

Sunday, 5th May 2024

6th Sunday of Easter

Epistle Reading: Acts 10: 44-48

Gospel Reading: John 15: 9-17

Proclamation:

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Greeting:

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

And also with you.

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Let us rejoice and sing God's praise for ever.

Song: Jesus is Lord

(Click link) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HHYt40whHQ>

Opening Prayer:

Almighty God,
your Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence.
Give us new hearts and constant wills
to worship you in spirit and truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 98:

Praise the Judge of the World

¹ O sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.

His right hand and his holy arm
have gained him victory.

² The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

⁴ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

⁵ Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.
⁸ Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
⁹ at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

Invitation to Confession:

Jesus says, 'Repent for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'
So let us turn away from sin and turn to the Lord,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Confession:

Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us:

Lord God, we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing
and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution:

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.

Blessed be the Lord
for he has heard the voice of our prayer;
Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
and in our song will we praise our God.

Song: All My Days (Beautiful Saviour)
(Click link) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSm6fdZHl5Q>

Epistle Reading: Acts 10: 44-48

Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had

been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶ for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' ⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: John 15: 9-17

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹² 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.
This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: Norman Pratt
(Click link) <https://youtu.be/hX-kbl6ieh8>

Song: Hallelujah (Your Love is Amazing)
(Click link) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5O1CTopOjk>

The Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession:

Let us pray for the church and for the world and thank God for His goodness.

We thank You Father God for your goodness to us and for your grace and mercy to us when we stray from Your path. As we look at Your world, this precious earth filled with all the good things we need to survive, forgive us Lord for the greed and negligence and violence we hear so much about. Although it sometimes seems an impossibility to reach world peace, help us not to give up in despair, but to battle on for peace and justice to prevail and to constantly look to Your Word that teaches us to do what is right and alerts us to what is wrong.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Father, thinking of responsibility, we give thanks for our newly commissioned PCCs, may all the elected members know Your grace and wisdom in future deliberations to help Your Church run smoothly. We pray that everything discussed and implemented at meetings be said and done always for Your glory.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We also ask Father for your grace and strength for all who serve You in Your church, especially those in a prominent authority role. Remind us Lord to pray for them constantly for their health, their families and for wisdom and grace to not only serve You but also those of us in their care.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Lord God, we thank you that we can celebrate the Ascension of Jesus this coming Thursday, marking the time when Jesus returned from this earth to sit at your right hand in your glorious heavenly Kingdom. We lift our hearts in praise and wonder for all that Jesus did for us, for dying for our sins and we marvel that he continues to intercede for us. We do thank You so much that You didn't leave us to struggle on by ourselves but You sent the Holy Spirit to prepare us and equip us to do the works You ask of us.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Father God, we know that you hurt for those who are sick and lonely. Prompt us Lord and lay on our hearts those people who need your special touch today. May we be your hands and feet and reflect your love in our families, our church and in our community. Lord continually draw people to have faith in You and may we be effective in playing our part in reaching out to those around us and be family to them. Anoint us afresh with the Holy Spirit today and every day, to continually live and work to your praise and glory.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your only son
our saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Collect:

Risen Christ,
by the lakeside you renewed your
call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

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.

*We pause for a moment to bring ourselves and all that we
offer to God and give thanks.*

Song: Here is love vast as the ocean
(Click link) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8YOPj5TnUM>

Blessing:

May Christ, who out of defeat brings
new hope and a new future,
fill you with his new life;
and the blessing of God almighty;
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you,
and those whom you love,
now and forever.
Amen.

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.