

THE PARISH OF
WITNEY



St Mary
the Virgin



Easter 5
The Eucharist

Sunday 15 May 2022
10.45am

**We warmly welcome everyone
to Saint Mary's Church in the Parish of Witney**

**A particular welcome in this Easter Season as we
celebrate the power of the Resurrection at work within
and around us.**

Please do join in the service with great enthusiasm, for as Saint Augustine said, 'We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!'

Jesus challenges us to love our neighbour. At Christian Aid, we believe he meant our global neighbour too.

We can't sit back and allow poverty to thrive. So together, as thousands of Christian Aid churches, supporters, partners and staff, we work hard to transform people's lives now and inspire lasting hope for the future.

Christian Aid Week is the single biggest act of Christian witness in Britain and Ireland. For thousands of churches, it's a way of getting out into the local community, and of answering Jesus' call to help people in need.

We each bring what we have – our energy, our voice, our influence, our money, our time, our talents, our prayer, and our worship – and use them to work for a world that looks more like God's Kingdom.



If you are interested in becoming a part of what is happening through the church please speak to one of the welcomers afterwards.

The Procession

As the sacristy bell sounds all stand for the first hymn as the procession moves to the font

Alleluia, alleluia!
hearts to heaven and voices raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise;
he who on the cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled
Jesus Christ, the king of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

The Rite of Sprinkling (Asperges)

May none of God's wonderful works keep silence,
night or morning.

All **Bright stars,
high mountains,
the depths of the seas,
sources of rushing rivers;
may all these break into song
as we sing to Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

May all the angels in the heavens reply

All **Amen! Amen! Amen!**
Power, praise, honour, eternal glory to God,
the only giver of grace.

All **Amen! Amen! Amen!**

~ anonymous Christian author, 3rd-6th century

Risen Christ, like Mary at the empty tomb,
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.

Like the disciples behind locked doors, we are afraid to be seen as
your followers. Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to
believe. Through this holy water wash us from our sins and be
with us as we celebrate your resurrection,
renewing the living spring of your life within us;
through Christ our Lord we pray.

All Alleluia! Amen!

The faithful are sprinkled with holy water from the font as a sign of forgiveness and blessing.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!
death at last has met defeat:
see the ancient powers of evil
in confusion and retreat;
once he died, and once was buried:
now he lives for evermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's redeemer,
whom we worship and adore.

Christ is risen, we are risen!
set your hearts on things above:
there in all the Father's glory
lives and reigns our king of love;
hear the word of peace he brings us,
see his wounded hands and side!
now let every wrong be ended,
every sin be crucified.

Alleluia, alleluia!
glory be to God on high:
alleluia to the Saviour
who has gained the victory;
alleluia to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity:
alleluia, alleluia
to the Triune Majesty!

Words: after Christopher Wordsworth
Music: LUX EOI, Arthur Sullivan

The Greeting

✠ In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

All **He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

*The service is introduced and the children are invited to head to their activities.
We then join in the song of the Angels in praise of God*

The Gloria

To begin, the choir sings the refrain then the congregation repeat:

Glo - ry, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est heav'ns.

9
Peace, peace, peace on the earth, peace to God's peo-ple, all peo-ple on earth.

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All: Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest heav'ns.

***Peace, peace, peace on the earth, peace to God's people,
all people on earth.***

Choir: Lord God, heavenly King,

almighty God and Father, we worship you,

we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

All: Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest heav'ns.

***Peace, peace, peace on the earth, peace to God's people,
all people on earth.***

Choir: Lord Jesus Christ, Lord Jesus Christ,

only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy, mercy on us,

All: Have mercy, mercy on us.

Choir: You are seated at the right hand, at the right hand of the
Father: receive, Lord, receive our prayer.

All: Receive Lord, receive our prayer.

*Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest heav'ns.
Peace, peace, peace on the earth, peace to God's people,
all people on earth.*

Choir: 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, glory of God, the glory of God the Father.

*All: Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest heav'ns.
Peace, peace, peace on the earth, peace to God's people,
all people on earth.*

Choir: Amen!

All: Amen!

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The Collect

Let us pray:

We behold your glory, O God,
In the love shown by your Son,
Lifted up on the cross
And exalted on high.
Increase our love for one another,
That both in name and in truth
We may be disciples of the risen Lord Jesus,
And so reflect by our lives the glory that is yours.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, the
First-born from the dead,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

We sit for the first reading, Acts 11.1-18. At the end

This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

We sit for the sermon.

The Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection and reign of Christ:

**We believe in God:
a communion of three Persons,
a communion of Life
a communion of Love
a communion of Peace**

**We believe in Jesus:
God and human
Prince of Peace**

**We believe in his Gospel
the Good News,
God's message of peace.**

**We believe Jesus died, rose,
and sent us the Holy Spirit
so we could live in his peace.**

**We believe in Baptism
that makes us one family in Jesus,
crucified and risen from the dead
to lead us to eternal peace.**

**He is our hope.
Through him, we pray for peace;
with him, we work for peace.
In him, we live for peace:
the peace of God's children**

to the glory of God.

Amen

The Intercessions

As we join in praise of the resurrection,
we turn to God in prayer:

Lord, in your mercy
All Hear our prayer

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The two disciples told what had happened on the road to Emmaus,
and how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the
bread. Alleluia!

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All and also with you.

Let us offer one another the sign of peace.

The Offertory Hymn

We stand as the Offertory Hymn is sung and the gifts of bread and wine are placed upon the Altar. The collection is also taken and presented. The bread, wine and money are all gifts from God and our offering of them back to God is a sign of the offering of our lives in the Lord's service.

Now from the heavens descending
is seen a glorious light,
the bride of Christ in splendour,
arrayed in purest white.

She is the holy city,
whose radiance is the grace
of all the saints in glory,
from every time and place.
This is the hour of gladness
for bridegroom and for bride.
The Lamb's great feast is ready,
his bride is at his side.
How blest are those invited
to share his wedding feast:
the least become the greatest,
the greatest are the least.

He who is throned in heaven
takes up his dwelling place
among his chosen people,
who see him face to face.
No sound is heard of weeping,
for pain and sorrow cease,
and sin shall reign no longer,
but love and joy and peace.

See how a new creation
is brought at last to birth,
a new and glorious heaven,
a new and glorious earth.
Death's power for ever broken,
its empire swept away,
the promised dawn of glory
begins its endless day.

Words: James Quinn b1919

Music: KING'S LYNN, English Traditional Melody

Let us pray:

Faithful God,
you love us with a mother's love;
look kindly on your children as we gather in praise.
Pour out your Spirit on all people, that we may live faithfully,

inspire hope, show love,
and raise a new song throughout all the earth.

All **Amen.**

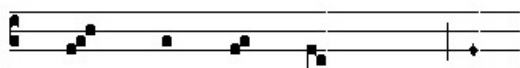
Christian Aid
Sursum Corda



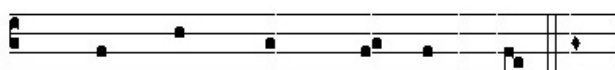
The Lord be with you



And al-so with you.



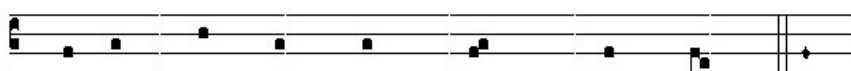
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

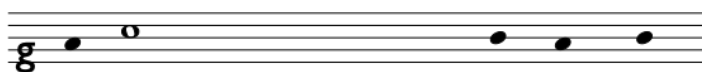


It is right to give thanks and praise.

From Easter Day until the Eve of the Ascension



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,



al-ways and everywhere to give you thanks,



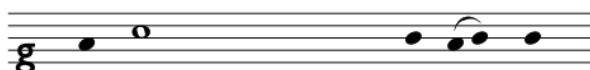
al-migh-ty and e-ter-nal Fa-ther,



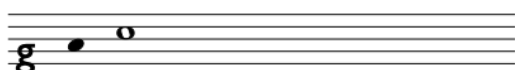
and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joy-ful hearts



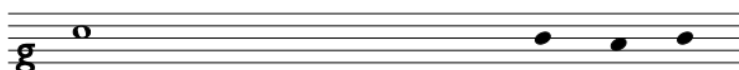
the me-mo-ry of your won-der-ful works.



For by the mystery of his pas-sion



Je-sus Christ, your risen Son,



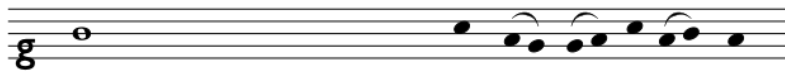
has conquered the powers of death and hell



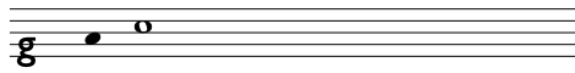
and restored in men and women the im-age of your glo-ry.



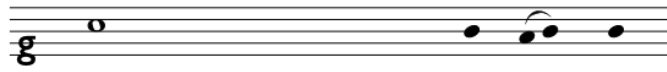
He has placed them once more in pa-ra-dise



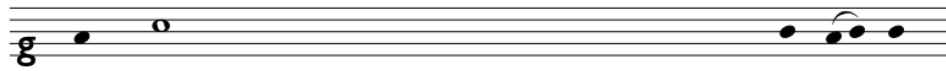
and opened to them the gate of life e-ter-nal.



And so, in the joy of this Passover,



earth and heaven resound with glad-ness,



while angels and archangels and the powers of all cre-a - tion



sing for ev-er the hymn of your glo - ry:

9 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God_ of pow'r and God_ of might:

17 heav-en and earth, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry, your pow'r and might. Ho -

25 san - na Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est heav'ns, Ho -

33 san - na Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est heav'ns.

41 Bles-sed, bles-sed is He_ who comes, bles-sed, bles-sed is He_ who comes,

bles-sed is He, bles-sed is He, who comes in the name of the Lord_ Back to

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Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us ✠ the body and blood of our Lord Jesus
Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.

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

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole
world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious
ascension, and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and
thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Mary the Mother of God,
John the Baptist, John the Evangelist, Frideswide,
Mary Magdalene and all the saints
and witnesses of the resurrection,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated host

We break this bread to share our unity with creation in Christ
and to share in the creativity of God.

All **Though we are many, we are one creation,
because we all share in the love of the creator.**

Je-sus, Lamb of God, Bread of Life for us; Je-sus Lamb of God, Wine of Joy for us;
Source of un - i - ty; Pre-cious cor - ner - stone;
Bread that makes us one; Wine that heals our pain;

5
Je - sus, Lamb of God, bear-ing all our sins: have mer - cy on us, give us your peace.

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Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

We break the bread for the whole world. We invite all who seek God and are drawn to Christ, and all who walk the way of faith to come forward and receive the body and blood of Christ as directed by the Sidesperson. Or you are warmly invited to come forward for a blessing – please carry this booklet and bow your head. Gluten free wafers are available on request.

The Communion Hymn

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands
That holy things have taken;
Let ears that now have heard thy songs
To clamour never waken.

Lord, may the tongues which 'Holy' sang
Keep free from all deceiving;
The eyes which saw thy love be bright,
Thy blessed hope perceiving.

The feet that tread thy holy courts
From light do thou not banish;
Thy bodies by thy Body fed
With thy new life replenish.

Words: St Ephraem, Trans Percy Dearmer
Music: ACH GOTT UND HERR

The Post Communion Prayer

After a period of silence, we stand with the Priest to pray

All God of the impossible, we thank you for the sacrament we have received and we pray for justice, peace and reconciliation. When the challenges seem too many, remind us of your resurrection power, and the miracles of your love that happen whenever injustice is dismantled and rebuilt with peace. Help us to hope that the impossible can happen and live as if it might do so today. Amen Amen.
- Christian Aid

The Notices

We sit for the notices

The Closing Response and Blessing

We stand

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Christ is Risen:

All **The world below lies desolate**

Christ is Risen:

All **The spirits of evil are fallen**

Christ is Risen:

All **The angels of God are rejoicing**

Christ is Risen:

All **The tombs of the dead are empty**

Christ is Risen indeed from the dead,
the first of the sleepers,

All **Glory and power are his forever and ever. Amen.**

~ written by Hippolytus (AD 190-236)

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

The Son of the living God
shine upon you with unfailing grace.

Grant you wisdom,

the power of faith,

and unchanging hope;

and may almighty God bless you

✠ the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Christian Aid (from the Church in Ethiopia)

The Dismissal

We are raised to new life with Christ

Go in his peace. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All Thanks be to God, Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Recessional Hymn

Now is eternal life,
if ris'n with Christ we stand,
in him to life reborn,
and held within his hand;
no more we fear death's ancient dread,
in Christ arisen from the dead.

Man long in bondage lay,
brooding o'er life's brief span;
was it, O God, for naught,
for naught, thou madest man?
Thou are our hope, our vital breath;
shall hope undying end in death?

And God, the living God,
stooped down to man's estate;
by death destroying death,
Christ opened wide life's gate.
He lives, who died;
he reigns on high;
who lives in him shall never die.

[¹]
[SEP] Unfathomed love divine,
reign thou within my heart;
from thee nor depth nor height,
nor life nor death can part;
my life is hid in God with thee,
now and through all eternity.

Words: G.W. Briggs, 1875-1959
Music: CHRISTCHURCH, C. Steggall, 1826-1905

Let us bless the Lord!

All Thanks be to God!

Join Us

Please support Saint Mary's Witney.

Your contributions make possible our ministry in liturgy and worship, community outreach, schools, learning, late night cafe, street pastors, visiting nursing homes and hospitals and other pastoral care. For more information please speak to one of the Ministry Team or Wardens.

Saint Mary's is profoundly grateful to the priests, lay leaders, volunteers, DCC members and friends whose unparalleled energy and determination make thousands of annual services, programmes and events possible. Please visit the parish website and twitter feed to stay in touch.