

The Parish of Berkswich
in the Church of England Diocese of Lichfield

Sung Eucharist for Fifth Sunday of Easter



Welcome to our worship this morning. Sections in each of our buildings are reserved for those who wish to maintain strict social distancing.

Copyright acknowledgment: Some material included in this service is copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2006; CCLI Streaming licence: 1169112 Copyright licence: 202876

Today's worship will help us explore God's invitation to be fully alive through what God commands – to be people who love in both words and deeds.

The gathering



Hymn 429:
Love is his word, love is his way

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

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Act of Penitence

Jesus commands us to love but we often fail.

For our loss of nerve in loving your world.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy



For our hardness of heart in condemning others instead of inviting them into fullness of life.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

For our failure to translate words of love into positive loving action.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of forgiveness

May the Father of all mercies cleanse✠ you from your sins, and restore you in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Gloria



**Glory, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest heav'ns.
Peace, peace, peace on the earth;
peace to God's people, all 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 to God in the highest heav'ns.
Peace, peace, peace on the earth;
peace to God's people, all people on earth.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy, mercy on us.
Have mercy, mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand,
at the right hand of the Father:
receive, Lord, receive our prayer.
Receive, Lord, receive our prayer.

5 bar organ interlude

**Glory, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest heav'ns.
Peace, peace, peace on the earth;
peace to God's people, all people on earth.**

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, glory of God, the Glory of God the
Father.

**Glory, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest heav'ns.
Peace, peace, peace on the earth;
peace to God's people, all people on earth.**

Amen,
Amen!

The Collect for the day

Let us pray

Silence is kept

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten
Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and
opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant
that, as by your grace going before us you put into
our minds good desires, so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus
Christ our risen Lord, 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

First reading Acts 11.1-18

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles



*Peter finds transformation in a new understanding
of the commandment concerning what and who is
acceptable to God.*

Now the apostles and the believers who were in
Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted
the word of God. So when Peter went up to
Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized
him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised
men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to
explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in
the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a
vision. There was something like a large sheet
coming down from heaven, being lowered by its
four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked
at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of
prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a
voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat."
But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing
profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth."
But a second time the voice answered from
heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not
call profane." This happened three times; then
everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that
very moment three men, sent to me from
Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.
The Spirit told me to go with them and not to
make a distinction between them and us. These
six brothers also accompanied me, and we
entered the man's house. He told us how he had
seen the angel standing in his house and saying,
"Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called
Peter; he will give you a message by which you
and your entire household will be saved." And as I
began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just
as it had upon us at the beginning. And I
remembered the word of the Lord, how he had
said, "John baptized with water, but you will be
baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave
them the same gift that he gave us when we
believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I
could hinder God?' When they heard this, they
were silenced. And they praised God, saying,
'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the
repentance that leads to life.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

**Glory to God, above!
Heavens declare his love;
praise him, you angels,
praise him all you high and heavenly host.
Worship him, sun and moon;
stars, complement their tune;
grounded in God's good purpose
let his grace become your boast.
O sing hallelujah
and praise God for evermore!**

**Glory to God below
let depth of ocean show;
lighting and hail, snow,
wind and cloud perform at his command!
Let every mountain range,
forest and grove and grange,
creatures of earth and air and sea
praise God in every land.
O sing...**

**'Glory to God!' now sing
commoner, queen, and king;
women and men of every age
unite to praise the Lord.
Worship God's holy name,
and let your lives proclaim
God's saving power extends to those
who love and serve his word.
O sing...**

Paraphrased by John L Bell (1948-)

Second reading Revelation 21.1-6

A reading from the Revelation of John

*God's desire for the creation is that all
destruction will end and that God once again
becomes the source of new possibility.*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her

husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading



Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

13.31-35

*Jesus' new commandment to the disciples that
they should love one another is one of his parting
gifts to them along with blessing and the Spirit.*

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new

commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily



Affirmation of faith



With our Christian siblings throughout the world, let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles: this we have received, and this we believe. Amen.

cf 1 Corinthians 15.3-7

Prayers of Intercession



Let us pray to the God who brings us life in all its fullness.

At the end of each bidding the following response is used

Jesus, Lord of life.

In your mercy, hear us.

At the end, on behalf of us all, the intercessor gathers our individual prayers together into one, by saying on our behalf

God of love and delight, hear our prayer and fix your command to love in our hearts and lives.

Amen

The liturgy of the sacrament



The Peace

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

We are called to be people of love in word and deed

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Hymn 720:

We pray thee heavenly Father

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, accept the offering of your Church, the hearts of your people joined together as one in praise and thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **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.

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 pow'r and God of might:
heaven and earth, heaven and earth
are full of your glory,
your pow'r and might.**

**Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest heavn's.
Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest heavn's.**

**Blessed, blessed is he who comes,
Blessed, blessed is he who comes;
blessed is he, blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest heavn's.
Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest heavn's.**

The priest then continues the prayer, recalling the words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper during which we sing the Memorial Acclamation – a response to what has been proclaimed in the Eucharistic prayer

Praise to you Lord Jesus.
**Dying you destroyed our death,
Rising you restored our life,
Lord Jesus come in glory.
Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest heav'ns!**

At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer, we assent to the prayer by saying...

Amen!

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of the Risen Christ, let us pray to the Father in faith and trust:



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.

Breaking of the bread

Lord, we died with you on the cross.
Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.
Now we share your resurrection.

Live in us,
that we may live in you

The priest breaks the consecrated bread as we sing the Agnus Dei.

**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
Lamb of God you take away
the sin of the world grant us your peace.**

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

As those in church receive, we sing this hymn


**[Hymn 584:](#)
[Rock of Ages, cleft for thee](#)**

Prayer after communion

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 for ever.

Amen

The dismissal



**Glory to God, the source of all our mission;
Jesus be praised, the Saviour, Lord and Son!
Praise to the Spirit who confirms the vision;
in all the world the will of God be done!**

**Proud in our wealth, or destitute and broken,
we cannot live by earthly bread alone;
but by the word that God himself has spoken
we are set free to make our Master known.**

**Eastward or westward, northward, southward
moving,
finding new fields, new patterns and new role,
Christ's fellow-workers, all his goodness
proving,
see how our God is making people whole!**

**Linked by the cross at which we are forgiven,
joined by the love that came to find and save,
one in the hope of God's new earth and
heaven,
we love and give since he first loved and
gave.**

**Send us, Lord Christ, to serve at your
direction,
dying and living, yours in loss and gain,
true to the gospel of your resurrection,
working and praying till you come to reign.**

Christopher M Idle (1938-)

The Dismissal Gospel

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die,
will live, and everyone who lives and believes in
me will never die.'

John 11.25,26

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Blessing

May God the Father hold us.
May Jesus the Son lead us,
and may God the Holy Spirit inspire us
to words and works of love.

And the blessing of God almighty, the ✠ Father,
the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and
remain with you always. **Amen**

He is not here. He is risen. Go in peace to love
and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.

Equipped

to go out into our world, we leave in silence.

Key Contacts...

Fr. Graham Adamson - Vicar	01785 251057	graham.adamson@berkswich.org.uk
The Revd. David Clark – Curate	07999 596590	david.clark@berkswich.org.uk
Judith Rennard – Warden	01785 253111	wardenjudith@berkswich.org.uk
Chris Bowen – Warden	01785 253111	wardenchris@berkswich.org.uk
Mary Moss – Safeguarding Officer		safeguarding@berkswich.org.uk
Sue Hatton – PCC Secretary	01785 661767	ssnhatton@gmail.com

Fr Graham's usual day off is Monday

The Parish Office is situated behind Holy Trinity Church and is closed at the current time

Please send all items for next week's News from the Pews to Sue on ssnhatton@gmail.com (or 661767) by the end of Wednesday

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

HT = Holy Trinity Church

ST = St Thomas's Church **AS** = All Saints Church

V = Vicarage **CH** = Community Hall **OL** = Online

Sunday 15th May – The Fifth Sunday of Easter

0845	Sung Eucharist	AS
1045	Sung Eucharist	HT & OL
1830	Evening Prayer	OL

Monday 16th May

Tuesday 17th May

1000	Drop-In	HT
------	---------	----

Wednesday 18th May

1000	Private Prayer	AS
1200	Said Eucharist	AS
2000	Compline	OL

Thursday 19th May

1000	Private Prayer	ST
1030	Sung Eucharist with laying on of hands and anointing	ST
1930	APCM	HT

Friday 20th May

1000	Crafty Café	HT
------	-------------	----

Saturday 21st May

Sunday 22nd May – The Sixth Sunday of Easter

0845	Sung Eucharist	AS
1045	Sung Eucharist with laying on of hands and anointing	HT & OL
1830	Choral evensong	ST & OL

Daily Bible Readings

Monday	Psalm 105 Deuteronomy 16.1-20 1 Peter 1.1-12
Tuesday	Psalms 96, 97 Deuteronomy 17.8-end 1 Peter 1.13-end
Wed	Psalms 98, 99, 100 Deuteronomy 18.9-end 1 Peter 2.1-10
Thursday	Psalm 104 Deuteronomy 19 1 Peter 2.11-end
Friday	Psalm 66 Deuteronomy 21.22-22.8 1 Peter 3.1-12
Saturday	Psalm 118 Deuteronomy 24.5-end 1 Peter 3.13-end

Welcome!

Welcome to you all as we continue to try and meet at this unusual time in the history of our nation and world. We hope that you will join with us in prayer and worship, either in church, or via Zoom, Facebook or YouTube (details <http://www.berkswich.org.uk/coronavirus.html>)

Sign up for our weekly email newsletter, or see older issues here <https://us17.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=5991be44ea1b9738d6262c1e2&iid=a28b74cdbd>

If you wish to make a donation towards the life and work of the Parish, there is an opportunity to do so during the service. Please consider joining the Giving Direct scheme (<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/finance/financegiftaid/financegivingdirect/>) or make a one-off donation via JustGiving (<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/berkswichparish>)

You can follow us on Facebook! To sign up for our weekly email newsletter, please email Fr Graham (graham.adamson@berkswich.org.uk)

Points for Prayer

For the world... Beset by violence for fifty years it is now cobalt mining, driven by the world's desire for lithium batteries to power phones and cars, that is the scourge of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Child labour in the mines is common; the miners work in horrific conditions and are often mistreated. Pray for the efforts to better regulate the industry, that the poverty of our sisters and brothers may be alleviated and for peace in this troubled land.

For the church... Pray for the work of Compassion International, a Christian charity dedicated to alleviating child poverty in 25 of the world's poorest countries. They are campaigning against child marriage and supporting teenage girls to stay in education, which is one of the best safeguards against 13-, 14- and 15-year-olds being given in marriage. Pray for this work in Brazil, Bangladesh and the Dominican Republic.

For our community... A prayer for Dementia Action Week.

May God who sees into the secret places of our mind, beyond anything which limits us, to the person that is us, has always been and will always be us, encircle us in his arms, until that day when all is made new in his eternal home.

For those known to us, near and far...

... who suffer in body, mind or spirit:

Phyllis, Alistair, Ann, Sally, Brenda, Olivia, Carolyn, Amelie, Martin, M, Clive, J, C, Mark, Steve, Vicky, Roger, Hannah, Richard, Julie, Russell, Janet, Eileen, Heidi, Sarah, Charlie, Justine, Jonathan, Robert, Colin, Remi and family, Liz, Sheila

.... for the recently departed: Patricia Boyles; Dianne Rayson; David Ricketts; Jim Miller; Monica Mudway; Pauline Aston; Revd. Wendy Bray
+ May they rest in peace and rise in glory

In thanksgiving to God for...

... the hard work and devotion of all GCSE and A-Level students as they enter the exam season, and for the teachers and staff who have helped prepare them. Pray that they will all reach their true potential and that nerves or illness will not interfere with potential grades.

Is there any news you'd like to join with the congregation in giving thanks to God for? Let us know and we'll add it.

News & Events

Are you puzzling over how issues of ethics and politics impact on your faith? Digging Deeper takes place at 5pm on the Second Sunday of the Month in Holy Trinity. Bishop Jan McFarlane gave a stimulating and amusing talk last Sunday which led to interesting discussion and gave us much to think about.

Prayer requests - please send to david.clark@berkswich.org.uk or call 07999 596590

Do you have any household items which are broken and need repair? We will be hosting a local Repair Café in Holy Trinity, **next Saturday, 21st May, 10am-1pm.** Electricals, tools, furniture, bikes, toys, clothes, tool sharpening, gardening advice, etc – all available. Run by Sustainability Matters. If you would be willing to bake or help provide refreshments, please let Fr Graham know.

Summer Fete, Sunday 19th June – Grand Draw Tickets – are now available in all 3 Churches. Please take some for yourself/family/friends/ neighbours – there are many superb prizes. The 'List of Stalls' is also displayed in our Churches – please see if there is anything you can spare and, if so, please deposit in the FETE DONATION BOXES or ring the stall organiser for collection. We also need help in setting up and manning stalls/games throughout the actual day – please ring Bob Moore if you can help. Thank you in advance for any support you can give.

The plant sale - A '**BIG THANK YOU**' to all who supported the Spring Plant Sale over the Bank Holiday weekend which resulted in £618 to benefit church funds. It would not have been possible without the team effort of those who donated plants, provided practical support in setting up and dismantling and, of course, those who purchased plants. An added bonus is that some local residents are now aware of the location of The Vicarage.

Remember, your Lenten pledges for the Generous Hope appeal Bishop Michael asked you to support can be paid into the special justgiving page:- <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/matlosane>
Whether you have been setting aside 50p per day or £2 per day, any amount will help.

APCM - A date for your diary! For the first time in a few years, we are able to hold the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in person - **Holy Trinity, on Thursday 19th May, at 7.30 pm..** Everyone is welcome! If you are interested in becoming a member of the PCC, a warden, or if you just want to come and listen, please come and join us!

Our Faithful Queen - In celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee the Bible Society has produced a colourful book, 'Our Faithful Queen – 70 years of Faith and Service', by Catherine Butchers.

If you wish to have a copy they will be available at the back of all three churches. We are not allowed to resell but we can accept a donation, if you wish. Bought individually the cost is £5 but these are purchased for £2. If you know of anyone who may like a copy and are not able to collect please take and deliver, or let Mary Moss know. A similar book was published for Her Majesty's 90th birthday.