

**ST PETER & ST PAUL'S  
CHURCH, AYLESFORD**



**A Service of the Word  
with Holy Communion**

**The Potential of Prayer**

Easter 7  
16th May 2021

Welcome and Gathering

Call to Worship

You who are passing through hard times: come! You who need strength to support those who are suffering: come! You who are full of happiness: come! You who are burdened and busy: come! Come; let us unite in worship of the one who offers us protection, comfort and joy.

**We come to you, Lord, ready to worship, ready to learn, ready for prayer, ready for action. May our worship here spill out into our every day. Amen.**

Hymn

Rejoice, the Lord is King,  
your Lord and King adore;  
mortals, give thanks and sing,  
and triumph evermore:  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

Jesus the Saviour, reigns,  
the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains,  
he took his seat above:

*Refrain*

His kingdom cannot fail;  
he rules o'er earth and heaven;  
the keys of death and hell  
are to our Jesus given:

*Refrain*

He sits at God's right hand  
till all his foes submit,  
and bow to his command,  
and fall beneath his feet:

*Chorus*

Rejoice in glorious hope;  
Jesus the judge shall come,  
and take his servants up  
to their eternal home.

*We soon shall hear the archangel's voice  
the trump of God shall sound: rejoice!*

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and John Taylor  
(1750-1826)*

Prayer of confession

Forgive us, gracious God, when we have turned away from your word  
**and immersed ourselves in the distractions of the world.**

Forgive us, when we have sought to belong to the world  
**and compromised your truth to fit in.**

Forgive us, when we have bickered among ourselves  
**and not shown the world that we are one.**

Forgive us, when we have distanced ourselves  
**from those you have called us to serve.**

**Forgive us, O God; protect us and unite us. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## Assurance of forgiveness

Gracious God, we thank you for the enduring prayer of Jesus for his disciples which reaches and reassures us today, as we walk in their footsteps, reminding us that we are not alone but protected, empowered, forgiven, and surrounded by your grace, every step of the way. **Amen.**

## A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

**Lord Jesus, as your disciples in the world today, we thank you that your word of truth, your prayer of power and your heart of love, continue to protect, inspire and unite us as we live out our faith, build up our relationships, and hold the world before you in prayer. Amen.**

## The Collect

**Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

Acts 1.15-17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and said, "Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. He was one of our number and shared in our ministry."

Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up

from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection." So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 1

Blessed is the man who does not heed  
the counsel of this world  
Blessed is the man who does not conform  
to worldly ways

For his delight is in the law of the Lord  
And on His Word he meditates day and  
night

And he shall be like a tree by streams of  
water  
That yields abundant fruit in every season  
And his leaves shall never, never wither  
And everything he does shall prosper  
And everything he does shall prosper  
And everything he does shall prosper

But the wicked are not so  
For they are like the chaff the wind blows  
away  
And the wicked shall not stand in the  
judgment  
For the Lord knows the way of the  
righteous  
But the evil ways of man shall pass away  
Shall pass away  
They'll pass away  
Forever

*The Psalms Project*

## Gospel Reading

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.

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 17.6-19

“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is

truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Address

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

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

Prayers of Intercession

*Responses*

Lord, in a dark hour,  
**let your light shine.**

Lord in amongst the pain and suffering,  
**let your light shine.**

Lord, in a world of losses and gains,  
**let your light shine.**

Lord, in a world challenged by the  
climate crisis,  
**let your light shine.**

Lord, in all of our lives and  
friendships,  
**let your light shine. Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### Hymn

Father, hear the prayer we offer:  
not for ease that prayer shall be,  
but for strength that we may ever  
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures  
do we ask our way to be;  
but the steep and rugged pathway  
may we tread rejoicingly.

Not for ever by still waters  
would we idly rest and stay;  
but would smite the living fountains  
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
in our wanderings be our guide;  
through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father, be thou at our side.

*Love M. Whitcomb Willis*

### Offertory Prayer

Lord God, we give in grateful thanksgiving for all that you have given us. In the upside down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what we have, but what we can give away. May our offering bless your church, your people, your creation. **Amen.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.  
**His Spirit is with us.**

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 for ever, 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.**

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

... Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the  
glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### Breaking of the Bread

I break this bread and take this cup so that we all share in the life of Christ.  
**God's gifts for all God's people.**

## Invitation to Communion

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you. Eat in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

## Giving of Communion

Alleluia.

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The body and blood of Christ.

**Amen.**

*Please wait to be guided by a sidesperson.  
There will be no words said at the altar.*

## Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Sending

### News and Notices

### Hymn

Thy Kingdom Come Song for 2021

We seek your kingdom throughout every sphere

We long for heaven's demonstration here  
Jesus your light shine bright for all to see  
Transform, revive, and heal society

Before all things, in him all things were made

Inspiring culture, media, and trade  
May all our work serve your economy  
Transform, revive, and heal society

Peace, truth and justice reigning everywhere

With us be present in our public square  
Fill all who lead with your integrity  
Transform, revive, and heal society

Forgive us Lord, when we have not engaged

Failing to scribe your heart on history's page

Make us again what we were made to be  
Transform, revive, and heal society

Faithful to govern ever may we be  
Selfless in service, loving constantly  
In everything may your authority  
Transform, revive, and heal society

*Andy Flanagan, Noel Robinson, Graham Hunter*

## A sending out prayer and blessing

As we leave this place, Lord, may our prayers be just beginning. May our worship, our time here, what we have learned and what we have discovered, lead us into action and lives full of worship every hour of every day. We ask in the name of Jesus, whose whole life was an offering of worship to you.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you and with all those you love and miss, this day and always. **Amen.**

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

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