



Welcome to St Alban's

Sunday after Ascension

OPENING HYMN *Bob Gillman © 1977 Kingsway's Thankyou Music*

*Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together
with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together,
bind us together with love.*

1 There is only one God,
there is only one King;
there is only one Body,
that is why we sing: *Bind us together, Lord...*

2 Made for the glory of God,
purchased by His precious Son;
born with the right to be clean,
for Jesus the victory has won. *Bind us together, Lord...*

3 You are the family of God,
you are the promise divine;
you are God's chosen desire,
you are the glorious new wine. *Bind us together, Lord...*

† 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!**

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.**

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 ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your church on earth with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 1.15-17, 21-end

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, ¹⁶ 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— ¹⁷ for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.'

So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.’ ²³ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed and said, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place^{of} in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.’ ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

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

THE GOSPEL
John 17.6-19

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

¹¹ 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. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled.

¹³ But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

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,
giver of life and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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,
who has given to his Son the name above every name,
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord. **Amen.**

God the Son,
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,
plead for you at the right hand of the Father. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,
who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,
make you faithful servants of Christ our King. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty....

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

CLOSING HYMN *Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)*

**1 Praise, my soul, the king of heaven!
To his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting king!**

**2 Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness!**

**3 Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows!**

**4 Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace!**

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