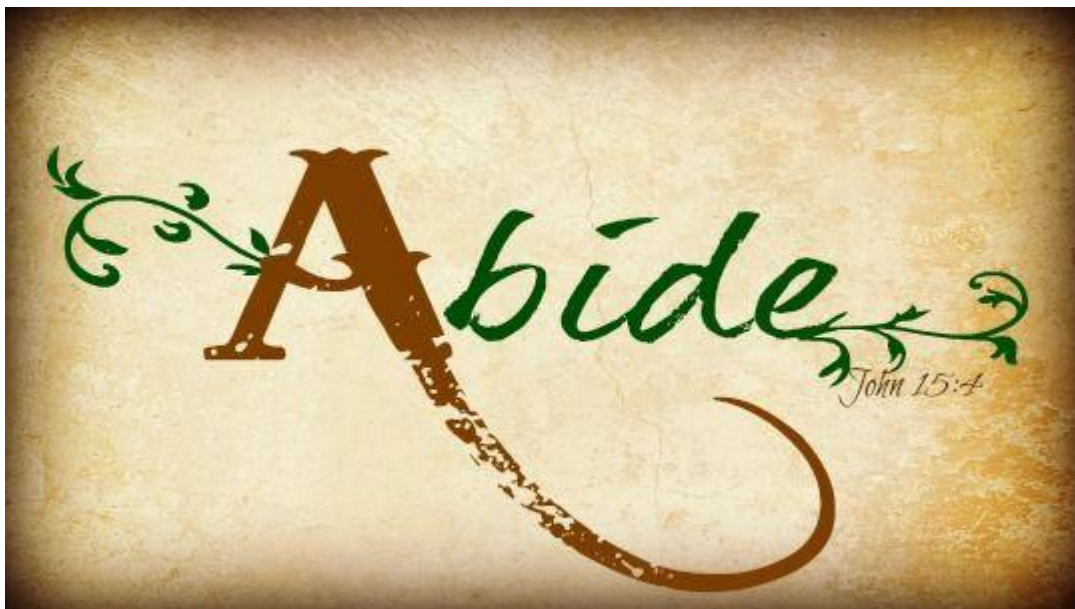


Online Parish Mass for the Fifth Sunday of
Easter
Sunday 2nd May 2021



WELCOME!

St Werburgh's stands in the catholic tradition of the Church of England. Here we try to practice the generous Gospel of Jesus Christ. Together we are exploring a way of living which is inspired by joyful, ordered worship and takes seriously the interior life. We embrace the challenges of peace-making both globally and locally.

Welcome to this community of healing.

Our celebrant today is Fr Julian, our vicar, and our curate, Rev Kate, is preaching.

All of our worship at present is online as church is closed for public worship during the national lockdown.

You are warmly invited to bring your own bread and wine or food and drink as you participate in this Eucharistic service. If we have learned anything through this year of worshipping together, it is that the Holy Spirit has called us to break open our sacramental worship. If you do not feel able to do this, you are really welcome too, as we express our understandings of communion in diverse ways.

For those gathering in church:

Unless leading worship, speaking or singing, please keep your mask on at all times. Your mask should cover both your nose and your mouth.

Observe social distancing at all times.

As we join worship an organ voluntary plays.

The notices are given.

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.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The service is introduced.

The resurrection brings life out of death, hope out of despair, light out of darkness. Let us therefore rejoice and bring our fragility, our failings, and the frailty of our compromise into God's unlimited forgiveness.

A time of silence is kept for personal reflection.

You asked for faith and trust,
we demand proof and certainty

Lord have mercy. x4

Your love is stronger than death,
we built tombs around our hearts.

Christ have mercy. x4

You sent us into the world with a message of hope,
we lingered in comfortable despair.

Lord have mercy. x4

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

*Glory, glory to God, glory in the highest
peace to his people on earth, 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, glory to God, glory in the highest
peace to his people on earth, peace to his people on earth.
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.
For you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
receive our prayer, receive our prayer, receive our prayer,
You alone are the holy One, you alone are the Lord.
You alone are the Lord, you alone are the most high Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in the glory, the glory,
the glory of God the Father.
Amen! Amen! Amen!
Amen! Amen! Amen!*

Let us pray:

God of deep soil and luxuriant growth, call us from our shallow selves to find our depth in you; may we abide in him alone who can teach us who we are; through Jesus Christ, the true vine.

Amen.

*There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more keenly felt than heaven:
there is no place where earth's failings
have such gracious judgement given*

The first reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (*Acts 8:26-end*)

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road). So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptised?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptised him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

For the Word of God in Scripture

For the Word of God among us

For the Word of God within us

Thanks be to God.

*For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind;
and the heart of the eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he would not own.*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (*John 15:1-8*)
Glory to you, Lord.

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

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

*There is plentiful redemption
through the blood that Christ has shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the head.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this,
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.*

The Sermon.

*If our love were but more simple,
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be illumined,
by the glory of the Lord.*

We affirm our faith together:

Let us affirm together our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Creator, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in God.

Do you believe and trust in God's Son Jesus Christ, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in God.

Do you believe and trust in God's Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in God.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Our intercessions end with:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

We share the Peace of Christ.

Christ descended to death and hell, passed through doors locked by fear to breathe the Spirit of peace and make us one humanity; nothing can now separate us from the love of God.

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

And also with you. Alleluia

We offer each other a sign of peace.

*Just as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me
And that thou bid'st me come to thee
O Lamb of God, I come*

*Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt
Fighting and fears within without
O Lamb of God, I come*

*Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come*

When all is ready, we remain standing and come to solemn 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.

We praise you, God of freedom, for you breathed life into the void and showed yourself as the one who loves in freedom.

From the nothingness of slavery you called a people into being and led them to springs of life; the presence of your glory went with shattered exiles into strange and distant lands and gathered from the valley of despair the flesh and blood of living hope.

In Jesus, you confronted the powers that killed and oppressed you spoke to those considered dead and helped them stand again; he taught us to die that we might live.

He gave himself for us tortured and forsaken, but he could not be confined by death; in the garden he speaks our name, in the breaking of the bread he shows himself among us; by the lakeside, in the new day, he calls us to take up his work.

Therefore, with all who lost faith, all who walked away in sadness, with the women at the tomb, and the men who hid in fear we confess ourselves surprised by the suddenness of dawn and join the undying song of heaven:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of Power and God of might,
heav n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. X2*

*Blessed is he, blessed is he,
blessed is he who comes in the name
he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. X2*

We ask that your Holy Spirit will fall upon us and upon these gifts that these fragile, earthly things may be to us the body and blood of our Lord and brother, Jesus Christ; who, on the night that he was betrayed, gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom. Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.' +

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.' As on that night, so here and now he offers himself in touch and taste beyond all words can hold. +

Therefore, in our eating and drinking we are filled with the life-giving presence of Christ; we proclaim him as creation's host, transforming poverty into plenty in the reckless generosity of love.

Inspire us with the hope that one day death and greed will be no more and people without number will come from east and west, north and south to share the kingdom meal.

We ask this 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, God of all blessing, for ever and ever.

Amen.

As our Saviour taught so 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 forever and ever. Amen.

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.**

*Jesus, Lamb of God; Jesus, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Jesus, Lamb of God; Jesus, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Jesus, Lamb of God; Jesus, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.*

Alleluia. Receive who you are, the Body of Christ.

*Just as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me
And that thou bid'st me come to thee
O Lamb of God, I come*

*Just as I am, thy love unknown
hath broken ev'ry barrier down.
Now to be thine, yea thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.*

When all have received Holy Communion and the altar is cleared together we pray:

Eternal God, whose son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life, grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and forever. Amen

The Blessing:

God be with you.

And also with you.

May Christ who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future fill you with new life; and the blessing of God Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be upon you this day this joyous season and forever more.

Amen.

He is not here. He is risen.

Go in peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Please remain seated until the organ voluntary has finished.

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Mass Setting: Rizza Mass of the Bread of Life*