

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

Sung Eucharist for Sixth Sunday of Easter



Healing at Bethesda
Palma il Giovane, 1592

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

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Come and celebrate with us as we worship the One who is light and life. Come to the One who offers more than the fruits of hard work, restful leisure and good luck. Come to the One who offers transformation and renewal through faith.

The gathering



Hymn 132:
Come, ye faithful, raise the strain

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

Things go wrong for us all. Sometimes we are a part of that and sometimes it's just stuff that happens. Let's offer our good and bad to God now.

When we have become bound up in things that are really not so important.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy**



When we have been overwhelmed by our pain and grief.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

When we have failed to focus on true life and true transformation.
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

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.

The liturgy of the word

First reading Acts 16.9-15

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*Paul, with his companion Timothy, is on his
tour of the various Churches of early Christianity.
The Churches are young, sometimes immature
and needing encouragement. Paul has a dream
that takes him in a new direction.*



During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a
man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying,
'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he
had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross
over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had
called us to proclaim the good news to them. We
set sail from Troas and took a straight course to
Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and
from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of
the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We
remained in this city for some days. On the
sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river,
where we supposed there was a place of prayer;
and we sat down and spoke to the women who
had gathered there. A certain woman named
Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us;
she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in
purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen
eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and
her household were baptized, she urged us,
saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the
Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she
prevailed upon us.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67

**Lord, bless and pity us,
shine on us with your face:
that your way may be known on earth,
all nations know your grace.**

**Let people praise you, Lord;
let all the people praise.
Oh, let the nations all be glad,
in songs their voices raise:**

**You'll justly people judge,
on earth rule nations all.**

**Let people praise you, Lord; let them
praise you, both great and small.**

**The earth her fruit shall yield,
our God shall blessing send.**

**God shall us bless; all shall him fear
unto earth's utmost end.**

Second reading Revelation 21.10. 22-22.5

A reading from the Revelation of John

A beautiful picture of the heavenly Jerusalem – a place where the light is the light of Christ, and which shines with the love of God.

And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

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.

5.1-9

Jesus visits a pool in Jerusalem where the sick and disabled gather in a mysterious ritual of healing. He blesses one of those present with healing and freedom, and so points again to his heavenly status and special call.

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?' The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.' Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

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



John would have us understand that Jesus is the one who offers true healing and true life. John knows that our lives are encrusted with alternative offers –

attractive though not effective. Let us pray that we might know, believe and find life.

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, hear our prayers and bring us to mature faith and growing belief. There are surprises along the way – but we believe and accept your good gifts.

Amen

The liturgy of the sacrament



The Peace

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

We journey on a life that brings good and bad, health and happiness, sickness and sadness. Let us together learn to shine the good news of Jesus on all of these things.

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 575:

Put peace into each others hands

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

**Here is love, vast as the ocean,
loving-kindness as the flood,
when the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten
throughout heav'n's eternal days.**

**On the mount of crucifixion
fountains opened deep and wide;
through the floodgates of God's mercy
flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
poured incessant from above,
and heav'n's peace and perfect justice
kissed a guilty world in love.**

**In Thy truth Thou dost direct me
by Thy Spirit through Thy Word;
and Thy grace my need is meeting
as I trust in Thee, my Lord.
Of Thy fullness Thou art pouring
Thy great love and pow'r on me
without measure, full and boundless,
drawing out my heart to Thee**

*Dyma gariad fel y moroedd
William Rees (1802-1883)*

Prayer after communion

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen

The dismissal

**[Hymn 238:](#)
[Go forth and Tell!](#)**



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 be the foundation of our being. May Christ inspire us to true health and happiness. May the Holy Spirit help us take the hand of others, and lead them on the journey of life. 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...

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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 ssnhatten@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 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

Monday 23rd May

Tuesday 24th May

1000	Drop-In	HT
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Wednesday 25th May

1000	Private Prayer	AS
1200	Said Eucharist	AS
2000	Compline	OL

Thursday 26th May – Ascension Day

1000	Private Prayer	ST
1030	Sung Eucharist	ST
1900	Parish Prayer Group	

Friday 27th May

1000	Crafty Café	HT
1300	Funeral of Monica Mudway RIP	HT/Crem

Saturday 28th May

Sunday 29th May – The Seventh Sunday of Easter

1045	Parish Eucharist	HT & OL
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Monday 30th May

1500	Funeral of Pauline Aston RIP	HT/Crem
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Daily Bible Readings

Monday	Psalms 121, 122, 123 Deuteronomy 26 1 Peter 4.1-11
Tuesday	Psalms 128, 129, 130, 131 Deuteronomy 28.1-14 1 Peter 4.12-end
Wed	Psalms 15, 24 2 Samuel 23.1-5 Colossians 2.20 – 3.4
Thursday	Isaiah 52.7-15 Hebrews 7.26-28 Psalm 8
Friday	Psalms 145 Deuteronomy 29.2-15 1 John 1.1-2.6
Saturday	Psalms 84, 85 Deuteronomy 30 1 John 2.7-17

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&d=a28b74cddb>

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... Please pray for Syria, where there is terrible new poverty, described as even worse than the pandemic. The Syrian economy is suffering major collapse with uncontrollable high prices for food, transportation, medicine, fuel, gas and clothing." One city on the Turkish border has been getting electricity for only 30 minutes in every 24 hours. Pray that the crops in that region could be gathered in safely this year, and not set on fire by Turkish armed forces just before harvest-time.

For the church... This year a Christian, was sworn in as President of Egypt's Supreme Constitutional Court. It is very rare for a Christian to be appointed to such a role in a Muslim-majority country. Pray for the judge, that that the Lord will grant him wisdom and make him a blessing to the people of Egypt. Give thanks for the improving situation of Egyptian Christians.

For our community... This Thursday marks the start of 11 days of prayer under the heading Thy Kingdom Come. This is a global prayer movement when Christians pray 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ. Find out more at <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/about-us>

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; Margaret Deakin; Jane Homfray
+ 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

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.

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.

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.

The Parish Prayer Group will be meeting on Thursday 26th May, at 1900 in All Saints, Brocton to pray for the parish and the world. All are welcome to join us for this time of focused prayer around the altar.