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St Andrew's Church

Orford with Longford

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**29th April 2018**

**THE GATHERING**

**Introit hymn:** 137 ‘Alleluia, alleluia, hearts to heaven and voices raise’

Priest: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Priest: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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.

Priest: Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

(After a period of silent reflection)

All: 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.

Priest: 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.**

All (sing): Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. 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 of God the Father. Amen.

**The Collect:** 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**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles** *(Acts 8. 26–40)*

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: ‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.’

The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Hymn:** *(remain seated)*  153 ‘Now the green blade riseth’

**A reading from the first letter of John** *(1 Jn 4. 7–21)*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, ‘I love God,’ and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Gradual Hymn:**  284 ‘Bread of heaven, on thee we feed’

Priest I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;

I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*(Jn 15. 1–8)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.’’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

**The Sermon**

All stand to say the Nicene Creed:

Priest: 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.

THE INTERCESSION

Priest: In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father

The prayers are led by a member of the congregation. Each section ends:

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy

**All: Hear our prayer.**

**Please remember in your prayers:**

* **those who are ill:** (4) Mary Lowe, Jenson Wright, Bill Lowson, Eileen Chorley, Zenia, Michael Mullen (3)Rob Mudd, Mark Shepherd, Marion Greatorex, Barbara Boscoe, Jacqueline Willington, Eileen Whitehead, Stephen Rawling, Stan Brand, Beryl Bentley, Doreen Bennett (2) Su Williams, Vera Wood, Michael Holland, Peter O’Connor. Ethan Rusting, Maria Parkinson (1) Lynn Burman, Michael Stringer, Michelle Smith, Paul Hogden, Joyce Hetherington, Michael Thackeray, Pauline Smith, Linda Morgan, Roy and Joan Seymour
* ***those who have died:*** Wilf Delooze, Frank Bates, Val Carter
* ***those whose year’s mind falls at this time:***

***Thursday:*** May Irvine, Jean Bold, Ian Daley, Bob Steele

***Friday:*** Ada Rustage, Minnie Ollier

***Saturday:*** Evelyn Smallwood, Gladys Thirsk

After the final petition:

Intercessor: Merciful Father, **accept these prayers**

for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace *(please stand)*

Priest: The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to exchange a sign of peace.

**Offertory Hymn:**  538 ‘O Jesus I have promised’

**EUCHARISTIC PRAYER E**

Priest: The Lord is here

**All: His spirit is with us**

Priest Lift up your hearts

**All: We lift them to the Lord**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give thanks and praise

Priest: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal. And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

All: HOLY, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth

*(sing)* are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Priest: 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 *(sing)*: Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Priest: 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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Andrew and all the saintsto 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. **Amen**.

Priest: Rejoicing in God’s new creation, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All: 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.

Priest: 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.

*(sing)* 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.

Priest: Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Holy Communion is administered at the front of Church. Everyone is warmly invited to receive Holy Communion at this Eucharist. Those who prefer to receive a blessing are also invited to come forward at the same time.

During the distribution of the Sacrament, the following hymns are sung:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;  he makes me down to lie -  in pastures green; he leadeth me -  the quiet waters by.  He leadeth me; he leadeth me  the quiet waters by. | | | 2 | My soul he doth restore again,  and me to walk doth make -  within the paths of righteousness,  e'en for his own name's sake.  Within the paths of righteousness,  e'en for his own name's sake. | |
| 3 | Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  for thou art with me, and thy rod -  and staff me comfort still.  For thou art with me, and thy rod -  and staff me comfort still. | | | 4 | My table thou hast furnished  in presence of my foes;  my head thou dost with oil anoint,  and my cup overflows.  My head thou dost with oil anoint,  and my cup overflows. | |
| 5 | Goodness and mercy all my life  shall surely follow me;  and in God's house, for evermore  my dwelling place shall be.  And in God's house, for evermore  my dwelling place shall be. | | |

136 ‘Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord’

**After Communion,** and a short period of silence:

Priest: Let us pray:

**All: Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ’s body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Priest: The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, + the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn** 442 ‘God is love! Let heaven adore him’

Priest: Go in joy and peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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Services and Notices for the coming week:

Tues 1st 7.00pm Parish Office (No choir practice this evening)

Wed 2nd: 7.00pm Eucharist

Thurs 3rd: 10.30am Eucharist

**Next Sunday The Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**(10th May) 10.00am Sung Eucharist**

12 noon Holy Baptism

**After the service**: tea and coffee is served. Everyone welcome.

**Christian Aid Week envelopes**: please consider collecting for Christian Aid – 13th-19th May – or take envelopes for family and friends. Envelopes will be available next Sunday and donations made on either 13th or 20th.

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**Easter 5 29th April 2018**

##### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Hymn:** *(remain seated)*  153 ‘Now the green blade riseth’

##### A reading from the first letter of Peter

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This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Easter 5 29th April 2018**

Priest: In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

*(all kneel)*

Leader: Father, whose Son is the true vine: guide us by your Spirit to bear good and wholesome fruit in our daily lives. May our lives reflect your love and help other people to know and love you.

We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith, often at great personal cost. Give them courage and resilience in the face of danger. We pray for The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East, and for the work of the Church there.

Bless Paul our bishop and all your Church in the service of Christ.

Lord in your mercy

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We hold before you, heavenly Father, all in our world who live troubled lives; and we pray especially for the people of Syria. Bring justice and peace to that land. We pray for those countries that have been affected by natural disaster in recent years, and for those who seek to help them rebuild their homes and communities..

Lord in your mercy

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for those who were confirmed recently that the seed of faith may flourish in them. Help us to support them at the beginning of their journey in faith.

Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbours in Christ.

Lord in your mercy

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all who suffer at this time, and for those who care for them.

By name, we remember Jenson Wright, Bill Lowson, Michael Mullen, Rob Mudd, Mark Shepherd, Marion Greatorex, Barbara Boscoe, Stephen Rawling, Stan Brand, Beryl Bentley, Doreen Bennett, Vera Wood, Peter O’Connor. Ethan Rusting, Maria Parkinson, Lynn Burman, Michelle Smith, Paul Hogden, Michael Thackeray, Pauline Smith, Linda Morgan, Roy and Joan Seymour … and for any we now mention in the silence of our own hearts. *(pause)*

Enfold them in your loving arms and surround them with your peace.

Lord in your mercy

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We hold before you all who have died in the knowledge of the resurrection, and especially for Wilf Delooze, Frank Bates and Val Carter who have died recently. Unite us with them in your undying love.

We pray too for May Irvine, Jean Bold, Ada Rustage and Gladys Thirsk whose anniversary of death falls this week. May they know the joy of the resurrection and the promise of life eternal.

Lord in your mercy

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Join our voices, we pray, Lord our God, to the songs of all your saints in proclaiming that you give us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Merciful Father,

**All: accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**