

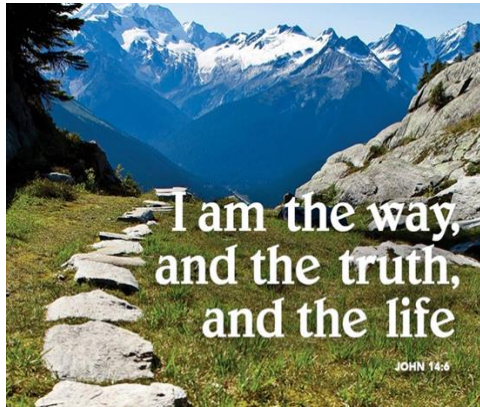
The Churches of the Parish of Berkswich

in the Church of England Diocese of Lichfield

Sunday 10 May, 2020

5th Sunday of Easter

Prayer and worship at home



If a household are praying together, one person may act as leader and the others as the congregation and they join in the words in bold type.

If alone, read all the words aloud.

You may want to light a candle before you begin, and have a Bible, cross or crucifix to look at.

You might prepare for this act of worship by listening to some music, or by being still

Preparation

As God's own people we gather, apart yet together, to proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called us out of darkness and into God's marvellous light

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord is here

His Spirit is with us.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Act of Penitence

Once we were not a people, but now we are God's people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy: let us therefore come with confidence to confess our sins to God.

You call us in love to come to you, but in so many ways we turn away.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You call us to be your own people, but in so many ways we forget our true identity.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You call us into light, but in so many ways we prefer darkness.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of forgiveness

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.

The Special Prayer for this week

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 Word of the Lord

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-end

Stephen, a good and holy man, is stoned to death by people who can't bear to hear the truth he tells them.

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a

young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING: John 14:1-14

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.

At a time of betrayal, infidelity and fear, Jesus tells the disciples not to be afraid, and together they explore what this means.

Jesus said 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Affirmation of faith

With our Christian brothers and sisters, we affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

cf Philippians 2.6-11

Prayers of intercession

(Here you may wish to offer prayer in your own words, or be prompted by the words here)

- *We pray for our world, especially at this time of anxiety and fear...*
- *We pray for our nation and its well-being...*
- *We pray for neighbours, family and friends and we remember all those self-isolating at the moment...*
- *We pray for all who are sick, worried or anxious, and for those who feel cut off from friends and family...*
- *We pray for those who have died in recent days, and all whom we remember with love and affection....*

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

The Grace

We conclude our prayers

✠ **The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen**