



Welcome to St Alban's Church

Easter 5

Opening Hymn

Lord of all hopefulness,
Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like,
No cares could destroy;
Be there at our waking,
And give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
At the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all
faith,
Whose strong hands were
skilled
At the plane and the lathe;
Be there at our labours,
And give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts,
Lord,
At the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all
grace,
Your hands swift to welcome,
Your arms to embrace;
Be there at our homing,
And give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord,
At the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all
calm,
Whose voice is contentment,
Whose presence is balm;
Be there at our sleeping,
And give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,
At the end of the day.

*Jan Struther © 1931, 1982
Oxford University Press*

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom:

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you will come in glory with salvation for your people:

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

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**

THE GLORIA © 1983 Mike Anderson

Gloria! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!

Repeat

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

**Jesus, Saviour of all, Lord God, lamb of God,
you take away our sins, O Lord, have mercy on us all!**
Gloria etc

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

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

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**

FIRST READING: **Acts 7.55-end**

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.

⁵⁸ 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. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ⁶⁰ 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.

THE GOSPEL – John 14.1-14

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.’

⁵Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ ⁶Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

⁸Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ ⁹Jesus 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”? ¹⁰Do 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. ¹¹Believe 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.

¹²Very 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. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

The REFLECTION

THE NICENE CREED

**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

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said,
'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

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

THE EUCHARIST

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, in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
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.**

The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and for ever, Amen.

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**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing ...

With the risen life of Christ within you,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia
In the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Closing Hymn

**Blessèd assurance, Jesus is mine:
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.**

***This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.***

**Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

**Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.**

Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915)

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