.1-8

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

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

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Creed – the Nicene Creed

Prayers of Intercession

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.

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

Offertory hymn – *Christ is made the sure foundation*

All Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the Church in one;
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

**We as living stones implore you:
Come among us, Lord, today!
with your gracious loving-kindness
hear your children as we pray;
and the fulness of your blessing
in our fellowship display.**

**Praise and honour to the Father,
praise and honour to the Son,
praise and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One:
One in power and One in glory
while eternal ages run.**

Eucharistic Prayer – *Prayer D*

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Agnus Dei

Giving of Communion

All Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

All Jesus,
I believe that you are present in our communion.
Whether I am here physically or virtually,
I love you above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Come, I pray, spiritually into my heart.

**I embrace you as if you were already there
and unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Notices

Worship Song – *Lord of the Dance* (performed by Sara)

I danced in the morning
When the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
And the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven
And I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he

I danced for the scribe
And the pharisee,
But they would not dance
And they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
For James and John
They came with me
And the Dance went on.

Chorus

I danced on the Sabbath
And I cured the lame;
The holy people
They said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
And they hung me on high,
And they left me there
On a Cross to die.

Chorus

I danced on a Friday
When the sky turned black
It's hard to dance
With the devil on your back.
They buried my body
And they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance,
And I still go on.

Chorus

They cut me down
And I leapt up high;
I am the life
That will never, never die;
I'll live in you
If you'll live in me -
I am the Lord
Of the Dance, said he.

Chorus x 2

The Dismissal

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ
has given us the victory,
give you joy and peace in your faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.