



# Welcome to St Alban's

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

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OPENING HYMN ©Michael Saward/Jubilate Hymns

**1 Christ triumphant, ever reigning,  
Saviour, Master, King.**

Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,  
hear us as we sing:

*Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name.*

**2 Word incarnate, truth revealing,  
Son of Man on earth!**

Power and majesty concealing  
by your humble birth.

*Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name.*

**3 Suffering Servant, scorned, ill-treated,  
victim crucified!**

Death is through the cross defeated,  
sinners justified!

*Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name.*

**4 Priestly King, enthroned forever,  
high in heaven above!**

Sin and death and hell shall never  
stifle hymns of love:

*Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name.*

**5 So, our hearts and voices raising  
through the ages long,  
ceaselessly upon you gazing  
this shall be our song:**

*Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name.*

† 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, alleluia!**

## 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.

God be gracious to us and bless us,  
and make your face shine upon us:  
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

May your ways be known on the earth,  
your saving power among the nations:  
Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,  
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:  
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

## ABSOLUTION

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 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.**

**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.**

**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. Amen.**

## THE COLLECT

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.**

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 8.26-end

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' <sup>31</sup> He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

<sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' <sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

<sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

THE GOSPEL

John 15.1-8

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life;  
and I will raise them up on the last day.'

**Alleluia.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**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 into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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

*RESPONSE:* 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. Amen**

## 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 Lord be always with you:  
**And also with you.**

## THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made, it will become for us the bread of life.  
**Blessed be God forever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.  
**Blessed be God forever.**

## 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.**

**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.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

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

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 ...

We are raised to new life with Christ.

Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.

**In the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.**

CLOSING HYMN *Edmond Louis Budry.(1854-1932) trans. Richard Birch Hoyle*

**1 Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,;  
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won;  
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.  
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!***

**2 Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.  
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!***

**3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!  
Life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;  
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love.  
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.  
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!***

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