

# Sunday 18 May 2025, 10am The Fifth Sunday of Easter

# The Eucharist

Presider Revd Andrew Woodward

Preacher Revd Dr Sam Wells The Junior Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by Jennifer Sterling

Organist Harry Baigent

Setting Mass of St Thomas Thorne

Common Worship

#### Welcome

Our welcomers are available to assist with any of the following information. Toilets are available: please ask a welcomer.

**Welcome** whether you are joining us today in our building or online. Our cameras focus on those who are leading our service, but if you are in the building and would like to ensure that you are not caught on camera, please sit outside the pillars on the south of the church (to the right as you enter).

**Welcome** if you are disabled, unwell, have experiences of dementia, physical, sensory or mental health issues, or are neurodivergent. The order of service is online. Large print copies are also available. The hearing loop works best on the south side of the church. Step-free access to church is via the ramp on the north side, and to the Crypt and Hall via lifts in the NW porch and Pavilion.

**Welcome** to babies, children and young people. We understand that young children make noise. If your baby becomes upset during the service, you are welcome to go to the back of church if needed to settle — or to our children's church room. We support breastfeeding in services; we also have a room allocated if preferred. We have a children's church group during the service. A youth group for teenagers meets monthly on Sunday afternoons.

**Welcome** to anyone in need of safeguarding. If you would like to reach our safeguarding team, you can email safeguarding@smitf.org.

**Welcome** to all heritages and experiences of race, culture and language. At the Lord's Prayer, all are invited to bring the gift of our preferred language to our worship. Our 1.30pm is in Cantonese: our welcomers are happy to help where they can if you are new to English. You are also very welcome if you are LGBTQIA+.

**Welcome** if you are of no professed faith or are from a faith tradition other than Christianity. Welcome if you are wary of faith. **Welcome** if you're exploring. **Welcome** if you are here to support someone else. If you would like to explore what you believe in a friendly and non-judgemental group, our Being With courses run throughout the year online and in the building. Email beingwith@ smitf.org for more details.

You are welcome to share our meal with God. When we come to Holy Communion, we receive bread in the form of a wafer, then wine from a common cup. Non-alcoholic wine and gluten-free wafers are available in the south aisle. If you need to receive in your seat, please let a welcomer know and ministers will come to you. If you do not want to or cannot receive bread or wine for whatever reason you are welcome to let the priest know you would like to receive a simple prayer for blessing, or to stay in your seat. We welcome your ideas and help for us to become a more welcoming community.

#### We are glad you are here.

# The Gathering

# Welcome

Please stand. Silence is kept.

The Greeting

The Lord be with you.

#### All And also with you.

We acknowledge God's presence drawing each of us into one body as we gather on site and online.

Visit us Lord, by your Holy Spirit.

All Though in many places, we are united as one body. Though from many backgrounds, we share one hope.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Opening Hymn

- 1 Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King. To all the world glad news we bring: *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*
- 2 The Lord of Life is risen for ay: bring flowers of song to strew his way; let all the earth rejoice and say: *Alleluia...*
- 3 Praise we in songs of victory that Love, that Life, which cannot die, and sing with hearts uplifted high: *Alleluia...*
- 4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord the life laid down, the life restored: *Alleluia...*

Cyril Argentine Alington (1872-1955)

Please sit or kneel.

# Confession

Let us confess our sins to our merciful God trusting in the power and love that alone can set us free.

## Silence is kept.

Lord, you pour out on us the abundance of your gifts, but we have chosen not to see your blessings.

Lord, have mercy.

# All Lord, have mercy.

Lord, you show us the way, the truth, and the life, but we are reluctant to believe your promises.

Christ, have mercy.

#### All Christ have mercy.

Lord, you invite us to love you and to love our neighbour, but we have failed to love as you have loved us.

Lord, have mercy.

#### All Lord, have mercy.

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.

#### All Amen.

Please stand.

Children gather at the north east door during the Gloria to go to Children's Church.

Gloria in Excelsis opposite

#### 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.** 

All Amen.

Please sit.

#### Gloria in Excelsis



# The Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading Acts 11: 1-18 read by Helen Riley

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

Hear the word of the Lord.

#### All Thanks be to God.

# Second Reading Revelation 21: 1-6 read by Andrea Budd

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Hear the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Please stand and turn to face the Gospel in the centre aisle.

Gospel Hymn

- 1 Love is his word, love is his way, feasting with all, fasting alone, living and dying, rising again, love, only love, is his way. Richer than gold is the love of my Lord: better than splendour and wealth.
- 2 Love is his way, love is his mark, sharing his last Passover feast, Christ at the table, host to the twelve, love, only love, is his mark. *Chorus*
- Love is his mark, love is his sign, bread for our strength, wine for our joy, 'This is my body, this is my blood,' love, only love, is his sign. *Chorus*

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading John 13: 31-35

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

## All Glory to you, O Lord.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

# All Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn continued

4 Love is his law, love is his word: love of the Lord, Father and Word, love of the Spirit, God ever one, love, only love, is his word. *Richer than gold is the love of my Lord: better than splendour and wealth.* 

Luke Connaughton (1917-1979)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Dr Sam Wells

Anthem I give to you a new commandment *Peter Nardone* 

I give to you a new commandment, a new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you. Amen.

John 13: 34-45 and Liber Usualis

Please stand.

Apostles' Creed

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

Please sit or kneel.

Prayers of Intercession *led by Neil MacGregor* 

*The response to the prayers is:* God of wonder and love,

All hear our prayer.

*And, at the end:* Merciful Father,

All accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please stand.

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

All

The peace of the risen 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.

A collection will be taken for the work of this church during the following hymn. You are welcome to donate using:

- cash in the collection bags filling in a Gift Aid envelope if applicable
- select amount and tap the card machines brought by the stewards

- by texting COLLECTION to 70450 to donate £10 (texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message).

- by scanning the QR code to the right with your phone

# Offertory Hymn

- Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour, first-begotten from the dead, thou alone, our strong defender, liftest up thy people's head. Alleluia, alleluia, Jesu, true and living bread.
- 2 Here our humblest homage pay we, here in loving reverence bow; here for faith's discernment pray we, lest we fail to know thee now. Alleluia, alleluia, thou art here, we ask not how.
- 3 Though the lowliest form doth veil thee as of old in Bethlehem, here as there thine angels hail thee, branch and flower of Jesse's stem. Alleluia, alleluia we in worship join with them.



continued...

4 Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished once for all when thou wast slain, in its fullness undiminished shall for evermore remain, Alleluia, alleluia, cleansing souls from every stain.

A musical interlude may be played on the organ before the final verse is sung

5 Life-imparting heavenly manna, stricken rock with streaming side, heaven and earth with loud hosanna worship thee, the Lamb who died, Alleluia, alleluia, risen, ascended, glorified.

George Hugh Bourne (1840-1925)

Preparation of the Table Taking of the Bread and Wine

The table is prepared and bread and wine are received from the congregation and placed upon it. The financial gifts of the people are gathered and presented with the following prayer:

All Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

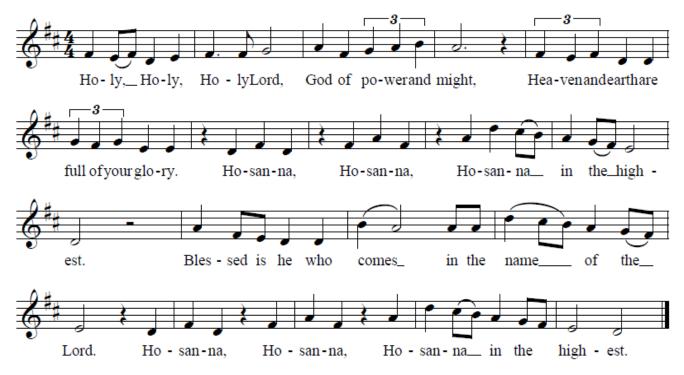
Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Creating God, you made the earth as a place of encounter. Here you made a covenant with your chosen people. When your children went astray you came among us in the form of your Son, showed your glory, and in his passion suffered for our sin. In him you brought every aspect of creation to its purpose. Your Son's resurrection empowered his disciples, and your Spirit's fire enlivens your church. You promise us that when our story with you is completed, you will inaugurate a new heaven and a new earth where we shall enjoy life with you forever. So with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, anticipating your eternal praise, we bless you in everlasting song.



Redeeming God, you have prepared a banquet for us to share with you in your kingdom. Send now your Holy Spirit, that we may taste that banquet today, that your Son may be present among us, and that bread broken and wine outpoured may be for us his body and blood. Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, 'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, 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.

All Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again. Transforming God, in Christ and in this holy meal you show us the shape of love. In broken bread show us the cost of your love and inspire us to love like you. In poured wine show us the constancy of your love and form us to love as truly as you love us. Remake your earth that it may breathe your life. Remake its people that they may resound with your glory. Remake your church, that it may look like your Son. Wipe every tear from every eye; make death no more; and take away mourning and crying and pain, that all may find justice in your mercy and freedom in your service, until the beginning and the ending of all things are one in you, and you are all in all, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Please sit or kneel.

Lord's Prayer

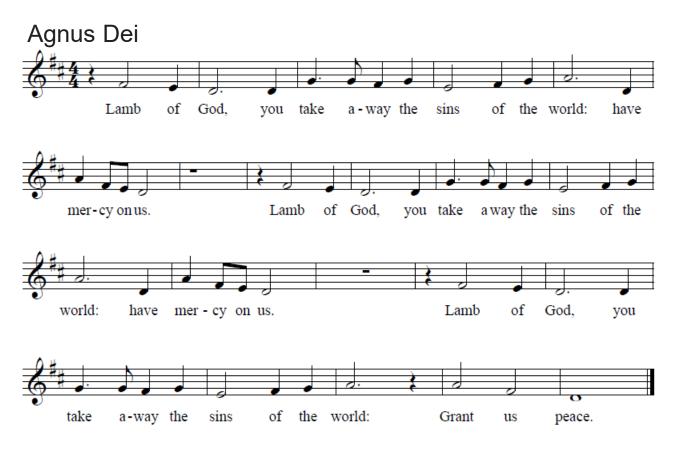
As our Saviour taught us, so we pray, each in our own preferred language.

All 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Lord Jesus Christ, your body broken for us has become the gift of resurrection.

All May we who share this broken bread also share your risen life.



The Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.** 

Communicant members of all Christian churches are invited to receive Holy Communion. Bread and wine are available in the central aisle and both side aisles. Gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic wine are available in the south aisle upon request from the assistant. If you wish to receive communion in your seat, do let a steward know.

# Communion Anthem Litany to the Holy Spirit Hurford

In the hour of my distress when temptations me oppress, and when I my sins confess, sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me! When I lie within my bed, sick in heart and in head, and with doubts discomforted, sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me! When the house doth sigh and weep, and the world is drown'd with sleep, yet mine eyes the watch do keep, sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me!

Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

Silence is kept.

All

Prayer after Communion

All Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

# The Dismissal

Notices

Please stand.

Blessing

May the God of hope give you all joy and peace in believing; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Thanksgiving Hymn

- 1 Praise the Lord! Ye heavens, adore him; praise him, angels, in the height; sun and moon, rejoice before him, praise him, all ye stars and light. Praise the Lord! for he hath spoken; worlds his mighty voice obeyed: laws, which never shall be broken, for their guidance he hath made.
- 2 Praise the Lord! For he is glorious; never shall his promise fail: God hath made his saints victorious; sin and death shall not prevail. Praise the God of our salvation; hosts on high, his power proclaim; heaven and earth, and all creation, laud and magnify his name!

From a leaf pasted into the Foundling Hospital 'Psalms, Hymns and Anthems', London, c. 1797 based on Psalm 148

Dismissal

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

Organ Voluntary Organ Concerto in G BWV 592i J.S. Bach

Prayers for healing are available at the altar rail after the service.

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