

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
(17.05.2020)

GREETING

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ be
with you.

and also with you.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

WELCOME

APPROACH

Lord Jesus in those days of wonder
after Easter,
you called Mary and Peter by their names,
and they recognised you;
and we too draw near to hear our names
spoken in love and to know you again.

You broke bread with your followers
on the road to Emmaus,
and in the blessing, they recognised you;
and we too come to share your blessing
and your broken life,
and to know you again.

You spoke peace to your disciples,
showed them the marks on your hands,
sent them out to bear witness to your risen life;
and we too come seeking peace,
seeking to bear witness
and to be sent out renewed.

Come among us now,
that we may recognise you
in each other,
and together know your healing and hope.
Amen.

CONFESSON

If we have fallen into despair,
Lord, forgive us.

If we have failed to hope in you,
Lord, forgive us.

If we have been fearful of death,
Lord, forgive us.

If we have forgotten the victory of Christ,
Lord, forgive us.

(Silence)

WORDS OF COMFORT & COMMITMENT

Lord, let us not dwell in the past,
nor worry about the future.
We cannot undo what is done,
we cannot foresee what will come.
Let us instead dwell in your peace,
love and be loved,
heal and be healed.
We give the past to you
and rest in your forgiveness.
We give the future to you
and rest in your love.
We live in your light, open our eyes so that we may see.
We live in your love, let your love flow through us,
to the fulfilment of your kingdom.
Amen.

COLLECT

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ
gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns, now
and for ever.

Amen.

READINGS

Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

John 14: 15-21

Jesus said, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.'

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray to the Lord, who is our refuge and stronghold.

For the health and well-being of our nation, for our health service and its workers, that all who are fearful and anxious may be at peace and free from worry.

For the isolated and housebound, that we may be alert to their needs, and care for them in their vulnerability.

For our homes and families, our schools, teachers, children and young people, that there may be glimpses of your grace in times of difficulty.

For a blessing on our local community, that it may be a place of trust and friendship, where all are known and cared for.

We hold before God all those who have asked for our prayers: those in need, the sick and the dying. We remember, too, those who have died and we pray for their loved ones.

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.
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 risen Christ be always with you.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught his disciples, we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together:

**We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.**

**We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end.**

BLESSING

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors.

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

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