



# Fifth Sunday of Easter



*"How can I [understand]..  
unless someone explains it to me?" Acts 8. 31*

**Sunday 28th April 2024**

Joint service at St Mary's Kidlington

[www.kidhp.org.uk](http://www.kidhp.org.uk)

*In this and all our services the indications to sit / stand are  
invitations not instructions.  
Please adopt whatever posture most suits you.*

# The Gathering

## Opening Hymn:

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
The power throughout the universe displayed;

### *Chorus*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

### *Chorus*

And when I think that God His Son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die - I scarce can take it in,  
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin:

### *Chorus*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home- what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

### *Chorus*

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.**

God is spirit.

**Let us worship him in spirit and truth.**

The Lord is with us.

**Let us praise his name together.**

## Prayers of Penitence

### Invitation to confession

In baptism we died with Christ,  
so that as Christ was raised from the dead,  
we might walk in newness of life.  
Let us receive new life in him  
as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

### Confession

Like Mary at the empty tomb,  
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Like the disciples behind locked doors,  
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Like Thomas in the upper room,  
we are slow to believe.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

### Absolution

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.**

## 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 sins 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

*Let us pray.*

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

### Readings

*Please sit*

First Reading: Acts 8. 26-end

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." 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, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

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

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

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

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

As they traveled 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?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both 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 suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual Hymn:

Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?

Will you leave your self behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare,  
will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

## Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

**Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 15. 1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 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. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 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.

"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. 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. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 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.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

*Please sit*

Sermon

*Please stand*

## 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.**

*Please sit or kneel*



## Prayers of Intercession

### 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. Alleluia.  
The peace of the risen Christ be always with you

**and also with you. Alleluia.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### Preparation of the Table

#### Offertory Hymn AMNS 266

We hail thy presence glorious,  
O Christ our great High Priest,  
O'er sin and death victorious,  
At thy thanksgiving feast:  
As thou art interceding  
For us in heaven above,  
Thy Church on earth is pleading  
Thy perfect work of love.

O living bread from heaven  
Jesu, our Saviour good,  
Who thine own self hast given  
To be our souls' true food;  
For us thy body broken  
Hung on the Cross of shame:  
This Bread its hallowed token  
We break in thy dear name.

O stream of love unending,  
Poured from the one true vine,  
With our weak nature blending  
The strength of life divine;  
Our thankful faith confessing  
In thy life-blood outpoured,  
We drink this Cup of blessing  
And praise thy name, O Lord.

May we thy word believing  
Thee through thy gifts receive,  
That, thou within us living,  
We all to God may live;  
Draw us from earth to heaven  
Till sin and sorrow cease,  
Forgiving and forgiven,  
In love and joy and peace.

R. G. Parsons (1882-1948)

## Taking of the Bread and Wine

*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

Risen Lord Jesus Christ,  
we believe you, and all we have heard is true.  
When you break bread  
may we recognize you as the fire that burns within us,  
that we may bring light to your world.

**Amen.**

## The 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.**

It is always right to give you thanks,  
God our Creator,  
loving and faithful,  
holy and strong.

You made us  
and the whole universe,  
and filled your world with life.

You sent your Son to live among us,  
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.  
He suffered on the cross;  
he died to save us from our sins;  
he rose in glory from the dead.

You send your Spirit  
to bring new life to the world,  
and clothe us with power from on high.  
And so we join the angels  
to celebrate and sing:

*Choir: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

Father, on the night before he died,  
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.  
He took the bread, and thanked you.  
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine. He  
thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you.  
This is my blood,  
the new promise of God's unfailing love.  
Do this to remember me.  
Jesus Christ has died.  
**Jesus Christ has died.**  
Jesus Christ is risen.  
**Jesus Christ is risen.**  
Jesus Christ will come again.  
**Jesus Christ will come again.**

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,  
and remember his death and resurrection,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share these gifts  
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us  
that we may love one another,  
work for the healing of the earth,  
and share the good news of Jesus,  
as we wait for his coming in glory.

For honour and praise belong to you, Father,  
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:  
one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

*Please sit or kneel*

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.**

## Giving of Communion

### ***The choir sings:***

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

*The president and people receive communion. If you prefer a blessing, please do come forward.*

Choir anthem: 'O Taste and See' - Vaughan Williams

## Communion Hymn AMNS 271

Bread of heaven, on thee we feed,  
for thy flesh is meat indeed;  
ever may our souls be fed  
with this true and living bread;  
day by day with strength supplied  
through the life of him who died.

Vine of heaven, thy blood supplies  
this blest cup of sacrifice;  
Lord, thy wounds our healing give,  
to thy Cross we look and live:  
Jesus, may we ever be  
grafted, rooted, built in thee.

## Post Communion Prayer:

Eternal God,  
Whole 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

**Amen.**

**Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so  
we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## The Sending Out

*Please stand*  
The Blessing

Lord Jesus Christ,  
who promised us the Spirit of truth to guide and lead us,  
send us out with hearts ready to welcome your gift,  
eyes open to see and ears eager to hear,  
that we may live and reveal your truth and love  
in every moment, day by day;  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn AMNS 235

O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou for ever near me,  
my Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me,  
the world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me,  
around me and within;  
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,  
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
Thou Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised  
to all who follow thee,  
that where thou art in glory,  
there shall thy servant be;  
and, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy foot-marks,  
And in them plant mine own;  
My hope to follow duly  
Is in thy strength alone:  
O guide me, call me, draw me,  
Uphold me to the end;  
And then in heaven receive me,  
My Saviour and my Friend.

## The Dismissal

With the power that raised Jesus from the dead at work within you, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Organ voluntary: Tuba Tune - Lang

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## Prayer Ministry Team

If you would like someone to pray personally and simply with you, for yourself or a loved one, please go to the Lady Chapel after the service. Two members of the Prayer Ministry Team (name-badges on blue lanyards) will be ready to listen and pray. You may like to bring your coffee with you. If someone is already being prayed with, please wait outside the Lady Chapel on the seating provided and you will be attended to as soon as possible. You are also welcome to ask other members of the Prayer Ministry Team (names below) to pray with you. Please note: The usual rules of confidentiality apply.

### Members of the Prayer Ministry Team:

Liz Bendor-Samuel, Liz Bruce, Rob Bruce, Jill Buckeldee, Philippa Burrell,

Diana Davis, Karen Mason, David Meara, John Morris, Joyce Morris

## Safeguarding

If you, or someone you know, has been impacted by abuse or has concerns, please speak to the Safeguarding Officer for our parish, Yo Davies (07865 664451; [safeguarding@kidhp.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@kidhp.org.uk)) or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team (01865 208295; [safeguardingreferrals@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:safeguardingreferrals@oxford.anglican.org)).