

**Welcome to St Peter's for a
Service of the Word
Sunday after the Ascension
17th May 2026**



The Greeting

The Lord be with you
And also with you.
Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Hymn: Christ Triumphant

Prayer of preparation

**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.**

Prayers of penitence

Christ has gone up on high, leading captivity captive
and bringing gifts for men.
As we prepare ourselves to meet him here in the courts of heaven
let us call to mind our many failures and sins.

Silence is kept.

Lord Jesus, you suffered a cruel death on the cross for our redemption,
yet we have forgotten your pain
and stayed in the realm of the evil you defeated.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you were raised from death to bring us new life,
yet we have preferred the comfort of the familiar,
and the empty promises of a sinful world.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you have ascended
to your Father and our Father,
your God and our God;
plead there at the right hand of God
for our forgiveness
and entry into the fullness of his presence.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Acts 1. 6 - 14

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

At the end:

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn: Meekness and majesty

Gospel Reading

John 17. 1 - 11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

At the end:

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon

Hymn: Our God reigns

Profession of faith

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**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.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**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

This response may be used:

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

At the end:

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son

our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation, 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.

The Collect

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

Silence is kept.

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Hymn; All heaven declares

Notices

- **The cleanup day on Saturday 23rd May from 11am – meet inside church for safety briefing and welcome**
- **Confirmation Service this evening (17th May) at 6pm at St Paul's. Please pray for Wiktor as he takes this next step in his discipleship**

The Blessing

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth,
give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Hymn: We want to see Jesus lifted high

The Dismissal

We are raised to new life with Christ.

Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Exit Music

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