

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
(SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION/ALDERSGATE SUNDAY)
(24.05.2020)

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.

CONFESSION

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

A COLLECT FOR ALDERSGATE SUNDAY

Loving God,
by whose grace John and Charles Wesley
received both the assurance of faith
and power to proclaim your love;
increase among us
the same gifts of your Spirit
that in both word and deed
we may share with all
the good news of salvation
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

READINGS

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?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 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.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 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.'

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. 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 James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

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

REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray for healing and for health;
for all who suffer in this world,
with minds that cannot bear its strains,
with bodies aching, full of pain.

**Restoring God, we look to you,
bring healing to all people here.**

For those whose bodies are diseased,
for lives reduced, by pain confined;
for those who've lost the use of limbs
through sickness, war or accident.

**Restoring God, we look to you,
bring healing to all people here.**

For those imprisoned in their minds,
obsessed, distrusting or depressed,
with twisting thoughts that can deny
reality and all its joys.

**Restoring God, we look to you,
bring healing to all people here.**

For those in tragedy and grief,
bowed down by all life's carelessness;
for those whose lives have been destroyed,
diminished by society.

**Restoring God, we look to you,
bring healing to all people here.**

For those abused, abandoned, lost,
where hopelessness has taken root;
those who now seek to find relief
through taking drugs or harming self.

**Restoring God, we look to you,
bring healing to all people here.**

We pray for healing and for health
for all the world and for ourselves;
we need your blessing on our lives,
remould, re-make, and heal us now.

**Restoring God, we look to you,
bring healing to us gathered here.**

THE PEACE

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said:
'Peace be with you!'

Then they were glad when they saw the Lord.

Alleluia! The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

And also with you. Alleluia!

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.**

RESPONSORY

As we long for your refreshing,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your renewing,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your equipping,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your empowering,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

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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