

**The Benefice of Silsoe, Flitton and Pulloxhill**  
Growing as beacons of Christ's Light in our communities

**All Age Service – Sunday 24 May 2020 – Easter 7 (after Ascension Day)**



Eucharist received next to the Sea of Galilee

**Our service today is led by Lay Leader of Worship, Maggie Jeeves.**

*You will find a Colouring Sheet and a Guided Activity Sheet for Children plus a sheet of further study & reflection for the coming week on The Virtual Vicar service page.*

**Greeting**

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

**All: and also with you**

This is the day the Lord has made.

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

We have come together in the name of Christ  
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,  
to hear and receive God's holy word,  
to pray for the needs of the world  
and to seek forgiveness for our sins,  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God;  
Let us, therefore, pray together and remember God's  
presence with us now.

**All: 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.**

## The prayers of penitence

God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ  
to save us from our sins,  
to be our advocate in heaven,  
and to bring us to eternal life:

Let us, therefore, confess our sins in penitence and faith firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all:

**All: Lord God,  
we have sinned against you;  
we have done what is wrong in your sight;  
we are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love,  
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**

May the father of all mercies  
cleanse us from our sins  
and restore us in his image,  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

**All: Amen**

### **Hymn Love divine all loves excelling**

(Tune: Blaernwern)

lost in wonder, love, and praise!

**1.** Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us your humble dwelling,  
all your faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, you are all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love impart;  
visit us with your salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

**2.** Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all your grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more your temples leave.  
We would always give you blessing,  
serve you as your hosts above,  
pray, and praise you without ceasing,  
glory in your perfect love.

**3.** Finish then your new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see your great salvation,  
perfect in eternity:  
Changed from glory into glory  
till in heaven we take our place,  
there to sing salvation's story

Blessed is the Lord,

**All: For he has heard our prayer.**

Therefore, shall our hearts dance for joy

**All: and in our songs we will praise our God. Amen**

## The collect for the day

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.**

## The Word of God

### The Epistle reading

The Ascension of Jesus – read by Elizabeth Shortland

Acts: 1: 6-14 *New Living Translation*

<sup>6</sup>So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”

<sup>7</sup>He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup>After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. <sup>10</sup>As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. <sup>11</sup>“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”

<sup>12</sup>Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. <sup>13</sup>When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying.

Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the zealot), and Judas (son of James). <sup>14</sup>They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.

### **Hymn** Jesus is Lord: Creation’s voice proclaims it

**1.** Jesus is Lord! Creation’s voice proclaims it,  
For by His power each tree and flower was planned and made.  
Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it;  
sun, moon and stars in heaven cry: Jesus is Lord!

*Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!  
Praise Him with ‘Hallelujahs’, for Jesus is Lord!*

**2.** Jesus is Lord! Yet from His throne eternal  
in flesh He came to die in pain on Calvary’s  
tree.  
Jesus is Lord! From Him all life proceeding,  
yet gave His life a ransom thus setting us  
free.

**3.** Jesus is Lord! O’er sin the mighty conqueror,  
from death He rose and all His foes shall own  
His name.  
Jesus is Lord! God sends His Holy Spirit  
to show by works of power that Jesus is Lord.

## The Gospel reading

Jesus Prays for His Disciples – read by Simon Stranks

John 17: 1-11 *New Revised Standard Version*

<sup>1</sup>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, <sup>2</sup>since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup>“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. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>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.

This is the Gospel of Christ

## Short Reflection

### The Creed

**All: 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 to heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.  
Amen**

## Prayers of intercession

Let us pray to the Lord who is our refuge and our stronghold:

Our response today:

Risen and ascended Lord:     **All: Fill us with your glory**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of The Venerable Bede (Monk, Scholar & Historian – 735); John and Charles Wesley (Evangelists and Hymn Writers – 1791 and 1788); and all your saints, we commend ourselves to your unfailing love.

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

Gathering our prayers into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed by 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**

**Hymn At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow** (Tune: Camberwell)

**1.** At the name of Jesus  
every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess him  
King of Glory now.  
'Tis the Father's pleasure  
we should call him Lord,  
who from the beginning  
was the mighty Word:

**3.** Humbled for a season,  
to receive a name  
from the lips of sinners  
unto whom he came,  
faithfully he bore it  
spotless to the last,  
brought it back victorious  
when from death he passed.

**5.** In your hearts enthrone him;  
there let him subdue  
all that is not holy,  
all that is not true:  
crown him as your captain  
in temptation's hour;  
let his will enfold you  
in its light and power.

**2.** At his voice creation  
sprang at once to sight,  
all the angel faces  
all the hosts of light,  
thrones and dominations,  
stars upon their way,  
all the heavenly orders  
in their great array.

**4.** Bore it up triumphant  
with its human light,  
through all ranks of creatures  
to the central height,  
to the throne of Godhead,  
to the Father's breast;  
filled it with the glory  
of that perfect rest.

**6.** Truly, this Lord Jesus  
shall return again,  
with his Father's glory,  
with his angel train;  
for all wreaths of empire  
meet upon his brow,  
and our hearts confess him  
King of Glory now.

## Closing prayers

**All: Almighty God,  
we thank you for the gift of your holy word.  
May it be a lantern at our feet,  
a light upon our paths  
and a strength to our lives.  
Take us and use us  
to love and serve all people  
in the power of the Holy Spirit  
and in the name of your Son  
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

May the Lord watch over us all this day and coming night,  
may he smile upon us and be gracious unto us  
today and always.

**All: Amen**

Go in peace to long and serve the Lord

**All: in the name of Christ. Amen**



Paddling in Sea of Galilee

[Reflection and prayers for this service are taken from *Roots on the Web* (Live your Faith 'Glorify your name' – 23-30 May 2020). Additional prayers taken from 'Clouds and Glory!' (Year A) by David Adam]