

**Christ Church, Ipswich**  
**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025**  
**Worship for the Third Sunday of Easter**  
**with Holy Communion**

Hello. I hope all is well.

Friends, let us worship God together:

**Call to worship**

You have turned our sadness into joy.

**We worship you, O God.**

You have restored us to life.

**We worship you, O God.**

You have turned our mourning into dancing.

**We worship you, O God.**

**A gathering prayer**

Creator God, you made us in your image,  
 part of your wonderfully diverse creation,  
 fragile and yet fantastic in your eyes.

Be present with us today,  
 and in all we think and say and do.

Meet us and remake us,  
 shape our hearts and minds  
 that the pattern of our lives  
 may better reflect your life. **Amen.**

**R&S 234      Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord**

*Alleluia, alleluia,  
 give thanks to the risen Lord,  
 Alleluia, alleluia,  
 give praise to his name.*

1 Jesus is Lord of all the earth,  
 he is the King of creation.

2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth,  
 Jesus has died and has risen.

3 We have been crucified with Christ,  
 now we shall live forever.

4 Come let us praise the living God,  
 joyfully sing to our Saviour.

Donald Fishel (1950-)  
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**A prayer of adoration**

Creator God, loving Saviour, living Spirit,  
 we celebrate your generosity  
 in receiving all that we would give you.

We rejoice in your generosity  
 as you pour out your blessing on all you have made.

We commit ourselves to reflecting your generosity in our lives,  
 by giving the best of all we have and are wherever there is need. **Amen.**

### **A prayer of confession**

Lord, you know everything.  
 You know when we have tried and failed.  
 You know when we have let ourselves and others down.  
 You know when we have criticised too soon,  
 and understood too late.  
 You know, and you forgive – again and again and again.  
 And so, we bring our hearts to you  
 to be cleansed, renewed and strengthened. **Amen.**

### **A prayer of praise and thanksgiving**

God of all that is, maker of things,  
 shaper of stars and mountains, hearts and lives,  
 we thank you for the wonder of your created world.  
 We give you thanks for the promise of life... for what might be... for potential...  
 for our freedom to act for your goodness in any situation.  
 We give you thanks for the possibility of change.

God of all that is, Spirit of Life,  
 we thank you for the miracle of growth,  
 for the beauty of the natural world and for delight in learning.  
 We give you thanks for being with us on our journey.  
 Thank you for your patience, encouragement and faithfulness.

God of all that is,  
 we thank you that you walked the world with us  
 and showed us what humanity could be.  
 We thank you for showing us a love we can begin to understand,  
 although its depth and breadth and height stretches beyond our grasp.

God of all that is, we praise you, O living Lord,  
 that when the nets of our lives are empty,  
 you fill them with the abundance of your love;  
 when we are afraid and fall down,  
 you hold out your hand of forgiveness;  
 and when we are tempted to give up,  
 you call us afresh and give us strength for our journey.  
 God of all that is, we thank you, we praise you  
 and we offer our whole selves to you in worship. **Amen.**

### **A prayer of dedication for all our giving**

#### **R&S 373 Lord Jesus Christ**

1 Lord Jesus Christ,  
 You have come to us,  
 You are one with us,  
 Mary's son.  
 Cleansing our souls from all their sin,  
 pouring Your love and goodness in;  
 Jesus, our love for You we sing,  
 Living Lord.

2 Lord Jesus Christ,  
 now and every day,  
 teach us how to pray,  
 Son of God.  
 You have commanded us to do  
 this in remembrance, Lord, of You:  
 into our lives Your power breaks through,  
 Living Lord.

3 Lord Jesus Christ,  
 You have come to us,  
 born as one of us,  
 Mary's son.  
 Led out to die on Calvary,  
 risen from death to set us free,  
 living Lord Jesus, help us see  
 You are Lord.

4 Lord Jesus Christ,  
 we would come to You,  
 live our lives for You,  
 Son of God.  
 All Your commands we know are true,  
 Your many gifts will make us new,  
 into our lives Your power breaks through,  
 Living Lord.

Patrick Appleford.  
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### Old Testament Reading

### Psalm 30

### OT page 466

<sup>1</sup> I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up,  
 and did not let my foes rejoice over me.  
<sup>2</sup> O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,  
 and you have healed me.  
<sup>3</sup> O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,  
 restored me to life from among those gone down  
 to the Pit.  
<sup>4</sup> Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones,  
 and give thanks to his holy name.  
<sup>5</sup> For his anger is but for a moment;  
 his favour is for a lifetime.  
 Weeping may linger for the night,  
 but joy comes with the morning.  
<sup>6</sup> As for me, I said in my prosperity,  
 'I shall never be moved.'

<sup>7</sup> By your favour, O LORD,  
 you had established me as a strong mountain;  
 you hid your face;  
 I was dismayed.  
<sup>8</sup> To you, O LORD, I cried,  
 and to the LORD I made supplication:  
<sup>9</sup> 'What profit is there in my death,  
 if I go down to the Pit?  
 Will the dust praise you?  
 Will it tell of your faithfulness?  
<sup>10</sup> Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me!  
 O LORD, be my helper!'  
<sup>11</sup> You have turned my mourning into dancing;  
 you have taken off my sackcloth  
 and clothed me with joy,  
<sup>12</sup> so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.  
 O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you for ever.

### Gospel Reading

### John 21:1-19

### NT page 108

#### *Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples*

**21** After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup> Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.  
<sup>4</sup> Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' <sup>6</sup> He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup> That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. <sup>8</sup> But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.  
<sup>9</sup> When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

### *Jesus and Peter*

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' <sup>16</sup> A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' <sup>19</sup> (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

### **Reflection**

#### *A moment for reflection as Stephen plays*

#### **Our prayers of intercession**

Almighty God, we recognise that you are the fire, the spark, the vision, the calling, that brings us to our knees to pray for those near and far and so we pray this day for those people and situations that are on our minds and in our hearts.

Almighty God, **hear our prayer**

For those who lead the nations, the good ones and the bad ones, those prepared to apologise for mistakes made and those who plough on regardless of the chaos and mess they cause. For those who are prepared to change their minds for the greater good of humanity and creation.

Almighty God, **hear our prayer**

For the peoples of the nations, those who support their leaders and those who despair of decisions made, supposedly in their name. For those who decide, whatever the risk to themselves, to speak out against injustice and unfairness. For those who risk their lives for the well being and the good of neighbours near and far.

Almighty God, **hear our prayer**

For those countries at war, those whose countries want the war and the countries who don't but who are unceremoniously dragged into violence and revenge trying to protect peoples and lands, heritage and borders.

Almighty God, **hear our prayer**

For the homeless, the hungry, the dispossessed, for those who face discrimination and injustice, those who feel isolated, lonely and alone, unloved, unwanted and fearful.

Almighty God, **hear our prayer**

For the ill and those who treat them, who bind their wounds and care for body, mind and soul. For those who are nearing the end of earthly life that they may find comfort, strength and peace. For those who mourn the loss of loved ones, who feel the emptiness and loss, who live with guilt and regret of things not said and deeds not done.

Almighty God, **hear our prayer**

And finally we pray for ourselves, that we may follow in the steps of Christ and in so doing find peace, love and contentment, healing, hope and joy.

Almighty God, **hear our prayer**

And hear all the prayers of our hearts, spoken and unspoken.

In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. **Amen**

## R&S 339 Great God, your love has called us here

1 Great God, your love has called us here  
as we, by love, for love were made.  
Your living likeness still we bear,  
though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.  
We come, with all our heart and mind  
your call to hear, your love to find.

2 We come with self-inflicted pains  
of broken trust and chosen wrong,  
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,  
by social forces swept along,  
by powers and systems close confined  
yet seeking hope for humankind.

3 Great God, in Christ you call our name  
and then receive us as your own  
not through some merit, right or claim  
but by your gracious love alone.  
We strain to glimpse your mercy-seat  
and find you kneeling at our feet.

4 Then take the towel, and break the bread,  
and humble us, and call us friends.  
Suffer and serve till all are fed,  
and show how grandly love intends  
to work till all creation sings,  
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

5 Great God, in Christ you set us free  
your life to live, your joy to share.  
Give us your Spirit's liberty  
to turn from guilt and dull despair  
and offer all that faith can do  
while love is making all things new.

Brian Wren (1936- )  
© Oxford University Press.

*Our children and young people will return from Café Church and join us for Holy Communion*

### Holy Communion

#### Gospel Words

Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life.  
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,  
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6:35

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking;  
if you hear my voice and open the door,  
I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. Revelation 3:20

God proves his love for us in  
that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.  
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30

#### Invitation to the Table

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may,  
not because you are strong, but because you are weak.  
Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come,  
but because you need mercy and help.  
Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more.  
Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you.  
Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

We pray together:

**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.**

### **The Institution**

The apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord's Supper:

For I received from the Lord

what I also handed on to you,

that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed

took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks,

he broke it and said,

'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying,

'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,

you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11.23–26

### **Thanksgiving**

Loving God,

we praise and thank you

for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ.

We thank you for his life and ministry,

announcing the good news of your kingdom

and demonstrating its power

in the lifting of the downtrodden,

and the healing of the sick,

and the loving of the loveless.

We thank you for his sacrificial death upon the cross

for the redemption of the world,

and for your raising him to life again,

as a foretaste of the glory we shall share.

We give you thanks for this bread and wine,

symbols of our world

and signs of your transforming love.

Send your Holy Spirit, we pray,

that we may be renewed

into the likeness of Jesus Christ

and formed into his Body.

This we pray in his name and for his sake. Amen.

### **The Breaking of Bread**

Jesus said, 'This is my body which is for you;

do this in memory of me'.

#### *Sharing the Bread*

Take this in remembrance that Christ died for you

and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

### **The Lifting of the Cup**

In the same way,

he took the cup after supper, and said:

'This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood.

Whenever you drink it,  
do this in memory of me.' 1 Corinthians 11:25

### *Sharing the Wine*

Drink this and remember that Christ's blood was shed for you and be thankful.

### **Words of Acclamation and Prayer**

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate.

Your resurrection we confess.

Your final coming we await.

Glory be to you, O Christ.

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again.**

**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**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Sung this Sunday

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. 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.**

### **R&S 522 From heaven you came, helpless babe**

1 From heaven you came, helpless babe,  
entered our world, your glory veiled;  
not to be served, but to serve,  
and give your life that we might live

*This is our God, the Servant King,  
he calls us now to follow him,  
to bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to the Servant King.*

2 There in the garden of tears,  
my heavy load he chose to bear;  
his heart with sorrow was torn,  
'Yet not my will but yours', he said.

3 Come see his hands and his feet,  
the scars that speak of sacrifice,  
hands that flung stars into space  
to cruel nails surrendered.

4 So let us learn how to serve,  
and in our lives enthrone him;  
each other's needs to prefer,  
for it is Christ we're serving.

Graham Kendrick (1950- )  
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### **A sending out prayer**

We go from this place with perspectives changed.  
 May we have eyes to see you at work  
 in our lives and community.  
 May we have words of love to offer to people  
 society often shuns.  
 May we trust and obey your call on our lives. **Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

And may the blessing of God Almighty,  
 Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,  
 be upon us and those we love, this day and always. **Amen.**

### **The Grace**

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

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