



Welcome to St Alban's Church

Easter 5

This church is fitted with an induction loop system. Please switch your hearing aid to 'Two beeps' (T)

Mass Setting today — Mass of St Thomas Copyright 2012 David Thorne Music

OPENING HYMN *Timothy Dudley-Smith © 1976 Timothy Dudley-Smith*

**Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.**

**Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.**

**Lord, for our world where men disown and doubt you,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.**

**Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us –
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone**

We are gathered together as one body

† 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.**

Before the children leave for Junior Church we pray together....

Dear God, this church is a family.

**Help us to learn together, to worship together,
to share together and to pray together.**

In Jesus name. Amen

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer,
this is your world and we are your people: come among us and save us.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought, in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us.

We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins.

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past; and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light. 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

**Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
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.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.**

**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.
Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.**

THE COLLECT (The special prayer of the day)

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**

*After each reading ...*This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

FIRST READING: Acts 11.1-18

SECOND READING: Revelation 21.1-6

Stand to sing the Gradual Hymn Anonymous, based on John 13. 34-35

**A new commandment
I give unto you,
that you love one another
as I have loved you,
that you love one another
as I have loved you.**

**By this shall all men know
that you are my disciples,
if you have love one for another.
By this shall all men know
that you are my disciples,
if you have love one for another**

THE GOSPEL – John 13.31-35

We sing....**Alleluia, alleluia; alleluia, alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you O God

*After the reading...*This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED *Please stand if you are able*

**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;
he 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

*At the end of the prayers we say together: Merciful Father, accept
these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.*

THE PEACE. *Please stand if you are able*

To crown all things there must be love, to bind all together and complete the whole. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN: *George William Kitchin (1827-1912) and Michael Robert Newbolt (1874-1956)*

***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
Till all the world adore His sacred name.***

**1. Come Christians, follow where our saviour trod,
O'er death victorious, Christ the Son of God.**

**2. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us unto thee**

**3. Let every race and every language tell
of him who saves our soul from death and hell**

**4. From farthest regions let them homage bring,
and on his cross adore their Saviour King**

**5. Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace**

**6. For the blest cross which doth for all atone
creation's praises rise before thy throne**

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Blessed are you,

Blessed be God forever

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 indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with
confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith
Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Alban, and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours,
O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, 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.
And 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 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.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace**

God's holy gifts, for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

All baptised Christians who receive communion in their own churches are welcome to receive communion. Any member of the congregation may come to receive a blessing

COMMUNION HYMN:

**How deep the Father's love for us,
how vast beyond all measure,
that he should give his only Son
to make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss –
the Father turns his face away,
as wounds which mar the Chosen One
bring many sons to glory.**

**Behold the man upon a cross,
my sin upon his shoulders;
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there
until it was accomplished;
his dying breath has brought me life –
I know that it is finished.**

**I will not boast in anything,
no gifts, no power, no wisdom;
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,
his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer;
but this I know with all my heart –
his wounds have paid my ransom.**

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

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**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood
of your Son, Jesus Christ. Through Him we offer you our souls and
bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water welling up to eternal
life, perfect in you the image of his glory;
and the blessing ...

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *Julia Ward Howe (1819-1910)*

**1. Mine eyes have seen the glory
of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage
where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he hath loosed the fateful lightning
of his terrible swift sword;
his truth is marching on.**

***Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.***

**2. I have seen him in the watchfires
of a hundred circling camps,
they have gilded him an altar
in the evening dews and damps;
I can read his righteous sentence
by the dim and flaring lamps;
his day is marching on.**

**3. He has sounded forth the trumpet
that shall never sound retreat;
he is sifting out the hearts of all
before his judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer him;
be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.**

**4. In the beauty of the lilies
Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom
that transfigures you and me;
as he died to make us holy,
let us make all people free
whilst God is marching on.**

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FOR OUR PRAYERS:

The Parish: *Neptune Close and Nevile Close, Medway Road and Mowbray Drive*

Prayers for: *Alistair and Marcia, Sophie Baker, Judith Aldridge, Emma Perry, Eslin, Douglas, Fran, Linda Ballard, John Romaine, Peter Hill, Kerry, Gordon, June, Keith Ford, Rose, Julie, Liam, Cruse, Jayne, Freddie, Mark Parsons, John, Bev, Robert, Janette, Sheila and family, Barbara Britt and Neal*

The Departed: *John Pilkington – Priest*

Year's Mind: *Isabel Blagg*

Church Flowers Donation List. Any person who would like to donate towards the cost of church flowers in memory of a loved one or to celebrate an anniversary or birthday, please put the relevant details on the list provided at the back of the church. Please give your donation to Sue Richardson (Treasurer) or Revd. Ann in a Flower Donation envelope.

Computer Group. Why not come along to our friendly computer group in the Church Hall - Tuesdays from 10 am, Wednesdays from 10.30 am. **We need more helpers** with this group. You don't need to be an expert, just prepared to be a friendly support. Could you help by sharing your computer skills? Please speak to Ann.

House Group. This friendly group now meets at St Alban's on Friday mornings at 10 am for a time of sharing, prayer and study. New members are welcome: more details from Madeleine.

Ascension Day service Thursday 30th May at 8 pm. This is a very special date in the church calendar so please do come to celebrate.

Appeal for help with our Church Summer fair

Our Summer fair is fast approaching on **Saturday 15th June 11 – 3**. It is one of our 2 major fundraising events of the year, and we as a church rely on it to help pay for the many expenses that arise over the year. This is before we even start thinking about repairs to the tower or re-building our church hall!

We need lots of help both on the day and in all the preparations for stalls and items for these. Please be generous both with giving items and giving of your time!

You will find lists to sign up for at the back of the church, and some of us may approach you and ask you how you can help.

Instead of a Grand Draw our Great Big Hamper raffle will involve a selection of special hampers which we need help in filling. Themes are: Bakers World; Master Gardener; The Great British Play off; Fantastic Fruit Basket; Various Vegetables Basket; Chocoholics Basket; Smellies & Pampering Basket. Please help us to make these really spectacular prizes so we can sell lots of tickets! This needs to be a big money spinner. There is a list of items you can choose to donate, please sign up.

We will need to borrow some gazebos, tents/marquees etc, and cool boxes and if possible a small freezer so we can sell ice-creams – does anyone have any of these we can use or know where we might borrow

them from? We need help collecting tables from The Barn Church, and many other jobs before and on the day itself.

For a change, this year, we'd like to have Beer & Pimms tent, so if anyone would volunteer to help with this that would be great!

Other items we will need include:

Cakes Plants Books Good as New items

Toys Jazzy jars Bottles for Bottle Tombola Tombola items

And if you have any other suggestions or ideas to help make this a really successful event, do let us know!

Please support the Fundraising Committee who are **all** working hard to support our church!

SERVICES AT ST ALBAN'S

Where everyone is welcome

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Sung Eucharist 9:30am weekly

'Out of the Box' family worship on 2nd Sunday of each month 11.15 to 12 noon

WEEKDAY SERVICES:

Said Eucharist (Thursday 9:30am) Followed by Community Morning 10am-12pm

Morning Prayer 9am Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Saturday Prayers 9am on the 2nd Saturday of every month

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