



**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

## WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

I as Chaplain welcome you to the tenth St George's Barcelona and Andorra Virtual Church Service. Ascension Day is this week on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May. Thank you for your prayers for decisions we have to make about reopening ... please keep praying. You will have received a letter letting you know where we are at just now. One thing is clear is that we are to be responsible and not take unnecessary risks as it could result in damage to each other and cause the name of Christ to be dishonoured.

During this service, after each hymn being announced, I will allow time for you to change the YouTube link if you choose. Also, after each passage of our Bible reading is announced I will allow time for you to look it up in your Bibles, or on your Bible Apps or Bible Gateway and follow the reading. We use the New International Version (UK).

So, let us pray the St George's Prayer:

***Our Father, as individuals and as a community may we come to know and love you more and more, may we feel your love and care through each other, may we be witnesses to Christ wherever we are, and by the power of your Holy Spirit, may we be attentive to you, to our neighbour and to your world.***

The Easter Announcement

**Alleluia! Christ is risen**

**He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

🎵 **CALL TO WORSHIP** 🎵 **I will worship** I will worship with all of my heart.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJsN358apt8> We may not always feel like that at the beginning of a service, but this is a declaration of intent: I will say to God that he is worth it.

**TODAY'S PSALM is PSALM 66:7-18**

*if you are following this service on paper why not read this antiphonally as we do in church?  
That means taking turns ... young and old, or male and female, or one and the rest?*

**<sup>7</sup> He rules** for ever by his power, his eyes watch **the nations** – let not the rebellious rise up against him. **<sup>8</sup> Praise our God, all peoples**, let the sound of his praise be heard; **<sup>9</sup> he has preserved** our lives and kept our feet from slipping. **<sup>10</sup> For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver.** **<sup>11</sup> You** brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. **<sup>12</sup> You** let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, **but you brought us to a place of abundance.** **<sup>13</sup> I will come to your temple with burnt offerings and fulfil my vows to you – <sup>14</sup> vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble.** **<sup>15</sup> I** will sacrifice fat animals to you and an offering of rams; I will offer bulls and goats. **<sup>16</sup> Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.** **<sup>17</sup> I** cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. **<sup>18</sup> If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;**

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen***

### **THE GREETING**

We come together 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.**

Faithful one, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

♪ **SONG OF CELEBRATION** ♪ - *Particularly for the Sunday School*

**You've got to be fit for the king** Giving and living our life for him One of my favourite kids songs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7za4ZdOXNfg>

### **CONFESSION**

✠ In baptism we died with Christ, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, we might walk in newness of life. Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

**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.**

**ABSOLUTION** *is pronounced and all respond:*

✠ The Lord enrich *you* with his grace, and nourish *you* with his blessing; the Lord defend *you* in trouble and keep *you* from all evil; the Lord accept *your* prayers, and absolve *you* from *your* offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

*In response we join in the words* **GLORIA:**

**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.**

♪ **A SONG OF PRAISE** ♪ *We sing a song of adoration:*

**Purify my heart** let me be as gold and precious silver

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lvXA0yRDwY>

### **THE COLLECT**

✠ Risen Christ,  
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:  
help your Church to obey your command  
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,  
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### ✘ THE FIRST READING ✘ ACTS 17:22-31

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: **TO AN UNKNOWN GOD**. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> “**The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord** of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, **he himself gives everyone life and breath** and everything else. <sup>26</sup>**From one man he made all the nations**, that they should inhabit the **whole earth**; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup>God did this **so that** they would seek him and **perhaps reach out for him** and find him, **though he is not far from any one of us**. <sup>28</sup>**For in him we live and move and have our being.** <sup>[a]</sup> As some of your **own poets** have said, **‘We are his offspring.’** <sup>[b]</sup> <sup>29</sup> “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. <sup>30</sup> In the past **God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent**. <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day when **he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.**”

Footnotes: [Acts 17:28](#) From the Cretan philosopher Epimenides

[Acts 17:28](#) From the Cilician Stoic philosopher Aratus

**This is the Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God**

### ✘ THE SECOND READING 1 PETER 3.13-22

<sup>13</sup> Who is going to harm you **if you are eager to do good?** <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer **for what is right**, you are blessed. ‘Do not fear their threats<sup>[a]</sup>; do not be frightened.’ <sup>[b]</sup> <sup>15</sup> **But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,** <sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. <sup>17</sup> **For it is better**, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> **For Christ** also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. <sup>19</sup> **After being made alive,** <sup>[c]</sup> he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits – <sup>20</sup> to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, <sup>21</sup> **and this water symbolises baptism** that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience towards God. <sup>[d]</sup> **It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,** <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

**This is the Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God**

♪ **HYMN** ♪ to prepare for the story of our Lord

**I will offer up my life in spirit and truth** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQkzHwz2eLE>

✠ THE GOSPEL    **John 14:15-21**

Hear the Gospel of the Lord according to St John, *Glory to you O Lord*

<sup>15</sup> **“If you love me, keep my commands.** <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another advocate** to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> **the Spirit of truth.** The world cannot accept him, **because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.** <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, **but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.** <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that **I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.** <sup>21</sup> **Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”**

This is the Gospel of our Lord, *Praise you O Christ*

SERMON

*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight,  
O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.*

INTRODUCTION

✠ Christ has been with his disciples nearly 40 days – less time than we have been cloistered! Next Thursday is Ascension Day. It is celebrated as a special day of excitement and bewilderment for the Apostles – Christ dies, Christ rose again .. what now? I plan to send out on Wednesday a special meditation for Ascension Day.

As I come to these readings I ask myself two questions; two questions I ask myself every time I prepare a sermon:

1. What do the Scriptures say?
  2. What would God have me say that is true to Scripture and meets our present situation?
- With that in mind I come to the readings and want to apply these questions to each one of our four readings.

✠ THE READINGS

✠ **PSALM FOR THE DAY: 66.7-18**

This is a Psalm to focus us on God ... his **universal authority** (<sup>7</sup> **He rules** for ever by his power, his eyes watch **the nations**) and his **caring protection** (<sup>9</sup> **he has preserved** our lives and kept our feet from slipping).

The Psalm then records the response of the Psalmist. He acknowledges the activity of God on his behalf – v12 **you brought us to a place of abundance** and <sup>16</sup> **Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.** He responds by promising to bring his offerings and fulfil his vows. **This is about Thankfulness.**

This Psalm comes as a reminder that what we see is not all there is. The writers of Scripture were not naive. They faced the challenges of existence just as we do ... but their determination to look up altered how they looked around. Our vertical vision gives an altered horizontal perspective. Our view of the person of our God affects our view of the circumstances we face. Therefore we worship him, we bring our offerings to him and we fulfil our promises to him.

### ✘ FIRST READING ACTS 17:22-31

Paul proclaims God as Creator, gives a reasoned argument from his listeners own culture – and introduces the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. In past sermons I have gone into the culture and history of Athens. Today I will leave that aside. I want to focus on Paul. Paul says that their unknown God was able to be known - and he has revealed himself and his purposes in Jesus. Paul speaks with courage and conviction. **This is about Confidence.**

If you go to Athens today the street right next to the ruins of the Areopagus is called the Street of St Paul. A seeming insignificant start led to great things. God calls us to see beyond the way things seem to be, to be faithful to his message, to be confident in him, to courageously stand for him ... and only time will tell what God will do through it. Paul did not see a street named after him ... we see it. We do not see what follows after us, we, as in the hymn, must simply *trust and obey*.

### ✘ SECOND READING 1 PETER 3.13-22

**This reading is about Character. I want us to note some key phrases:**

✘ **Our attitudes:** <sup>13</sup> **eager to do good?**

✘ **Our approach:** <sup>15</sup> **But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,**

✘ **Our authority:** **Jesus Christ,** <sup>22</sup> **who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.**

### ✘ GOSPEL JOHN 14.15-21 Let me read this again:

<sup>15</sup> **"If you love me, keep my commands.** <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another advocate** to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> **the Spirit of truth.** The world cannot accept him, **because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.** <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, **but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.** <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that **I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.** <sup>21</sup> **Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."**

So where do we finish today? We have had **Thankfulness, Confidence, and Character.** We finish with **a glorious dance of Love and Life, of Truth and Obedience, of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

The Christian way is not simply a head knowledge, it is not a religion which I may choose or not to choose. Rather God sets himself up and says **This is it, you take it in my terms, or you take it not at all.** Truth, love and life are inter-connected. God, for Paul, was involved in every part of life. Jesus says: **I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you** ... if this is true, then we are part of a daily and eternal loving dance. We have a faith to be lived. Again Jesus says: **The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."**

**On this final week before Ascension let us make sure our confidence lies in what is truly important ... Christ has Died, Christ is Risen .. and therefore we can be sure that .. Christ will come again.**

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



Merciful God, we commend into your hands those who have departed this life. You gave them breath and loved them through their journey of life. Receive them now at the end of that journey into your eternal presence and may they rest in everlasting peace. *(Short Silence)*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our Prayer**

Merciful father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

**Minister** Almighty and everlasting God,  
the comfort of the sad, the strength of those who suffer:  
hear the prayers of your children who cry out of any trouble,  
and to every distressed soul grant mercy, relief and refreshment,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *(The prayers are both fresh and adapted from a number of sources)*

### ***Holy Communion – The Lord feeds us***

#### **THE PEACE**

✠ We are the body of Christ.  
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.  
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace  
and builds up our common life.  
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*

- Normally the gifts of the people are gathered at this time. During this seclusion our giving can be via the Website or by Standing Order ... or TransferWise ... and information on this is also on the website. St George's needs your ongoing support as our costs continue even when we cannot have services here. We are looking at ways to make giving online easier and are in the process of adding DonorBox to our website.

#### 🎵 **OFFERTORY HYMN** 🎵

**Great is thy faithfulness O God my Father** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTKlqmdfHSk>

#### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

✠ Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.  
It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

#### **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER for EASTERTIDE**

When I say **Alleluia** the response is **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Lord is here

**His presence 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.**

We give you thanks and praise  
for the gospel we have received.  
Christ died for our sins. **Alleluia.**

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Death comes to all through Adam,  
and sin reigns for a time.  
New life without end comes through Christ,  
and he reigns for ever. **Alleluia.**

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Death, where is your victory?  
Death, where is your sting?  
Death is swallowed up in victory,  
the victory you give us in Christ. **Alleluia.**

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

We have been crucified with Christ,  
and live his risen life,  
to praise you for ever with angels and archangels 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.**

Great is the mystery of faith  
**Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

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,

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

**THE COMMUNION**

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.

Jesus 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.**

**The body of Christ broken for you**

**The blood of Christ shed for you**

## 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.

*Together we say:*

**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.**

***The Dismissal – The Lord sends us out***

🎵 **FINAL HYMN** 🎵

**Over all the earth you reign on high Lord reign in me**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzEkhTwiODc>

## BLESSING

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from your hearts and minds.

May you know in your lives the presence of the risen Lord,  
the peace of Christ which is eternal, and the power of the resurrection.

and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you always.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord Alleluia! Alleluia!

**In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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