

**St Swithun's, Hither Green**  
**Parish Eucharist**

# **Easter 5**



**The Lord is Risen!**  
**ALLELUIA!**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021, 10am**

# **The Gathering**

## **The Greeting**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*Mother Juliet says some words of welcome.*

## **Prayers of preparation**

Whoever we are, whatever our names

May we hear the risen Christ calling us

to accept God's invitation to new life. **Amen**

## **Saying Sorry - Prayers of Penitence**

Let us say sorry to God:

We are sorry when we forget our place,  
and when we doubt your love;

Lord, in your mercy

**Lord, in your mercy**

We are sorry when we forget our value,  
and when we fail to care for ourselves;

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We are sorry when we forget our community,  
And when we act in isolations;

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

## **We are Forgiven - Absolution**

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from  
your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest; **and peace to all people on earth.**

*We listen to the music as we glorify God*

## **The Collect**

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

### **Bible Reading** *Acts 8.26-end*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

For the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## The Gospel Reading *John 15.1-8*

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

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**     *Richard Evans*

### **Profession of Faith**

**We believe in God, Creator,  
Mother and Father of us all,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.  
We believe in Jesus, God's Son, Redeemer,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with love.**

**We believe in God, Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.  
We believe in one God;  
Creator, Redeemer and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

## Prayers

Loving God, we pray for faith, hope and love.

Loving God, we pray for our world and its leaders: we especially pray for India and ask for the healing of this world from health inequality. In a moment of quiet we remember the places which need our prayers and our generosity...

Give us love, **Give us faith**

Loving God, we thank you for the church and that together we are the family of Christ. As you call us to follow you, may we learn to love ourselves and our uniqueness more fully, so that we can reveal your truth and lead others to the fullness of life. We especially remember our Saint Swithun's Church family – praying especially for Sean and Pamela our churchwardens and our newly elected PCC.

Give us love, **Give us faith**

We pray for our community in Hither Green, especially for those who work in our parish and for those most affected by the complications of coronavirus. We pray for hope to grow in our locality.

Give us love, **Give us faith**

Healing God, we bring before you all those in need of healing. Especially Shauna, Audra, Fran and family, Lamar, Maureen, Karen, Paulette and family, Catherine and family, Canon Richard, Gwen, Pamela, Neil, Debbie, Clinton, Francis, Cynthia, Ivy, Taneisha, Talabi, Edith, Vanda, Lorna, Ena, Monica, Joan and Stephen. Be close to each of them, and to all those who are unknown to us but known to you.

Give us love, **Give us faith**

You bring us to eternal life; we remember those who are with you in eternity, especially we remember today Conrad, Carl and Annette. Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord

**And let light perpetual shine upon them**

Merciful Father

**Accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

# 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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

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 thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children  
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross  
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he 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.*

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: *Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.*

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**



With your whole Church throughout the world  
we offer you this sacrifice of praise  
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might,**  
**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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**

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.**

## **Agnus Dei**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**  
**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**  
**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace**

## **Giving of Communion**

**Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.**  
**Alleluia! Let us celebrate the feast!**

*Silence is kept.*

# Prayer after Communion

Father and mother of us all

Thank you for teaching us with your word.

Thank you for feeding us with bread and wine.

Thank you for the many gifts we have been given.

May we share what we have been given with others. **Amen.**

## Notices

- Church Warden Commission
- Wedding Banns
- Happy Birthday to all those who have a birthday.

## The Blessing

God our Mother and Father,

by whose glory, Christ was raised from the dead,

strengthen you to live in faith, hope and love;

and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Holy Spirit,

be with you this day and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

We are raised to new life with Christ.

Go in peace. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

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