

ST MARK AND ALL SAINTS, READING

PARISH MASS

SUNDAY 5TH JULY 2026

FIFTH AFTER TRINITY

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

To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise
In hymns of adoration;
To thee bring sacrifice of praise,
With shouts of exultation.
Bright robes of gold the fields adorn
The hills with joy are ringing,
The valleys stand so thick with corn
That even they are singing.

And now, on this our festal day,
Thy bounteous hand confessing,
Upon thine altar, Lord, we lay
The first-fruits of thy blessing:
By thee the souls of men are fed
With gifts of grace supernal;
Thou who dost give us earthly bread;
Give us the Bread eternal.

We bear the burden of the day,
And often toil seems dreary;
But labour ends with sunset ray,
And rest comes for the weary:
May we, the angel-reaping o'er,
Stand at the last accepted,
Christ's golden sheaves for evermore
To garners bright elected.

O blessed is that land of God,
Where saints abide for ever;
Where golden fields spread far and broad,
Where flows the crystal river:
The strains of all its holy throng
With ours today are blending;
Thrice blessed is that harvest-song
Which never hath an ending.

THE GREETING

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

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The priest welcomes us and introduces the theme of the service.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

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 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.
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.
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. Amen.**

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

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever
Amen

Please sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Romans 7.15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL PSALM 145

Old Hundredth

All praise to you, my God and King,
I bless your name for evermore,
blessing you daily, as I sing,
praising your name for evermore.

Come, praise the Lord, for he is great,
splendour that we can never gauge.
Daily proclaim his awesome state,
through generations, age to age.

Echo his glory and renown;
I contemplate your wonders, Lord,
for we commend your awesome crown,
and I recount your strength abroad.

Goodness and greatness they record,
singing of all your righteousness.
Holy and gracious is the Lord,
slow in his anger, swift to bless.

In his compassion he is good,
gentle to all beneath his gaze.
Joyful, the faithful firmly stood,
praising the Lord in all his ways.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11.16-19,25-30

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.
You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time Jesus said, To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

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

THE INTERCESSIONS

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 say

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand

THE PEACE

We are the Body of Christ.
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.
**Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life.**

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

We greet those around us in the peace of Christ, shaking hands and saying "Peace be with you"

OFFERTORY HYMN

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.

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon my breast:'
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
And he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one;
Stoop down and drink and live:'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
And all thy day be bright:'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my Star, my Sun;
And in that Light of life I'll walk
Till travelling days are done.**

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.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ,
your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks
because you are the source of light and life;
you made us in your image
and called us to new life in him.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

**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.

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 [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.**

The priest invites the people to receive Communion, and says
Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

**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

O, the love of my Lord is the essence
Of all that I love here on earth.
All the beauty I see
He has given to me
And his giving is gentle as silence.

Every day, every hour, every moment
Have been blessed by the strength of his love.
At the turn of each tide
He is there at my side,
And his touch is as gentle as silence.

**There've been times when I've turned from his presence,
And I've walked other paths, other ways.
But I've called on his name
In the dark of my shame,
And his mercy was gentle as silence.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered
by your governance,
that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

NOTICES

We sit to listen to any notices about parish events.

THE DISMISSAL

Stand

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Christ, who has nourished us
with himself the living bread,
make you one in praise and love,
and raise you up at the last day;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

THE BLESSING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ..

CLOSING HYMN

The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation
By water and the word:
From heaven he came and sought her
To be his holy Bride,
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.

Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
Men see her sore opprest,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distrest,
Yet saints their watch are keeping,
Their cry goes up, 'How long?'
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

'Mid toil, and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace for evermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with thee.

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (2000).
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