

Christ Church

High Harrogate



*John 17:1 - 11*

A Parish service for when we're  
**UNITED** but **APART**



for the

**SUNDAY** after **ASCENSION**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

17th May 2026

**Welcome** to Christ Church, praying and united, with the whole Church of God ; may this bring a blessing upon your home, as also upon the needs of loved ones and the world,

We build upon all that we have shared and shared still, as now we rejoice in our renewal in Christ's grace, gather as the Church, and unite in fellowship, proclamation and prayer from the place of our own homes.

Be it 8am or 10am or other \_ still, maybe, the wisdom to quieten our mobile phone  and be very much in prayer  .

Please sit very comfortably.

Please feel free to sing ; and maybe to speak some parts of this prayer time out-loud \_ you may find it surprisingly helpful.

Please, above all, simply know that we are all together ; and as we pray where we are now, so do many many more, across the town, across these towns, and across the world,

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

*Happy Easter !!*

*Matthew*

## **The Easter Acclamation**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**All He is risen indeed. Alleluia !**

## **The Greeting**

*In welcome of one-another, near or far -*

The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all.

*[ And also with you. ]*

## **Prayers of Penitence**

What God has prepared for those who love him,  
he has revealed to us through the Spirit ;  
for the Spirit searches everything.

Therefore, let us in penitence  
open our hearts to the Lord,  
who has prepared good things  
for those who love him.

*- Silence is kept for a short time, in Confession and Prayer.*



We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love :  
fill us with your Spirit.  
Lord, have mercy :

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith :  
fill us with your Spirit.  
Christ, have mercy :

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust :  
fill us with your Spirit.  
Lord, have mercy :

*In sharing and receiving the Absolution of God :*

May the God of love and power  
forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit  
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God the King of glory,  
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ  
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven :  
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,  
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us  
and exalt us to the place  
where our Saviour Christ is gone before,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**



### **The First Reading** - *Acts of the Apostles 1 : 6 – 14*

When the apostles had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’ Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

*New Revised Standard Version*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## The Second Reading



*1 Peter 4 : 12 – 14 ; 5 : 6 - 11*

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. . . . Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

*New Revised Standard Version*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**CLICK** below to hear Louise from our Choir lead us

**Hymn**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lukKehLf9Mo>



**Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
and publish abroad his wonderful name :  
the name all victorious of Jesus extol :  
his kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.**

**God ruleth on high, almighty to save ;  
and still he is nigh, his presence we have :  
the great congregation his triumph shall sing,  
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.**

**Salvation to God who sits on the throne !  
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son :  
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.**

**Then let us adore, and give him his right :  
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,  
all honour and blessing, with angels, above,  
and thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love.**

*Words : Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

*Tune : Paderborn*

## The Gospel Reading

*John 17:1-11*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John



**ALL**      **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup>since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. <sup>6</sup>I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.’

*New Revised Standard Version*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL**      **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**



What do we take from these scriptures ? Does it matter that we're in this 'hinterland' between Christ's Ascension and the Spirit's Inspiration — a point in narrative where we are Alone, and Waiting ?

In the Gospel we, almost, eaves-drop on Christ's prayer. It may only be me, but part of me struggles with this, thinking, *'How could John possibly have remembered all this ?'* -- whilst another part part of me recognises, that in a sense he didn't, but in this \* he still recognises the truth of who Christ is from God and for us - and that That is his point here — that we see and understand Christ : one with God, before and after all time, yet exactly as having been One with us — and always With that comprehension - in which, for us, he intercedes.

Or what of Acts. I imagine, in many ways, I am Still one among the disciples asking for 'Answers' — to things where the point is, *'That's not a question. Have faith.'* In this season some of our liturgies speak of the Church receiving power from "on high" — and I think the wording is deliberate and important : mixing worldly power with spiritual, seldom goes well for long ; but put such grace into the context as here \_\_\_\_\_ and it is a reminder that the 'power' comes upon people, and is of God - which probably makes us think — Strength, Ability, Coping, Endurance - rather than a wielding of force. That might appeal, and find resonance, in our lives and days. And I'm struck in the recognition that there are so few of them - perhaps fifteen, twenty, twenty-five gathered in that room ? Yet with a confidence, a hope, a 'power' amongst them.

And the letter of Peter. It's hardly a light-hearted piece — but it is maybe realistic. *'Fiery ordeal'* — perhaps at first we're

just left wondering, *'Well, what's that all about?'* \_ but take it into the passage as an whole, and into, also, our own life \_

*"for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering."*

- Well I'm not suffering, in leafy Harrogate, as some are ? And yet this puts us All together. And there weren't Christians throughout the world, or barely anywhere, at this point \_ so this really Is putting us All together ; the suffering, the troubles we see and know and feel \_ they're of a fellowship. We may argue they're not of a parity - either better or worse - but then, All things that We are All and each going through, with which we contend, struggle, fear, wrestle \_

*"do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you."*

*"Beloved."*

Glorious line \_ *"like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around ... resist him, steadfast in your faith."*

Know that you are genuinely and astonishingly Not alone \_ neither in person, nor from God.

The question we Think we need to ask, is perhaps seldom the one of which we Need to receive the Answer.

The ability, the endurance, the patience, the way \_ is of God \_\_\_\_\_ and is deliberately, prayerfully, intentionally of and for you \_ in ways we could never begin to fathom or comprehend \_ \_ but is For us, upholding, blessing, guiding us none-the-less

- even in those times when we Do feel alone ; when we Do feel as if we're just waiting \_ and the 'fire' that burns is not one of Light but of fear.

Resist. In the fellowship of brothers and sisters.

Be steadfast in faith,

Know yourself In God \_ who himself will '*restore, support, strengthen and establish you*' \_\_\_ by prayer, promise ; salvation, redemption \_ fulfil their purpose in You.

Maybe that's what we find and take from these Scriptures.

Amen.

*Revd Matthew Evans*

### **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried ;  
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again ; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## The Prayers of Intercession

As children and pilgrims of a loving God who always listens to our cries, we are invited to come before God, in all that we are, and with all the prayer we need make.

*You may wish to use these, or other, prayers as part of this time. Bringing before God all that is your concern ; not least in prayer for our families, loved ones, those who are sick, those providing care, the Church and people of God - knowing all is held by God –*

Lord Jesus Christ, great high priest,  
living for ever, evermore to intercede of us ;  
we pray with you for your Church,  
that in faith, love and service we may be  
your body, your hands and your voice in the world . . .



Lord Jesus Christ, King of Righteousness,  
enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high ;  
with you we pray for the world \_  
make it and us subject to your gentle rule . . .

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of Man,  
drawing all humanity and creation into the life of God ;  
we pray with you for our sisters and brothers in  
need, sickness, sorrow or distress . . .

Lord Jesus Christ, pioneer of all salvation,  
bringing all to glory through your faith, death and resurrection ;  
surround with your grace, your saints, your angels  
those who have died \_\_\_  
and with your comfort those who mourn \_\_\_  
that we may know your strength, truth and promise . . .

Lord Jesus Christ, pray with us, and stay with us . . .

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.

**CLICK** below to hear Louise from our Choir lead us.

**Hymn**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSJ\\_5e8\\_r78](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSJ_5e8_r78)

Come down, O Love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing ;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming ;  
and let thy glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity  
mine outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner clothing ;  
true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with  
loathing.

And so the yearning strong,  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling ;  
for none can guess its grace,  
till he become the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

*Words : Italian, Bianco da Siena (d.1434),  
tr. R F Littledale (1833-1890)  
Tune : Down Ampney*

## The Blessing

May the Spirit of truth lead us into all truth,  
give us grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
and strengthen us to proclaim  
the word and works of God ;  
and may the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always.  
Amen.



## 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. *Cf. 2 Corinthians 1 : 22*  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*Please look to your ROOM and HOME \_  
--- please look from your WINDOW ---*

*In our place, heart and home, and to all the world :*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*{ - and also with you. Alleluia }*

## The Dismissal

Let us go in the light and peace of Christ  
to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ, amen.

The Lord is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia ! Alleluia ! Alleluia !**