

Sunday 17th May 2026 – Jesus Prays for His Disciples

7^h Sunday of Easter – Sunday after Ascension

Welcome and Notices

Opening Prayer

Lord, you have sent your Son to reveal your glory
and to give us eternal life:

As we gather in your name,
protect us by the power of your name,
that we may be one, as you are one,
and shine with your light in this world.

Amen

Opening Hymn: Rejoice the Lord is King

**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;**

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

**His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given:**

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

**He sits at God's right hand,
Till all his foes submit;**

**And bow to his command,
And fall beneath his feet:**

***Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!***

**Rejoice in glorious hope!
Jesus the judge shall come
And take his servants up
To their eternal home:**

***We soon shall hear the archangels voice
The trump of God shall sound, rejoice***

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Confession

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)

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

We receive God's forgiveness

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Reading 1: Acts 1:6-14 *(Leigh)*

Then they gathered round him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?'

He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Before the Throne of God Above

**Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea,
a great High Priest, whose name is Love**

**whoever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart.**

**When Satan tempts me to despair
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look, and see him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died,
my sinful soul is counted free,
for God the just is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me.**

**Behold him there! the risen Lamb!
my perfect, spotless righteousness,
the great unchangeable "I AM"
the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself, I cannot die;
my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ my Saviour and my God.**

Charitie Lees Bancroft (1841-1923)

Reading 2: John 17:1-11 (*Leigh*)

After Jesus said this, he looked towards heaven and prayed:

‘Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

‘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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon *(Lindsey)*

Declaring our Faith:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers: *(Eileen)*

Responses

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our Prayer

Merciful Father
**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Collect for the 7th Sunday of Easter

**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 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 each other a sign of peace

Offertory Hymn: God Forgave My Sin in Jesus' Name

**God forgave my sin in Jesus' name:
I've been born again in Jesus' name,
and in Jesus' name I come to you
to share his love as he told me to.**

***He said:
Freely, freely you have received,
freely, freely give;
go in my name
and because you believe,
others will know that I live.***

**All power is given in Jesus' name,
in earth and heaven in Jesus' name;
and in Jesus' name I come to you
to share his power as he told me to.**

***He said:
Freely, freely you have received,
freely, freely give;
go in my name
and because you believe,
others will know that I live.***

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Offertory Prayer

Faithful God, receive all we offer you this day.
May we so live the life of Christ
that your Church may be a sign of salvation
to all the nations of the world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen**

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

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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 forever.
Amen.**

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

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

Music during communion:

Post Communion Prayers

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

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls
and bodies to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Sharing Time:

Final Hymn: Colours of Day

**Colours of day dawn into the mind
The sun has come up, the night is behind
Go down in the city, into the street
And let's give the message to the people we meet**

***So light up the fire and let the flame burn
Open the door, let Jesus return
Take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow
Tell the people of Jesus, let his love show***

**Go through the park, on into the town
The sun still shines on, it never goes down
The light of the world is risen again
The people of darkness are needing a friend**

***So light up the fire and let the flame burn
Open the door, let Jesus return
Take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow
Tell the people of Jesus, let his love show***

**Open your eyes, look into the sky
The darkness has come, the Son came to die
The evening draws on, the sun disappears
But Jesus is living, his Spirit is near**

***So light up the fire and let the flame burn
Open the door, let Jesus return
Take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow
Tell the people of Jesus, let his love show***

Sue McClellan; John Paculabo; Keith Rycroft © 1974 Kingsway's Thankyou Music

The Blessing

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

Amen

The Dismissal

The Lord says, 'Go into all the world
and make disciples of all the nations.'

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.