



**ST PETER'S**  
ST ALBANS

**Welcome to our Service**  
**Sunday 21 May**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

*All children are welcome at St Peter's. We have a children's corner area and this Sunday we have Junior Church for those aged 5-11 years.*

## **Welcome and Greeting**

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

As God's people we gather:

*All* **let us worship him together.**

## **Opening Prayer**

### **Hymn**

**Hail the day that sees him rise Alleluya!**  
**Glorious to his native skies; Alleluya!**  
**Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluya!**  
**Enters now the highest heaven! Alleluya!**

**There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluya!,**  
**Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluya!**  
**Christ hath vanquished death and sin; Alleluya!**  
**Take the King of glory in. Alleluya!**

**Lord, though parted from our sight, Alleluya!**  
**Far above yon azure height, Alleluya!**  
**Grant our hearts may thither rise, Alleluya!**  
**Seeking thee beyond the skies. Alleluya!**

**There we shall with thee remain, Alleluya!**  
**Partners of thine endless reign; Alleluya!**  
**There thy face unclouded see, Alleluya!**  
**Find our heaven of heavens in thee. Alleluya!**

*Charles Wesley (1707 – 88) Thomas Cotterill (1779 – 23)*

## **A Time for Forgiveness**

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

## **Our Prayer for Today**

*The choir sing a Psalm*

### **Reading Acts 1: 6-14**

So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ <sup>7</sup> He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of <sup>[a]</sup> James. <sup>14</sup> All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

### **Hymn**

- 1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry,  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night ,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will hear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?**

***Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night,  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.***

- 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them,  
    they turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?**
  
- 3. I the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
    My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
Till their hearts be satisfied  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?**

*Daniel L. Schutte (b.1947)*

### **The Gospel Reading** *John 17: 1-11*

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 the Lord.

*All*     **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Talk**

### **The Creed**

We declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;

*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 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.**

## **Our Prayers for Others**

*These responses may be used*

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

*And at the end*

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

## **The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All**     **And also with you**

## **Hymn**

**1 Alleluya, sing to Jesus,  
His the sceptre, his the throne;  
Alleluya! his the triumph,  
His the victory alone:  
Hark the songs of peaceful Sion  
Thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of every nation  
Hath redeemed us by his blood.**

**3 Alleluya, Bread of Angels,  
Thou on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluya, here the sinful  
Flee to thee from day to day;  
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,  
Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,  
Where the songs of all the sinless  
Sweep across the crystal sea.**

**2 Alleluya, not as orphans  
Are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluya, he is near us;  
Faith believes, nor questions how;  
Though the cloud from sight received him  
When the forty days were o'er,  
Shall our hearts forget his promise,  
'I am with you evermore'?**

**4 Alleluya, King eternal,  
Thee the Lord of lords we own;  
Alleluya, born of Mary,  
Earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:  
Thou within the veil hast entered,  
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest;  
Thou on earth both Priest and Victim  
In the Eucharistic Feast.**

*W. Chatterton Dix (1837-98)*

## **The Thanksgiving Prayer**

The Lord is here.

**All**     **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The president praises God for his mighty acts and all respond by singing:*

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus.

**All Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus come in glory.**

*The president recalls the Last Supper and leads into the doxology, concluding with:*

...for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray;

**All 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.**

## **Breaking of the Bread and invitation to Communion**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**All**     **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

### ***During Communion the choir sing***

O thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray  
That all thy Church might be for ever one,  
Grant us at every Eucharist to say  
With longing heart and soul, 'Thy will be done.'  
Oh, may we all one Bread, one Body be,  
One through this Sacrament of unity.

For all thy Church, O Lord, we intercede;  
Make thou our sad divisions soon to cease;  
Draw us the nearer each to each, we plead,  
By drawing all to thee, O Prince of Peace:  
Thus may we all one Bread, one Body be,  
One through this Sacrament of unity.

We pray thee too for wanderers from thy fold;  
O bring them back, good Shepherd of the sheep,  
Back to the faith which saints believed of old,  
Back to the Church which still that faith doth keep:  
Soon may we all one Bread, one Body be,  
One through this Sacrament of unity.

So, Lord, at length when sacraments shall cease,  
May we be one with all thy church above,  
One with thy saints in one unbroken peace,  
One with thy saints in one unbounded love:  
More blessed still, in peace and love to be  
One with the Trinity in Unity.

*William Turton (1856 – 1938)*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*All* **Eternal God, giver of love 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**

## **Hymn**

**1 O worship the King  
All glorious above;  
O gratefully sing  
His power and his love:  
Our Shield and Defender,  
The Ancient of days,  
Pavilioned in splendour,  
And girded with praise.**

**3 This earth, with its store  
Of wonders untold,  
Almighty, thy power  
Hath founded of old:  
Hath stablished it fast  
By a changeless decree,  
And round it hath cast,  
Like a mantle, the sea.**

**2 O tell of his might,  
O sing of his grace,  
Whose robe is the light,  
Whose canopy space.  
His chariots of wrath  
The deep thunder-clouds form,  
And dark is his path  
On the wings of the storm.**

**4 O measureless Might,  
Ineffable Love,  
While angels delight  
To hymn thee above,  
Thy humbler creation,  
Though feeble their lays,  
With true adoration  
Shall sing to thy praise.**

*Robert Grant (1779 – 38)*

## **The Blessing and Dismissal**

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