



29th May 2022

Sunday after Ascension Day

We welcome you to St Matthew's Church this morning and pray you are blessed as we worship the risen and ascended Lord together.

If you are with us for the first time please fill in one of our Welcome Cards.

Thank you.

*Please join in the words in **bold print**.*

Don't forget to silence your mobile!

Our Celebrant and Preacher is Revd Linda Fox.

¶ The Gathering

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

and also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

We remain standing to pray together

**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.

Please be seated

The Confession and Absolution

Invitation to confession

What God has prepared for those who
love him, he has revealed to us
through the Spirit;

for the Spirit searches everything.

Therefore, let us in penitence open our
hearts to the Lord,

who has prepared good things for those
who love him. *cf 1 Corinthians 2.9*

**O King enthroned on high,
filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name,
Lord God almighty.**

**In our sinfulness we cry to you
to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak
your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your
sins, confirm and strengthen you in
all goodness, and keep you in life

eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Please stand

Gloria in Excelsis

**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

A period of silent prayer

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with power
and compassion, that all who are
estranged by sin may find forgiveness
and know your peace, to the glory of
God the Father.
Amen.

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word
of God as it comes to us in the reading
of Holy Scripture.

Our hearts and minds are open.

Please be seated

First Reading

Acts 16.16-34

One day, as we were going to the place
of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a
spirit of divination and brought her
owners a great deal of money by
fortune-telling. ¹⁷While she followed
Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These
men are slaves of the Most High God,
who proclaim to you a way of salvation.'
¹⁸She kept doing this for many days. But
Paul, very much annoyed, turned and
said to the spirit, 'I order you in the
name of Jesus Christ to come out of
her.' And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹But when her owners saw that their
hope of making money was gone, they
seized Paul and Silas and dragged them
into the market-place before the
authorities. ²⁰When they had brought
them before the magistrates, they said,
'These men are disturbing our city; they
are Jews and are advocating customs
²¹that are not lawful for us as Romans
to adopt or observe.' ²²The crowd
joined in attacking them, and the
magistrates had them stripped of their
clothing and ordered them to be beaten
with rods. ²³After they had given them a
severe flogging, they threw them into
prison and ordered the jailer to keep
them securely. ²⁴Following these
instructions, he put them in the

innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

²⁶Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.'

²⁹The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' ³¹They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' ³²They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated

Second Reading

Revelation 22.12-End

I, John, heard a voice saying to me:

¹²'See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. ¹³I am the Alpha and

the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

¹⁴Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

¹⁵Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practises falsehood.

¹⁶It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.'

¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.'

And let everyone who hears say, 'Come.'

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

¹⁸I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book; ¹⁹if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away that person's share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

²⁰The one who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Let us stand to greet the Gospel of Christ.

The Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 17.20-26

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed: 'Holy Father, ²⁰I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

Sermon

Please stand

The Creed

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with
God, but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him
on high, and given him the
name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that
Jesus Christ is Lord,**

**to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

cf Philippians

2.6-11

Please be seated

Prayers of Intercession

In joy and hope we pray.
We pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That our risen and ascended Saviour may fill us with the joy of his Spirit...

We pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good

news of the resurrection...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That God may grant us humility
to be subject to one another in
Christian love...

we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That he would move us to provide for
those who lack food, work,
or shelter...

we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That through the coming of his
kingdom war and famine
may cease through all the world...

we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That he may reveal the light of his
presence to the sick,
the weak and the dying,
to comfort and strengthen them...

we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That he may send the fire of the Holy
Spirit upon his people,
so that we may bear faithful witness to
his resurrection and ascension,

we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

Merciful Father,

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

Amen.

¶ **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

Please stand

The Peace

God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us and, as a
pledge of what is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our
hearts. Alleluia. *cf Ephesians 1.13,14*

The peace of the Lord be always
with you

and also with you.

Let us offer one another a
sign of God's peace.

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness,
the power, the glory, the
splendour,
and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and
on earth is yours.**

**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give
you.**

The Eucharistic Prayer (A)

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 indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you
thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal
God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**To you be glory and praise for
ever.**

For he is our great high priest
who has entered once for all
into the heavenly sanctuary,
evermore to pour upon your Church

the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

He is the one who has gone before us, who calls us to be united in prayer as were his disciples in the upper room while they awaited his promised gift, the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Therefore all creation yearns with eager longing as angels and archangels sing the endless hymn of praise:

**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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;

he gave it to them, saying:

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, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and
drink this cup, we proclaim
your death, Lord Jesus, until
you come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory
and power be yours for ever**

**and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who
sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for 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

**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.**

Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our passover
is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia.**

*Communicant members of any Christian
Church are invited to receive Holy
Communion. If you wish to receive a
blessing please bow your head.*

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into
all the world to preach the
gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission, and help us
to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this
sacrament, united us with
Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the
heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.
Send us out in the power of
your Spirit to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Notices

¶ Dismissal

The Blessing

God the Father,
who has given to his Son the name
above every name, strengthen you to
proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.

Amen.

God the Son,
who is our great high priest passed into
the heavens, plead for you at the right
hand of the Father.

Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
who pours out his abundant gifts upon
the Church, make you faithful servants
of Christ our King.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you and
all those whom you love and all those
for whom you pray this day and
for evermore.

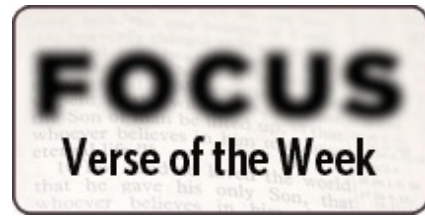
Amen.

Waiting expectantly for the promised
Holy Spirit, go in the peace of Christ.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Please take this service sheet with you.



[Silas] and his entire family were
baptized without delay. He brought
them up into the house and set food
before them; and he and his entire
household rejoiced that he had become
a believer in God.

Acts 16.33b-34.

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