

Our Sunday Service Together

Pentecost 2026

May 24th



An Acclamation for Pentecost

All: It is our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord.
This day we give you thanks because in fulfilment of your promise you pour out your Spirit upon us, filling us with your gifts, leading us into all truth, and uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith. Your Spirit gives us grace to call you Father, to proclaim your gospel to all nations and to serve you as a royal priesthood. And so earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

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

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 104.26 - 37 *We say the psalm aloud*

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

There is the sea, spread far and wide, and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.

There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan which you have made to play in the deep.

All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.

When you give it them, they gather it; you open your hand and they are filled with good.

When you hide your face they are troubled; when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in his works;

He looks on the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will make music to my God while I have my being.

So shall my song please him while I rejoice in the Lord.

Let sinners be consumed out of the earth and the wicked be no more.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Alleluia!

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 1 Corinthians 12.3b -13

No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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 John 20.19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

At the end of the reading we say:

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

A Reflection for the day

Many people say, 'faith is a personal matter', and they are correct; Jesus talks in terms of those God is calling, his encouragement is to each and all to follow him. St Paul outlines with great theological treatise that salvation is a personal matter; it is what the reformation was concerned with and that - if we use the correct title for our denomination – the C of E is founded on. We are the 'Reformed Catholic Church of England. Prior to the reformation the church had lost its way, for many their salvation came by association with the faith and church they were born into; and this was, and is wrong.

Jesus calls individuals to enter into relationship with God the Father, made possible by his death and resurrection and enabled by the Spirit he sends to us, like a breath of life, as one who sustains our faith, as an enabler of the life of faith we are called to live.

The Spirit is like the glue that bonds master and follower together. As we, who are now citizens of the kingdom of God, not of the world but in it, the Spirit is like the life support system to enable us to 'sojourn', for the world is no longer our home. The Spirit bring to each follower the possibility of a fullness of life, but to have fullness of life we each have to receive the Spirit Jesus breaths onto his followers.

And more (there is always more with Jesus) we can't hold the breath we have taken in, we have to let its impact animate us in bringing the kingdom of God to reality in the world. This Jesus indicates in his words about forgiveness, for this is the kingdom project that in Christ all might know their sins forgiven and with that peace with God – which is life itself!

But, as much as faith is a personal matter, as much as we all have to personally receive the Spirit Jesus breaths onto his followers, faith is not a 'solo' enterprise! Someone may personally become a Christian, but

they cannot live alone as a Christian, for God calls us to be family - it is why we pray 'our father', no 'my father'. It is also why Paul talks of Christ's body, of worshipping communities gathered together, of breaking bread as 'communion'.

Yesterday, the England men's football manager announced his squad for the upcoming world cup. In the interviews that followed it was underlined how no individual was important, it is all about a team. A team with individuals who bring skills and gifts to play on the pitch, but also to build and enable the team to, well be a team. Paul reminds the church at Corinth they can only be God's people, they can only see the kingdom come when they worship together, when they offer the skills and talents each already has been gifted by the Spirit to the worshipping community. There is no other way in God's scheme and plan!

As much as Catholicism was charged by the Reformers with having lost the notion of 'personal salvation', so today it could be argued much of Protestantism has lost the reality of the Catholicism of our faith. People yearn to see so much changed in the world, and perhaps in our village too. 43% of the population of England identify themselves as Christian, but across all denominations those who are active members of a church amounts to less than 5% (the CofE figure is 1.8%).

Come Holy Spirit, set our hearts on fire, bring fullness of life to all in Christ and unite us together in faith, worship, and service to the glory of our heavenly Father. Amen

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.

Prayers *We make our intercessions*

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

As we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples, we pray that the church may be led and enthused by the Spirit. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

Strengthen our bishops, clergy and Lay ministers who seek to serve you in this diocese. May they be filled with the Spirit and serve you as the first disciples. We give thanks for all those who have spread the good news throughout the ages. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We Pray for our King, Prime Minister and all World leaders, that they may have the Spirit of wisdom to lead us into the way, truth and life of Christ and His Kingdom. *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..... According to your promises grant them a share in your eternal kingdom. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer*

The Collect

All: God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Gathering all our prayers and praises into one, we 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.