

3 May 2026 - Easter 5

GATHERING SONG

We Are Here To Praise You

We are here to praise You,
lift our hearts and sing.
We are here to give You,
the best that we can bring,
and it is our love,
rising from our heart.
Everything within us cries:
Abba Father.

Help us now to give You
pleasure and delight,
heart and mind and will that say:
I love You, Lord.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Stand

Christ Is Alive!

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.**

**In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.**

**Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.**

GREETING

✠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.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Brothers and sisters,
let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves to
celebrate the sacred mysteries.

**Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on me.**

**Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy on me.**

**Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on me.**

May Almighty God have mercy on us,
and forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen, Amen!

Amen, Amen!

Amen, 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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

***Gloria! Gloria! in excelsis Deo!
Gloria! Gloria! in excelsis Deo!***

**Lord God, heavenly King,
peace you bring to us;
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we sing our song of praise.**

Gloria! Gloria!...

**Jesus, saviour of all,
Lord God, Lamb of God
You take away our sins, O Lord,
have mercy on us all.**

Gloria! Gloria!...

**At the Father's right hand,
Lord receive our prayer,
for you alone are the Holy One,
and you alone are Lord.**

Gloria! Gloria!...

**Glory Father and Son,
glory Holy Spirit,
to you we raise our hands up high,
we glorify your name.**

Gloria! Gloria!...

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

FIRST READING:

Sit

Acts 7:55-end

***The Witnesses Laid Their Coats At The Feet Of A
Young Man Named Saul***

Standing before the high priest and the council,
Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven
and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the
right hand of God.

‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and
the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ But
they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all
rushed together against him. Then they dragged him
out of the city and began to stone him; and the
witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man
named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he
prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt
down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold
this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.

This is the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Psalm 31.1-5

I trust in you, O Lord, for you are my God.

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.
Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my stronghold;

I trust in you, O Lord, for you are my God.

Guide me, and lead me for your name’s sake.
take me out of the net that they have laid secretly for
me, for you are my strength.

Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

I trust in you, O Lord, for you are my God.

SECOND READING:

1 Peter 2:2-10

Now You Are God's People

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him* will not be put to shame.'
To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,
'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner',
and
'A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.'
They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

This is the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Stand

**Listen now for the Gospel; Alleluia!
It is God's word that changes us; Alleluia!**

Come, Holy Spirit, melt and break our hearts of stone until we give our lives to God and God alone.

Refrain

Come, Holy Spirit, root in us God's living word, that we may show the faithfulness of Christ our Lord.

Refrain

GOSPEL:

John 14:1-14

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.

'I Am The Way, The Truth And The Life'

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

The Gospel of the Lord:
Praise to you, O Christ

HOMILY	<i>Sit</i>
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NICENE CREED	<i>Stand</i>
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**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.**

INTERCESSIONS

<i>Stand</i>

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

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

PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS:

In My Father's House

**In my Father's house are many dwellings,
In my Father's house, my Father's house.**

**In my Father's house are many dwellings,
In my Father's house, my Father's house.**

**Do not let your heart be troubled,
Believe in God, believe also in me.**

**Do not let your heart be troubled,
Believe in God, believe also in me.**

**In my Father's house are many dwelling places.
Believe in God, believe also in me.**

During the next hymn a collection will be taken. If you are a UK taxpayer and can gift aid your donation, please place it in a yellow gift aid envelope (available in the pews) and complete all the details requested.

You can also donate using the card machine at the back if you'd prefer.

Anyone who uses the Parish Giving Scheme can use a token to indicate their giving

OFFERTORY HYMN:

Gather Us In

**Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away.
See in this place our fears and our dreaming,
brought here to You in the light of this day.**

***Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call us to now and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.***

**We are the young, our lives are a mystery,
we are the old who yearn for Your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.**

***Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.***

**Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt of the earth.**

***Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is You;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion,
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.***

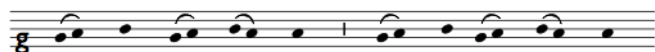
OFFERTORY PRAYERS

Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept
the sacrifice at your hands,
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

O God,
who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice
have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead,
grant, we pray,
that, as we have come to know your truth,
we may make it ours by a worthy way of life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER



The Lord be with you **R.** and al-so with you.



Lift up your hearts. **R. We lift them to the Lord.**



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



R. It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Priest continues singing the Preface, ending with:

Holy holy: **Holy, holy.**
God of power: **God of power.**
We sing your praise: **We sing your praise.**
Hosanna: **Hosanna.**
Hosanna: **Hosanna.**
Hosanna: **Hosanna.**

Blessed is he: **Blessed is he.**
Who comes in Your Name:
Who comes in Your Name.
Hosanna: **Hosanna.**
Hosanna: **Hosanna.**
Hosanna: **Hosanna.**

The Priest continues the Eucharistic Prayer

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died: **Christ has died.**
Christ has risen: **Christ has risen.**
Christ will come again: **Christ will come again.**

*The Priest concludes the Eucharistic
Prayer
At the end all sing*



A-men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

**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.**

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God: **Lamb of God.**

You take our sins: **You take our sins.**

Have mercy on us: **Have mercy on us.**

And grant us Your peace: **And grant us Your peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

This is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Please follow the guidance of the stewards as you
come forward for the distribution of Communion. If you
would like to receive a blessing instead, please bring
your service sheet with you.*

COMMUNION HYMN:

NEH 297 - Lord Jesus Christ (Living Lord)

COMMUNION HYMN:

NEH 305 - Soul Of My Saviour

COMMUNION HYMN:

Such Love

Such love, pure as the whitest snow;
such love weeps for the shame I know;
such love, paying the debt I owe;
O Jesus, such love.

Such love, stilling my restlessness;
such love, filling my emptiness;
such love, showing me holiness;
O Jesus, such love.

Such love, springs from eternity;
such love streaming through history;
such love, fountain of life to me;
O Jesus, such love.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION*Stand*

Eternal God,
whose 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

NOTICES & BIRTHDAYS*Sit***BLESSING & DISMISSAL***Stand*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

✠ May almighty God bless you,
the Father,
and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN:

NEH 383 - Jesus, Lover Of My Soul