

Sunday 7 May 2023

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Coronation of H M King Charles III



Sermon and prayers of intercession © Revd Dr Paul Monk.

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Bible readings © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration are included at the end.

The hymn can be accessed via a YouTube link. Please click on the links.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,

<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

All He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN 1 Love divine, all loves excelling [\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)
Love divine, all loves excelling [\(different version\)](#)

The Preparation

**All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,

with all your soul, with all your mind,

and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world
and knows our every word and deed.

Let us then open ourselves to the Lord
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.

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.

All Amen.

The Gloria

This Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

All Glory be to God in Heaven,
Songs of joy and peace we bring,
Thankful hearts and voices raising,
To creation's Lord we sing.
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,
Glory be to God our King:
Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,
Bore the load of this world's sin;
Only Son of God the Father,
You have brought us peace within.
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Now your glorious reign begin:
Now your glorious reign begin.

**You O Son of God are Holy,
You we praise with one accord.
None in heav'n or earth is like you,
Only you are Christ the Lord.
With the Father and the Spirit,
Ever worshipped and adored:
Ever worshipped and adored.**

The Collect for the Coronation

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,
bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles,
and all who are in authority under him;
that they may order all things
in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace,
to the honour of your name,
and the good of your Church and people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

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.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] 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. *Acts 7:55-end*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from the First Letter Peter

Like new-born infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner',

and

'A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.'

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:2-10

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven
Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven

[\(click here\)](#)
[\(different version\)](#)

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you O Lord.

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.'

John 14:1-14

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

I worry sometimes. Every day of my life I pray the Lord's Prayer, and yet the world never seems to get better. My friends and relative pray the Lord's Prayer, and yet the 'Kingdom of God' never seems to 'come on earth as it is in Heaven'. Why? Some people taunt me, saying, 'Did it work, then?' Did God answer your prayer? I used to get quite upset, until I realised what the Lord's Prayer was actually saying, and what it isn't saying.

The Lord's Prayer is not principally about changing the world, changing the Superpowers and the Government of the world. The chief focus of the Lord's Prayer is *us*. At the beginning of Genesis—it's in Genesis chapter 2—we read of when God made the first man and woman. And it says this: 'male and female He made them; He made them in the image and in the likeness of God.' the problem is that after the Fall, we may have retained the image of God—we have a spiritual side and maybe a yearning for God—but we have lost the likeness of God. We lost the perfection that was there at the inception of our human race. No longer are we the people we are meant to be: Human beings made in the image of God.

The Lord's Prayer is best viewed as a request, a begging request, saying 'Please change me.' When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we start by recognising that God is the source of this change. We pray to a God who is holy. His very essence is holy to the point where his very name sums him up: Our Father in heaven, 'Holy is your name.' As the liturgy at communion tells us, 'he is Holy indeed, the source of all holiness.' And, as Hebrews tells us, 'Without holiness no-one can see the Lord.'

Only when we have recognised this God of immense holiness, placing Him on high where He belongs, only then can we look at ourselves. It's a relational thing. Only now do we start to pray properly. And even now, we are praying for God's way not our own: we pray this in code: we pray for 'the Kingdom to come on earth, as it is in Heaven.' We're thinking a lot about the Coronation at the moment. Its pomp is designed to demonstrate the King's vast power. But what strikes me is the way the officials prepare everything for him. We are told they've been practising for weeks. This earthly monarch inspires that much respect. And yet our Father in Heaven is also a King—after all, what's the point of calling it a Kingdom if there is no King? In this Kingdom of His, His servants hold Him in respect, infinite respect. True servants should do anything for *this* King. Perhaps at the heart of the Lord's Prayer, then, we are asking that we too might have a correct perspective: that God might be like this to us. I love the phrase in the *Book of Common Prayer*, God is 'power infinite.' And when His Kingdom comes in our lives, we will acknowledge Him as such. He will be King indeed on earth— or at least the small patch we call ourselves—just as it is in Heaven.

It's a strange thing to contemplate. When we pray this prayer, asking God to bring heaven down to earth, we're actually asking for a kind of transplant: a small slice of Heaven to be inserted into our each of our lives, into our souls, into our ways of doing and being. We're asking that our way of being can be God's way of us.

It's clearly a tall order. No wonder we usually try to belittle it by rattling out the words by rote. Part of the reason why it's a tall order is because we know ourselves. We say, 'But I'm only human!' But Jesus was also human. In fact, Jesus himself tells us how to empower the change that enables Heaven to reside in us: in Luke 11, after teaching us the Lord's Prayer, he gave examples of asking, framed in terms of an earthly father giving choice presents to his children, giving an egg rather than a scorpion. If we ask, we are assured that we too can have gifts from our Heavenly Father. He goes further, assuring us that just as a human parent gives gifts to their child, so God in Heaven will give us the ultimate gift of His Holy Spirit. In other words, God will give Himself. God will live within us. And that is where the changes occur. God the Holy Spirit living inside a man, a woman, a child is the cause of the change: as God lives inside us, so we accommodate his immense holiness, and we too can become holy. This holiness rubs off, and we find ourselves doing things we never dreamed of doing.

The Lord's Prayer identifies several ways in which we can and must change: firstly, we will become less acquisitive. The Holy Spirit in us seeks to change our attention from material things and cause us to look toward Him. The symptom is that we will stop our obsession with planning ahead, and start thinking merely of our day-to-day needs, That's why we talk of *daily* bread—it's a conscious allusion to the Israelites in the wilderness living of manna.

Secondly, we will find ourselves changing in relation to others. We will forgive more often and find ourselves willing to accommodate others. Our blood pressure will probably go down as we realise we can actually like the people around us, because we've forgotten what a so-and-so they were last year. And this forgiveness allows us to be forgiven by God.

And thirdly, we will be tempted less because temptation is always the interface between the Kingdom of God and the realm of Satan. As God progressively takes over, so Satan loses his power, and we become God's through and through.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we do not pray for the world to change; we pray for something more immediate and thrilling. *We pray that we might change.* We pray that we might be enabled to see Him as He is: Holy, high and lifted up. We pray that we will be change in ways that accommodate his holiness in our lives. This statement is something of a mouthful, so (in code) we pray for the Kingdom. That means asking for God's Holy Spirit to come into our lives and turn us around, putting

God in prime place instead of us. If we are sincere, we change and God becomes as important in our spiritual lives as any earthly king can be in our earthly lives.

In all these ways, the Kingdom comes because the King of Heaven is taking His place and is enthroned in our lives.

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
the source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

Loving Heavenly Father, we pray for King Charles after his Coronation yesterday. We ask that you use him as an influence for good, for stability, as a corrective to the abuses of power. Teach him your ways. And we pray for others who wield power and ask you to show them how to govern for the common good.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

The prayers that follow are inspired by the version of the Lord's Prayer in Matthew's Gospel, which seek to bring about a different type of Kingdom.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. We ask you to give us the *courage* to forgive others; the *grace* to forgive ourselves; and the *strength* to heal the effects of our past actions.

In the following moment of silence, we pray especially for ...

Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven. We ask you to inspire us to make the world a better place. We ask for strength, wisdom and determination.

In the following moment of silence, we pray especially for ...

Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

Give us today our daily bread. We ask you to deal with our greed or apathy or laziness. We ask you to heal those of our attitudes that harm us. We pray for the environment and those of our habits which damage it.

In the following moment of silence, we pray especially for ...

Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

Do not bring us to the time of trial but rescue us from the evil one. We ask you to help us grow in the paths of discipleship, particularly those aspects we find difficult.

In the following moment of silence, we pray especially for ...

Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who yearn for the Kingdom to come but continue to suffer because it is not. We ask you to help those who suffer in any way, those we know about, care about and worry about and those who cannot worship with us today for reasons beyond their control.

In the following moment of silence, we pray especially for, ...

Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father,

All **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
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,

All And also with you.

HYMN 3 Come down O Love divine (please click on this link to hear the hymn)
Come down O Love divine (instrumental version)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The National Anthem (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The Dismissal

HYMN 4 Love one another (please click on this link to hear the hymn)
Love one another (Iona community version)

God the Father,

by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.

And the blessing of God the Almighty:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

be with you now and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

All He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For with the oil of gladness
you have anointed Christ the Lord, your only Son,
to be our great high priest and king of all creation.
As priest, he offered himself once for all upon the altar of the cross
and redeemed the human race by this perfect sacrifice of peace.
As king he claims dominion over all your creatures,
that he may bring before your infinite majesty
a kingdom of truth and life,
a kingdom of holiness and grace,
a kingdom of justice, love and peace.
And so with angels and archangels
and all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending hymn of praise:

**All 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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,

that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Kneeling before the throne of God, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All **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 for ever.
 Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,**
 because we all share in one bread.

All **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 peace.

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.

All We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us.
Amen.

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered
by your governance,
that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

All 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.