

ST MARK AND ALL SAINTS, READING

SUNDAY 10TH MAY 2026

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Whoever you are,
wherever you are on life's journey
you are welcome here.*

THE GATHERING

*All the words are in this service sheet. Please join in with the words printed in **bold type**.
At the start of the service a bell is rung and the procession enters as we stand to sing the opening hymn.*

ENTRANCE HYMN

**Name of all majesty,
Fathomless mystery,
King of the ages
By angels adored;
Power and authority,
Splendour and dignity,
Bow to His mastery,
Jesus is Lord!**

**Child of our destiny,
God from eternity,
Love of the Father
On sinners outpoured;
See now what God has done
Sending His only Son,
Christ the beloved One,
Jesus is Lord!**

**Saviour of Calvary,
Costliest victory,
Darkness defeated
And Eden restored;
Born as a man to die,
Nailed to a cross on high,
Cold in the grave to lie,
Jesus is Lord!**

**Source of all sovereignty,
Light, immortality,
Life everlasting,
And heaven assured;**

**So with the ransomed, we
Praise Him eternally,
Christ in His majesty
Jesus is Lord!**

THE GREETING

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

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The priest welcomes us and introduces the service.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice
by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

We say together

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Knowing that we are forgiven for our sins we sing this song of praise to God.

THE GLORIA

***Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.***

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,**

**almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

Glory to God ...

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

Glory to God ...

**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 of God the Father.**

Glory to God ...

The priest invites us to pray silently and then prays the collect:

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us
to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Amen.

Please sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 17.22-31

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.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN PSALM 66

Rhuddlan

Our gradual Hymn is a congregational setting of today's psalm

As we stand and sing the Gospel Book is carried into the midst of the congregation, reflecting God's coming among us in Christ. Please turn to face it.

**Sing to God, you earth, in triumph,
glorify his sacred name.
Bring to God your songs of glory,
sing his universal fame.
Say to God, 'Your deeds are glorious;
they will ever be the same.**

**'By the greatness of your power,
by the might of your decree,
every foe will cringe before you,
entering in on bended knee.
All the earth will bow in worship,
bring a song and melody.'**

**Come to see the acts of God, who
works amazing deeds on earth,
turning oceans into pathways,
bringing Israel to birth.
When they crossed the river dry shod,
we were glad and filled with mirth.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

I am the first and the last, says the Lord,
and the living one;

I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

THE GOSPEL

John 14.15-21

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: '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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

A brief period of silence may follow for us to reflect on the address and the readings today, then the priest invites us to stand to declare our faith.

THE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the
Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Sit or kneel to pray

During the prayers these or other responses may be used

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

And at the end of the prayers we may say

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

THE INTERCESSIONS

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand

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 Lord be always with you.
and also with you.

We greet those around us in the peace of Christ, saying "peace be with you."

*As we sing a collection will be taken for
the work of the church, Our church is a
charity which relies on your generous gift.
Please support our Mission and Ministry
and keep our beautiful buildings open
by placing your gift in the plate or scan
to donate.*

Sweet Sacrament divine,

OFFERTORY HYMN

Hid in thine earthly home,
Lo, round thy lowly shrine,
With suppliant hearts we come;
Jesu, to thee our voice we raise
In songs of love and heartfelt praise
Sweet sacrament divine.

Sweet Sacrament of peace,
Dear home for every heart,
Where restless yearnings cease
And sorrows all depart;
There in thine ear all trustfully
We tell our tale of misery:
Sweet Sacrament of peace.

Sweet sacrament of rest,
Ark from the ocean's roar,
Within thy shelter blest
Soon may we reach the shore;
Save us, for still the tempest raves,
Save, lest we sink beneath the waves:
Sweet Sacrament of rest.
Sweet Sacrament divine,
Earth's light and jubilee,
In thy far depths doth shine
The Godhead's majesty.
Sweet light, so shine on us, we pray
That earthly joys may fade away:
Sweet sacrament divine.

When the altar is prepared and the offerings received the president leads the offertory prayers.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread
to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.
Blessed be God for ever.

Generous God, as we gather around your table called and welcomed by Christ we present this
money, symbol of all the gifts you give to us.
**use it, use us, in the service of your world
to the glory of your name.**

Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.
For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:
**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

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 [N and] all the saints,
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**

We kneel or sit as silence is kept before the Lord's Prayer.

**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.**

The priest breaks the consecrated bread, saying

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world
grant us your peace**

COMMUNION HYMN

*A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.*

**By this shall all know that you are my disciples:
if you have love one for another.
By this shall all know that you are my disciples:
if you have love one for another.**

**You are my friends if you do what I command you.
Without my help you can do nothing.
You are my friends if you do what I command you.
Without my help you can do nothing.
I am the true vine, my Father is the gardener.
Abide in me: I will be with you.
I am the true vine, my Father is the gardener.
Abide in me: I will be with you.**

*A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.*

**True love is patient, nor arrogant nor boastful;
Love bears all things, love is eternal.
True love is patient, nor arrogant nor boastful;
Love bears all things, love is eternal.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Once communion has been shared we stand when the priest invites us to pray.

*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.*

***God of gentleness and love
draw near to us as we draw near to you.
Dwell in every heart and conversation.
Fashion in us the likeness
of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Help us to discern together a
ll that you are calling us to be
and all that you are calling us to do.
Assist us, by your Spirit,
to become a more contemplative,
more compassionate
and more courageous Church
for the building of your kingdom
and the glory of your Son.
Amen***

NOTICES

We sit to listen to any notices about parish events.

THE DISMISSAL

Stand

The Lord be with you
And also with you
The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

THE BLESSING

As we sing the procession moves to the back of the church.

**The kingdom of God is justice and joy;
For Jesus restores what sin would destroy.**

CLOSING HYMN

**God's power and glory in Jesus we know;
And here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.**

**The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;
The captives are freed, the sinners find place,
The outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share;
And hope is awakened in place of despair.**

**The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:
Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
God's love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross:
Our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.**

**God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal;
In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call;
And all things cry "Glory!" to God all in all.**

At the end of the hymn please turn to face The Lady Chapel/statue of our Lady Mary the mother of God as we sing our Easter Carol

EASTER CAROL

**Joy to thee, O Queen of heaven, alleluia!
he whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluia!
as he promised hath arisen, alleluia!
pour for us to God thy prayer. Alleluia!**

**Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!
For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!**

O God, who by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have brought joy to the whole world,
grant that with his Mother,
the Blessed Virgin Mary,
we may obtain the joys of everlasting life,
through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Please turn to face the priest at the back for the dismissal

**With the risen Christ within us,
let us go in the peace of Christ.
Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

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