



St Peter's
Hammersmith

2nd May 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

We ask God for healing and forgiveness

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

*The priest pronounces the Absolution,
and we say the words of the Gloria*

**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 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.**

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. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Acts 8:26-40

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*We remain seated as the choir sing the Anthem:
"O taste and see" (Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958)*

Please stand for Gospel reading

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

John 15:1-8

Jesus said to the disciples, '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.

We sit for the sermon, and stand to affirm our faith in the words of the Creed

**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 from the Holy Spirit and 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.**

We sit or kneel for intercessions, for which the following response may be used

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

And at the end,

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

Liturgy of the Sacrament

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. Alleluia.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Please sit as the choir sing "Love Divine, all loves excelling"

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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.

The priest praise God for his mighty acts, and all respond:

**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.**

The priest recalls the Last Supper, with the acclamation:

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

The prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond:

Amen.

**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.**

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.**

**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.**

The congregation are invited to communion with the words

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

*As communion is distributed, the choir sing "O Jesus I have promised".
After all have received, the priest prays the post communion prayer, and we say together*

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with 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.**

We remain seated for notices, and stand for the blessing and dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK – 9th May 2021
Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.00 am **FAMILY WORSHIP**

10.30 am **HOLY COMMUNION (with music)**

HEIKE'S INDUCTION. Heike and Alistair would like to thank everyone for the wonderful send off from St Peter's, for the many cards, emails and well wishes, and the generous gift. Her induction into her new benefice will be held in Coggeshall on Monday 10th May at 7.30pm. The service will be live-streamed on her new church's Youtube channel, which can access it by following the link on our church website.

RACISM AND THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND. The Black Lives Matter campaign has forced all of us to reflect on issues of racism in society and the church. Some of you will have seen the BBC's Panorama programme last week asking "Is the Church racist?", which told disturbing stories of the experiences of black and minority ethnic clergy. Last week also saw the publication of a report from the Archbishops' Anti-racism taskforce, which argued the need for a change of culture in the Church of England. There have also been reports on the issue in the Guardian, the Telegraph, and elsewhere. There are links to all these on the church website: do take the time to inform yourself on this important issue.

THE UPPER ROOM Spring Lectures continue with Jeremy Paxman on May 19th. The lectures are online, with a ticket price of £10, to support the work of The Upper Room. Details at <https://theupperroom.org.uk>

INTERCESSIONS. Preparing prayers of intercession for the 10.30 service of Holy Communion is a hugely valuable ministry. If you think you could be interested in learning how to do this, do speak to Charles. We have lots of resources to help you if you have never done it before!

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME. Oliver and Gabrielle Leigh-Wood are delighted to open their garden next weekend (Sunday 9th May, 2-6pm), with proceeds from tea and cake sales going to St Peter's Church. They are at 27 St Peter's Square, but with access from the back on British Grove. Advanced booking is required, via the National Garden Scheme website (<https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/31914>).