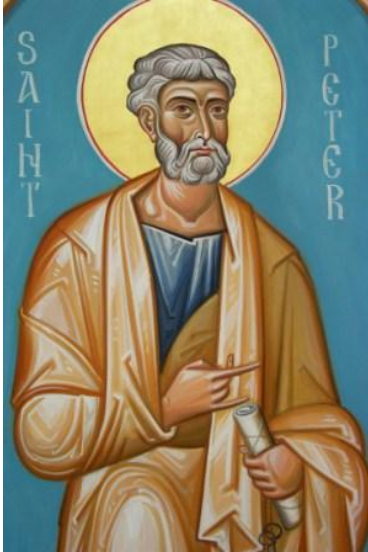


# Our Sunday Service Together

## Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup> 2020

### Petertide



*Almighty and eternal God, revealed for all time and to all the world as one God, yet three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, living in the unity of love. We now join the Saints of the ages, together yet apart and 'make a Spiritual Communion, rejoicing in the grace of God come to us in fullness through Christ our Lord and Saviour, by the will of the Father and through the presence of The Spirit with us, now and for ever.*

#### An Acclamation for the Season

All: Alleluia, alleluia! It is our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God because you formed your Church on the apostles to stand firm for ever, as a sign on earth of your infinite holiness and the living gospel for all to hear. Alleluia!

Hymn And Can it be that I should gain

#### Preparation

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Through the brokenness of Christ, we become one body  
as one body we now gather in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world,  
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

## Our Confession

*God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer.*

All: Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.  
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.  
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.  
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

*Be still for a moment in confession and in receiving God's Grace in Christ*

All: May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord.

**Amen.**

## The opening prayer

All: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever. Amen.

## The Psalmody    Psalm 125 *We say the psalm aloud*

1 Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.

2 As the hills stand about Jerusalem, so the Lord stands round about his people, from this time forth for evermore.

3 The sceptre of wickedness shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous turn their hands to evil.

4 Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, and to those who are true of heart.

5 Those who turn aside to crooked ways the Lord shall take away with the evildoers; but let there be peace upon Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

## Scripture Reading Acts 12.1-11

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. <sup>2</sup> He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. <sup>3</sup> After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) <sup>4</sup> When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. <sup>5</sup> While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

<sup>6</sup> The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. <sup>7</sup> Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. <sup>8</sup> The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' <sup>9</sup> Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. <sup>10</sup> After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. <sup>11</sup> Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

*At the end of the reading we say:*

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## Gloria

All: 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 Gospel Matthew 16.13-19

*Alleluia, alleluia. I do not call you servants but friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.*

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' <sup>14</sup> And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' <sup>15</sup> He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

*Alleluia, alleluia. I do not call you servants but friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father*

## A Reflection for the day     Revd John Webb writes:

We know more about Peter than any of the other apostles but he's not really the type of person we would expect to be the one nearest to Jesus and the leader of the early church. He comes over as volatile, impetuous, and even unreliable. Making grand promises and then failing to deliver. He tried to walk on water and failed. He was at the transfiguration and didn't know what to do. In our reading to-day he is the first to acknowledge Jesus as the promised Messiah, but in the next verse Jesus reprimands him for failing to understand the implications of what he has just said. He failed to stay awake at Gethsemane. And most famously, at the Last Supper he makes a bold claim to be faithful to Jesus whatever the price only to deny Him a few hours later when challenged by a mere servant girl! Above all he comes over as a person who keeps on making mistakes and having to apologise. And yet Jesus loved him and he became the leader of the early church and died a martyr.

We all make mistakes but accepting that we are wrong is exceedingly difficult. There seems to be a stubborn streak in many of us which means that we stick to our opinions even when it becomes clear we are mistaken. Politicians are for ever being accused of making a U-turn which is regarded a sign of failure and weakness. A Prime Minister once famously said, 'you change if you want to – the lady's not for turning.' To change our mind is seen as weakness and vacillation. I suggest that, on the contrary, it can be a strength. The essence of Jesus message is that we need to change and Peter shows us that we can.

When I first left school, I worked in an office the City of London. At that time women only worked as typists, bookkeepers, telephonists, tea-ladies, and cleaners. Black people were train guards, bus conductors and road sweepers. It was assumed that real work and significant decisions could only be made by white well-educated males. And, at the weekend most people looked forward to and enjoyed The Black and White Minstrel Show on tiny grainy televisions without realising how offensive that was to black people! It has been interesting to see a dramatic change on both gender and racial inequality during my lifetime and I'm pleased. But there is still some way to go.

I wonder what other injustices, we now take for granted, will be corrected by the present generation. What about poverty, climate change and war?

All this was well summed up by John Newman (now Saint) when he wrote that 'to live is to change and to be perfect is to change often'. Peter may not have been perfect, but he was certainly prepared to change when necessary. Can we follow his example?

## The Creed

All:     I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

O God of peace, who has taught us that in quietness and confidence shall be our strength; help us, as we come into your presence, to be still and know that you are God.

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

Let us give thanks for St Peter and his courageous witness to the faith, and for all those who have been inspired to follow his example. We pray for those in training and about to be ordained that they may have his dedication and conviction. Let us pray specially for our diocese and Peter our Bishop and his staff as they seek to give a lead at this time.

*Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We Pray for Our Queen, Prime Minister, and all World leaders, that they may have the Spirit of wisdom to lead us through our current difficulties and to have the courage to what is best and change when the situation changes, without fear or favour.

*Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for our families, friends, and neighbours that we may serve Christ in one another and seek the common good.

*Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for the sick, suffering and dying ..... and we give thanks and pray for those who use their skill and risk their lives to care for them.

*Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer*

Hear us as we remember those who have died and those who mourn for them..... According to your promises grant them a share in your eternal kingdom.

*Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of St Peter and all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love. Amen.

## A Prayer during the Covid-19 Pandemic

All: Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.

## The Collect

All: Almighty God, who inspired your apostle Saint Peter to confess Jesus as Christ and Son of the living God: build up your Church upon this rock, that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth and follow one Lord, your Son our Saviour Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Gathering our prayers and praises into one, 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.

## The Conclusion

All: Christ, as a light illumine and guide me this day.  
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.  
Christ under me, Christ over me;  
Christ beside me on my left and my right.  
This day be within and without me.  
Amen.