



WELCOME TO ST PETER'S ASH



THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AT ST PETER'S IS CALLED TO CELEBRATE, LIVE AND REFLECT THE LOVE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST

17th MAY 2020

EASTER 6

READINGS FOR TODAY

Acts 17 v 22 - 31; 1 Peter 3 v 13 - end;
John 14 v 15 - 21

PARISH OFFICE: Closed until further notice.

TEL:01252 331161; e- mail: office@saint-peters-ash.org.uk

BOOKINGS OF WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS – 01252 321517

WEBSITE: www.saint-peters-ash.org.uk

***ALLELUIA, CHRIST IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!***

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER
SHEILA TAYLOR**



I hope you are all keeping well during these difficult times. It is very sad that we are unable to meet and worship together in church, I miss seeing you, I miss joining together in worship, life is just a little more of a challenge.

I have had many questions about the “envelope” giving, what should you do with it? Initially I had hoped that we would be allowed back to church before now, but it looks like that is not going to happen in the immediate future. If you would like to make payment to the PCC, bank details are as follows:

Bank: Natwest Bank Plc. 30 Wellington Street, Aldershot. GU11 1AE

Account Name: PCC of St Peter's, Ash
Account Number: 50140256
Sort Code: 60 01 08

Please make sure you include your name.

Or you could write a cheque and send it to me, enclosing one of the weekly envelopes. Send your cheque to: Father Keith, The Rectory, Ash Church Road, Ash, Surrey. GU12 6LU Thank you on behalf of the PCC and keep safe and keep well.

COLLECT FOR EASTER 6 & BEFORE ASCENSION DAY

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, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR AFTER ASCENSION DAY

Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven: help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and for ever. Amen.

DON'T FORGET OUR ST PETER'S PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like emergency prayer for yourself or somebody else please phone: 01252 322292 or 01252 323037 – this is a confidential service.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, has launched a free national phone line 'Daily Hope' to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed. It offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services. The line is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**

ASCENSION DAY

This Thursday 21st May we shall be celebrating that milestone in our Eastertide remembrances – Ascension Day. You will find a service at the end of this weeks' Pew Sheet which can be used at any time on Thursday. However, if you would like to feel 'connected' with other members of the congregation we can all use it at 7 – 30 pm. That will still give us time to show our appreciation for NHS and other frontline workers at 8 pm as usual.

O Christ, be thou our present joy, our future great reward; our only glory may it be to glory in the Lord.

All praise to thee, ascended Lord; all glory ever be, to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, through all eternity. Amen.

Morning Prayer to share at 10 am on Sunday

If there is more than one person present, someone may wish to read the parts marked (L), everyone says the rest together. You can say alternate verses in the Psalm and in the Canticle. Have a Bible to hand.

(L) Alleluia, Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

(L) O Lord, open our lips

All: and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

(L) In your resurrection, O Christ

All: let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

You may wish to light a candle at this point

(L): The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind:

All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

(L): In baptism we died with Christ, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, we might walk in newness of life. Let us receive new life in him as we confess our sins in penitence and faith:

(Pause for reflection)

All: 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.

All say 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.

Say the Collect for Easter 6 (see previous page)

Read Acts 7 v 22 - 31 followed by Psalm 66 v 7 to the end, concluding with:

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Read 1 Peter 3 v 13 - end

All: 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!

Now read John 14 v 15 - 21. Here are some thoughts from Carol on today's readings:

Well what a turnaround! Last week we were reading how Saul stood and watched Stephen being stoned to death,

and giving his approval too: 'And Saul approved of their killing him' (Acts 8 v 1), whereas, this morning, we have fast forwarded, beyond Saul's conversion and name Jew, to now being an ardent follower of Jesus. We know from the scriptures that Paul continued to be an advocate of the Way throughout his life. He helped form many churches as he travelled around the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern countries. He made many close bonds with those he met along the way, but the one thing that was constant was his unwavering love of Jesus Christ and a commitment to tell people about Him and encourage them in their understanding of the God that came to save His people.

In the Acts reading this morning we can see that Paul noticed how much the Athenians were into religion. They liked nothing more than to set up an altar to a god – it didn't really matter what god, so long as there was something to show for it, and they enjoyed talking about and debating religion, so when Paul began to speak, the people listened. Here's an extract from a 'Lectionary Reflection' by Jane Williams on this very subject: 'So when they invite him, politely and formally, to come and address them about his ideas, Paul starts cautiously with compliments. He has noticed, he says, that they are deeply religious people. The audience nod and preen themselves slightly. Indeed, Paul goes on, they seem to be prepared to worship almost anything, and put up altars to nothing in particular, just in case. The audience frown, wondering if that is still a compliment, or does it, in fact contain a hint of criticism?'

Since 'lockdown' began there have been many reports that virtual church has really opened people up to the Christian faith. With record numbers 'attending' virtual services that have been appearing on Facebook and other media platforms. In fact, there has been much talk within certain spheres as to whether this should be the way forward for church. However, I would question if some/most people are just like the Athenians, dipping into whatever comes their way, especially in these difficult and trying times. And we as a church should not get carried away with the boom in church 'attendance'. Here's an extract from the The Church Times' referencing one churches' experience of Easter service 'attendance' that took place over Facebook: 'Reach' is a measure of the number of people who saw the videos, and it is flattering. But we are brought down to earth by the average viewing time: for services that lasted about 25 minutes, the average viewing time was one minute'. When people lose interest in what is on the screen, they change the content...'

Following Jesus is tough. As Paul points out we are to be continually seeking God's forgiveness. We are sometimes called upon to show great courage and strength (like Stephen). Some of those who have sought God through the virtual world will be genuine seekers and willing to take those steps of commitment that are required, but there will be many that are just like the Athenians, will get bored and move on to the next thing. We, as Jesus' followers today, have the task of trying to help encourage such people, and despite being in lockdown there are many ways in which we can show people how to do that. We can be prayerful, show courage and strength and remain faithful despite the circumstances we find ourselves in. Amen.

Pause for your own reflections, and then we say:

All: The Lord is risen from the tomb who for our sakes hung upon the tree. Alleluia.

1 'Behold, God is my salvation; † I will trust and will not be afraid;

2 'For the Lord God is my strength and my song, † and has become my salvation.'

.....

.....

3 With joy you will draw water ♦ from the wells of salvation.

4 On that day you will say, ♦ ‘Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name;

5 ‘Make known his deeds among the nations, ♦ proclaim that his name is exalted.

6 ‘Sing God’s praises, who has triumphed gloriously; ♦ let this be known in all the world.

7 ‘Shout and sing for joy, you that dwell in Zion, ♦ for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.’

(Isaiah 12.2-6)

All: The Lord is risen from the tomb who for our sakes hung upon the tree. Alleluia.

We now have prayers of intercession, written today by Fr Keith:

Heavenly Father, we pray for the church throughout the world, remembering our sisters and brothers, struggling, like us, with the Coronavirus pandemic. Give us all courage and hope for the future. Bless all who are helping and supporting others at this time, help us to reflect your love and compassion in all that we do.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the leaders of the nations, that you will give them wisdom in the difficult decisions they are having to make at this time. Help the nations to work together for the common good. Bless all the organisations who are working to bring relief where there is hardship, and the work of the World Health Organisation in its’ guidance through the crisis.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for all those working in our local community to help the vulnerable and the isolated. Bless all who are volunteering and keep them safe. Be with all those who work in the NHS and also those working in care homes. May they feel your loving presence with them in all that they do. Support their families also, especially those who fear for their loved ones’ safety.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick and suffering at this time, at home or in hospital. May they know your presence with them, your healing and your peace. Be with all who care for the sick at home, especially those who are feeling neglected and forgotten. Bless, also, those suffering from long term illnesses, particularly those whose treatment has been cancelled or delayed. Give them strength and courage to carry on.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for all who have died recently, especially those whose lives have been cut short by the Corona virus. May they, and all of the faithful departed, be granted rest and peace in your eternal kingdom. Bless all who mourn, especially those unable to attend the funeral of a loved one, may they find comfort in your promise of eternal life for all who put their trust in you.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, as our lockdown continues, help us to remember that you are always with us. As we are allowed to be out of our homes more often, keep us aware of those around us and our responsibility to them in keeping safe. As we look to you for strength and guidance, help us to listen to your voice, and follow the example of your Son, in all that we do. We ask all of these prayers in Jesus’ name. Amen.

As Jesus taught us, so we pray: Our Father in heaven....

This hymn may then be said or sung:

Love's redeeming work is done,
fought the fight, the battle won.
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er!
Lo, he sets in blood no more!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal!
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids him rise;
Christ has opened paradise.

Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,
foll'wing out exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise,
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
Praise to thee by both be giv'n:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection thou!

Let us pray:

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

(L): Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

(L): Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: He has given us new life and hope.
He has raised Jesus from the dead.

(L): God has claimed us as his own.

All: He has brought us out of darkness.
He has made us light to the world.

(L): Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future, fill us with his new life; and the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us and all who we love, today and always. Amen.

(L) Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

All: May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, and rise with Christ in glory. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THE RECENTLY DEPARTED,
ESPECIALLY:

ROY LAMB; CALEB PERFECT
ANNIE TYLER (Annie was a member of our Flower Guild for many years, and a great supporter of St Peter's)

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK – EASTER 7

Acts 1 v 6 - 14; 1 Peter 4 v 12 – 14 & 5 v 6 - 11; John 17 v 1 - 11

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

KATIE HURCOMBE (TODAY); PHILIP ROSE (19TH)

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Evening Prayer for the Easter Season (5)

O Lord open our lips,
and our mouth shall show forth your praise.

O God make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

In your resurrection, O Christ,
let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
From the deep waters of death
you brought your people to new birth
by raising your Son to life in triumph.
Through him dark death has been destroyed
and radiant life is everywhere restored.
As you call us out of darkness into his marvellous light
may our lives reflect his glory
and our lips repeat the endless song.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This hymn may be said or sung:

Colours of day dawn into the mind,
The sun has come up, the night is behind.
Go down in the city, into the street,
And let's give the message to the people we meet.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
Open the door, let Jesus return.
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.*

Go through the park, on into the town;
The sun still shines on, it never goes down.
The light of the world is risen again;
The people of darkness are needing a friend.

Chorus

Open your eyes, look into the sky,
The darkness has come, the Son came to die.
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,
But Jesus is living, His Spirit is near.

Chorus

We pray:

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise
now and for ever Amen.

*A Psalm is said: Mon 121; Tue 128; Wed 15; Thurs
Ascension Day 8; Fri 145; Sat 85, ending with:*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever.
Amen.

Scripture Readings:

*Monday – Deuteronomy 26, 1 Peter 4 v 1 - 11
Tuesday – Deuteronomy 28 v 1 - 14, 1 Peter 4 v 12 - end
Weds – 2 Samuel 23 v 1 - 5, Colossians 2 v 20 to 3 v 4
Thurs – 2 Kings 2 v 1 – 15; Revelation 5
Fri - Deuteronomy 29 v 2 - 15, 1 John 1 v 1 to 2 v 6
Sat – Deuteronomy 30; 1 John 2 v 7 – 17*
Let us rejoice and exult and give glory and homage to
our God.

1 Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, ♦
whose judgements are true and just.

2 Praise our God, all you his servants, ♦ all who fear him,
both small and great.

3 The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns: ♦ let us rejoice
and exult and give him the glory.

4 For the marriage of the Lamb has come ♦ and his bride
has made herself ready.

5 Blessed are those who are invited ♦ to the wedding
banquet of the Lamb.

To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb ♦ be
blessing and honour and glory and might, for ever and
ever. Amen.

Let us rejoice and exult and give glory and homage to
our God.

Gospel Canticle: The Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

The stone which the builders rejected has become the
chief cornerstone. Alleluia.

1) My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit
rejoices in God my Saviour; he has looked with favour on
his lowly servant.

2) From this day all generations will call me blessed; the
Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his
name.

3) He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation
to generation.

4) He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered
the proud in their conceit,

5) Casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting
up the lowly.

6) He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the
rich away empty.

7) He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to
remember his promise of mercy,

8) The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and
his children for ever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever.
Amen.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the
chief cornerstone. Alleluia.

*Prayers of thanksgiving are made for the day that is
ending. Intercessions are offered for the church, the world
and for individuals, the sick and the departed.*

*Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:
Our Father, who art in heaven ...*

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and
courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory
of God the Father. Amen.

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray, and in your great
mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,
for the love of your only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all
evermore. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia. Thanks be to
God. Alleluia, alleluia.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy
of God, rest in peace. Amen.

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE at 7 – 30 pm

If there is more than one person present, someone may wish to read the parts marked (L), everyone says the rest together. You can say alternate verses in the Psalm and in the Canticle. Have a Bible to hand.

(L): God has gone up with a shout,

All: the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

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

(L): For forty days we have been celebrating with joyful hearts the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, his bursting from the tomb and his defeat of the power of sin and death. He appeared to his disciples many times and told them about the kingdom of God.

Today we recall how he left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers. Trusting in his reign over all creation, and submitting to his kingly yet loving rule, we hear the story of his parting.

We read Acts 1 v 1 – 11

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

(L): Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us offer him the praise worthy of his name:

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

(L): Let us pray that our risen and ascended Lord will lead us to eternal life:

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

We now read Daniel 7 v 9 – 14, followed by Psalm 47

Alleluia, alleluia. Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord. Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Alleluia!

We now read the Gospel reading – Luke 24 v 44 – 53

Here are some thoughts from Fr Keith:

Living in this time of uncertainty, perhaps this year, more than in previous years, we can better appreciate how Jesus' disciples might have been feeling on Ascension Day. After the resurrection we are told that Jesus spent more time with them explaining how the scriptures had prepared the way for His coming, and how His ministry had fulfilled them. He had also given them their 'mission plan'. As His witnesses they were now to share all that they had learned in 'Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1 v 8). No mean task!

He had also promised them that the Holy Spirit would come upon them to enable them in this work, so they knew they weren't going to be left on their own. But, and it must have seemed, a big 'but' – not quite yet. There were to be ten more days of waiting until Pentecost, (although they didn't know the timescale) so, surely, a time of great uncertainty for them. Moreover, they would have had no clear idea of what receiving this Holy Spirit would mean, what it would do, or how they would feel.

At first, as Jesus was carried up to heaven, they just gazed up after Him. Then they got a bit of a rebuke from the two men in white robes (Acts 1 v 11). 'Why do you stand looking up towards heaven?' Don't worry, he's coming back, they told them. The underlying message being, as I understand it, stop gawping and get on with what He told you to do!

So, how then, were they feeling? Well, like many of us at the moment – probably apprehensive about the future, trying hard not to let fear get the better of them, trying desperately to keep faith in the face of the unknown, and, at the same time, joyful at what they had experienced with Jesus, and eager to carry on doing what He wanted them to do. In other words – a lot of conflicting emotions! Having to have patience came into it as well, of course.

Already, Jesus had avoided their question about when the kingdom of Israel was to be restored 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority' (Acts 1 v 7) So, although they knew Jesus' intentions for them, the detailed timings were still unknown on that first Ascension Day, and that would have made them even more unsettled. Perhaps they were asking one another on their way back to Jerusalem – why can't we have the Holy Spirit right now? What is this waiting for, what's it all about?

In the same story, as told in Matthews' gospel, Jesus tells them 'And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age' (Matthew 28 v 20) These words have been bringing comfort and reassurance to generations of Christians for the past 2000 years and they seem particularly apposite in our current situation as well.

After three years of ministry, Jesus knew his disciples inside out. He knew their loyalty and enthusiasm and He was patient and forgiving with their mistakes. He also knew their potential, in spite of their frailties. Jesus would have known all about their mixed emotions too – He Himself had experienced what it means to be human, after all. He knew that none of them were perfect, but still He had confidence that, with the help of the Spirit, He could safely entrust the growth of the worldwide church to them. I'm sure many of us might not have had that same confidence in a group of humble fishermen! But then, that's the difference between how God sees things, and how we see things. God has more confidence in us, than we do in Him and in each other! He also has more patience than we do!

At the moment you might be feeling anxious and fearful, and impatient for the lockdown to end. All of our futures seem uncertain. How long will there be restrictions on how we want to live our lives? Will we catch the virus, and, if we do, will we get away with just mild symptoms? No-one can answer those questions for us. So, we have to carry on doing what we can to support each other, and above all remember those words of Jesus that he is always with us. This Ascension Day reminds us that mixed emotions gripped those first followers of Jesus no less than they grip us today. But just as God saw them through thick and thin, He is here for us today. In whatever lies ahead He is with us no less than with those frightened disciples 2000 years ago. Trust, and faith in His Fatherly love, is the key for us in the present crisis.



Pause for your own thoughts on the readings and then we say:

All: All nations shall come and worship you, O Christ, and share in the feast of your kingdom.

1 Great and wonderful are your deeds, ♦ Lord God the Almighty.

2 Just and true are your ways, ♦ O ruler of the nations.

3 Who shall not revere and praise your name, O Lord? ♦ for you alone are holy.

4 All nations shall come and worship in your presence: ♦ for your just dealings have been revealed.

All: To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might, for ever and ever. Amen.

All: All nations shall come and worship you, O Christ, and share in the feast of your kingdom.

The Intercessions:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you have exalted your Son Christ Jesus to your right hand, and made him the head over all things for his body the Church: hear us as we pray for the Church throughout the world. Make us and all your people receptive to the gifts he pours upon us, that we may use them to your glory, and the building up of the body of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord God Almighty, the Ancient of Days, you have given your Son all authority in heaven and on earth: hear us as we pray for the world he came to redeem. Be with all those dealing with the Coronavirus Pandemic, give wisdom to world leaders, and courage to all front-line workers. Grant that we may know even in this time of uncertainty and fear, the things that make for peace, and may strive for the reconciliation of all people in his kingdom of justice and love.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Father of all, whose Son has promised to be with us always, to the end of the age: hear us as we pray for those among whom we live and work, especially those on their own, and families undergoing strain in relationships and uncertainty with jobs and finances at this time. Grant that we may be so aware of Jesus' presence with us, that we may have faith to face the future and still bear witness to others of His unending love.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O God our Redeemer, whose Son ever lives to make intercession for us: hear us as we pray for those who are sick and suffering, at home or in hospital. May he who has borne our infirmities strengthen and heal them, that they may find grace to help in time of need, and rejoice in his salvation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, whose Son has borne our humanity into the heavenly realms, and gone before us to prepare a place for us: hear us as we remember before you those whose earthly sojourn is over, and whose life is now hidden in him with you. May they rest in your peace. Make us joyful and expectant, that at his coming with all his own, we too may go forth to meet him, and share with them in his eternal joy.

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

As our risen, ascended Saviour taught us, let us pray: Our Father.....

This hymn may be said or sung:

Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!
to his throne above the skies; Alleluia!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, Alleluia!
enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!

There for him high triumph waits; Alleluia!
lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!
he hath conquered death and sin; Alleluia!
take the King of glory in! Alleluia!

Lo! the heaven its Lord receives, Alleluia!
yet he loves the earth he leaves; Alleluia!
though returning to his throne, Alleluia!
still he calls mankind his own. Alleluia!

See! he lifts his hands above; Alleluia!
See! he shows the prints of love: Alleluia!
Hark! his gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!
blessings on his Church below. Alleluia!

Still for us he intercedes, Alleluia!
his prevailing death he pleads, Alleluia!
near himself prepares our place, Alleluia!
he the first fruits of our race. Alleluia!

Lord, though parted from our sight, Alleluia!
far above the starry height, Alleluia!
grant our hearts may thither rise, Alleluia!
seeking thee above the skies. Alleluia!

There we shall with thee remain, Alleluia!
partners of thy eternal reign, Alleluia!
there thy face forever see, Alleluia!
find our heaven of heavens in thee, Alleluia!

Let us pray:

Holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
it is right and good, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
through Jesus Christ the King of glory.
Born of a woman,
he came to the rescue of our human race.
Dying for us, he trampled death and conquered sin.
By the glory of his resurrection
he opened the way to life eternal, and by his ascension,
gave us the sure hope that where he is we may also be.
Therefore, the universe resounds with Easter joy and
with choirs of angels we sing for ever to your praise:
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven
and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.
Amen.

As we wait in silence, make us ready for your coming Spirit. As we listen to your word, make us ready for your coming Spirit. As we worship you in majesty, make us ready for your coming Spirit. 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.

May God the Son, who is our great high priest passed into the heavens, plead for us at the right hand of the Father, and may the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and always. Amen.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

