

Welcome to this celebration of the fifth Sunday of Easter. Let's be still and recognise that we are in the presence of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Alleluia

Alleluia. Christ Is Risen: He is risen indeed. Alleluia

The Lord be with you: and also with you

Just as I have loved you, love one another.... Today we receive the commandment from Jesus that sums up his mission and our calling: to share the love of God in the world. As we come into a time of prayer and reflection let us offer for transformation all in our lives that obstructs God's love in us:

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen

Let us pray:

Almighty God,

who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ

have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:

grant that, as by your grace going before us

you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

Alleluia

From the Gospel according to John 13: 31-35

Sermon (see attached text)

Let us pray:

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, True Vine,

Sustain the many branches of your church with the gifts of the Spirit, that  
in every place we may bear fruit that will last

Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us**

Jesus, light of the world,

bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations ...

Jesus, Lord of life,

in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life,

give food to the hungry ...

and nourish us all with your word.

Jesus, Lord of life,

in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,  
be with us and all who follow you in the way ...  
Deepen our appreciation of your truth  
and fill us with your life.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
in your mercy, hear us.  
Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,  
recover the straggler,  
bind up the injured,  
strengthen the sick  
and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
in your mercy, hear us.  
Jesus, the resurrection and the life,  
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you ...  
Raise us with them to eternal life.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
in your mercy, hear us,  
accept our prayers, and be with us always.  
Amen.

For the coming of God's kingdom we pray in the words Jesus gave us:  
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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass  
against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine  
is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever, Amen.

Giving thanks for the communion we share through baptism with one another and with God in Christ Jesus our Lord we make an act of spiritual communion in the words of this prayer:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. As I cannot receive you sacramentally today, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

The God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep,  
make you perfect in every good work to do his will;  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Alleluia