

# The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice of

**St Saviour  
Mortimer West End**

**St Mary and St John  
Stratfield Mortimer**

**St John the Baptist  
Padworth**

**St Mary's Church of England School**

**St John's Church of England School**

**Diocese of Oxford**



**'The Ascension of Christ'**  
A Cross from El Salvador

*People sometimes ask about the symbolism behind the unique folk art style of the El Salvadoran crosses in our two schools. The pupils are good at explaining that each cross contains symbols from the everyday life of the artists and the images are drawn from both what they see around them and from their awareness of the presence of the divine in their hearts and lives and families and communities - which, they believe, has enabled them to endure great hardships.*

# The Parish Eucharist for Ascension Sunday

*The Seventh Sunday of Eastertide*

**21<sup>st</sup> May 2023 at 10 a.m.**

**Online at Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940>

## **Thoughts: Passing the baton.**

In any relay race one critical moment must be, of course, the passing on of the baton from one runner to another. A friend who knows about these things used to say that more relays are won or lost at that moment than at any other.

The 'Ascension' has been compared to the passing of the baton in a relay race, whereby Jesus passed the baton of responsibility for his teaching and his mission - the 'stewardship of the Kingdom of God' - to the disciples and 'commissioned' them to carry on and complete his work: 'Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Gospel.' And we see that this 'co-mission' is not given to some select few but to all the motley lot of his disciples. We see too that in this context there is a difference between 'preaching' and 'proclaiming.' 'We preach with words but we proclaim with our lives.' So, when Christians celebrate Christ's 'Ascension' we are reminded that we too are all 'commissioned' to 'go forth and proclaim his Gospel' of life and love, and of hope and peace - by the example and witness of our own lives. And the celebration of the Ascension - with all its messages of hope, encouragement and commissioning - is a call to all people everywhere - all 'denominations' - to consider what it means to be Christ's disciple and what it means to take up his mission.

God bless,  
Paul.

# The Eucharist for Ascension Sunday

A very warm welcome as we gather for our Parish's celebration of the Sunday Eucharist during the Fifty Days of Eastertide.

An induction loop is provided. To use, please turn your hearing aid to T.

Gluten free wafers are available for those who need them. Please inform one of the vergers who will pass the information on to the clergy.

*Online:* If you are not able to come to St John's you are warmly invited to share in the Parish's Sunday Eucharist online. And may God bless and renew us as we join together to worship. **Thank you.**

**THIS 'HOLY MEMORIAL' is known by various names:** 1) **'The Eucharist'** - which means 'Thanksgiving' - because Jesus offered himself in love; 2) **'The Lord's Supper'** - or 'Breaking of the Bread' - because we celebrate it as a shared meal; 3) **'Holy Communion,'** - because we become one with Christ by receiving him; and 4) **'Holy Mass'** - holy sending - because it gives us a mission: to go in peace to serve the Lord.

**The 'objectives' of the Eucharist:** The community gathers for the public celebration of the Eucharist in order to worship God; ask his forgiveness for sins; thank him for blessings received; listen to his voice in the Scriptures; present the needs of the world and our own needs too; offer our lives to him and his loving service; gain spiritual nourishment and recharge our weakened spiritual batteries by sharing life with him in Holy Communion. The simple structure of the Eucharistic celebration is organized around achieving these goals.

## THE GATHERING SONG

Hail the day that sees him rise, *Alleluia*,  
to his throne above the skies; *Alleluia*,  
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, *Alleluia*,  
enters now the highest heaven. *Alleluia*.

See, he lifts his hands above;  
see, he shews the prints of love;  
hark, his gracious lips bestow  
blessings on his church below.

Lord, though parted from our sight,  
far above the starry height,  
grant our hearts may thither rise,  
seeking thee above the skies.

## THE GATHERING

Priest           + In the name of God - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All               Amen.

## THE GREETING - Words of Welcome and Introduction

*The greeting proclaims the presence of the Lord with us.*

*The Penitential Rite, the Gloria and the Opening Prayer follow. The purpose of these preliminary rites is to help the people, gathered for the celebration of the Eucharist, to join with each other as a worshipping community, and to prepare to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist - the Great Thanksgiving.*

All               The Lord be with you.  
                    **And also with you.**

All               Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
                    **He is risen indeed.**

*The priest may introduce the Eucharist.*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, for forty days we have been celebrating with joyful hearts the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, his bursting from the tomb and his defeat of the power over us of sin and death. He appeared to his disciples many times and told them about the kingdom of God.

Today we recall how he returned to his Father, ascending into heaven. Trusting in his reign of love let us hear and celebrate the story of his departing.

## THE PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

*The Invitation to Confession - we call to mind our sins that we may repent of them / turn from them and ask forgiveness of God and each other.*

Priest           My brothers and sisters, as we come together as God's family  
                    to celebrate the holy mysteries,  
                    let us ask with confidence the Father's forgiveness for our sins,  
                    for he is full of gentleness and compassion.

*A pause for quiet reflection follows.*

**All** I confess to almighty God,  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have sinned through my own fault,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do.

*The Absolution*

+ Almighty God, have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All** Amen.

## **THE GLORIA**

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

**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 sins 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 COLLECT**

**Priest** Let us pray that our risen and ascended Lord will lead us to eternal life.

*Together we spend a few moments in silence, realising, and giving thanks, that we are in the presence of God our Father to whom we make our prayers. The prayer 'collects' our thoughts.*

Risen Christ,  
you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven:  
help us to seek and serve you,  
that we may join you at the Father's side,  
where you reign with the Spirit in glory,  
now and for ever.

**All** Amen.

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*The Liturgy of the Word consists of readings from the scriptures; a sermon/homily, which expounds the readings; the Profession of Faith, which is the Creed of God's people; and the Prayer of the Faithful or General Intercessions in which the people of God intercede for all humankind and all creation.*

*In the Liturgy of the Word God speaks to us of redemption and salvation and nourishes us with his 'word.' We are not only listening to past history. The God who speaks to Israel and to the early Church speaks to us today through the power of the Holy Spirit working within us as we listen to him and as he reveals the pattern for our lives. 'The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double edged sword but more finely...it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts' (The Letter to the Hebrews 4:12).*

*Either two or three READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE follow, the last of which is the Gospel.*

## **THE FIRST READING: ACTS 1: 1 - 11.** - Read by Gwen Adshead.

**Reader** A reading from Acts of the Apostles.

In my first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen, through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. when he was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his suffering passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptized with water, but you, not many days from now, will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, ‘Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you, and then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’

When he had said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white robes stood by them and they said, ‘Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back.’

*At the end of the reading:*

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

*Now we hear the Gospel (the Good News) and acknowledge that we are his people and called to be part of his mission to the world inasmuch as we share his message and his life with faith, hope and love.*

### **THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Go, make disciples of all the nations;  
I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.

*Matthew 28: 19 - 20.*

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

*Now we hear the Gospel (the Good News) and acknowledge that we are his people and called to be part of his mission to the world inasmuch as we share his message and his life with faith, hope and love.*

### **THE GOSPEL READING - ST MATTHEW’S GOSPEL 28: 16 - 20.**

All             The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you .**

All             Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

All             Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The commissioning of the disciples.*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where to Jesus had directed them to go. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.’

*At the end of the Gospel:*

All             This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

All             Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

### **THE SERMON**

*We are a Eucharistic community - united around word and sacrament. Through the readings God has spoken to his people of his redeeming love and of the nourishment which his Spirit gives. The sermon reflects on our readings and relates them to our Eucharistic celebration and to our ordinary daily life.*

*After the sermon there may be a short period of silent reflection.*

### **THE PROFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH - THE CREED**

*We make the profession of faith in response to the word of God written in the Gospels and spoken in the sermon. We testify that God is our Father who gives us new life through his Son and who calls us together in the power of his Spirit to be a Eucharistic people, a ‘thanksgiving people’, a living community of his abiding self-giving love.*

All             **I believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
                  maker of heaven and earth,  
                  of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
                  the Only Begotten Son of God,  
                  born of the Father before all ages.  
                  God from God, Light from Light,  
                  true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL OR GENERAL INTERCESSION**

*We are invited to pray for all people and for all creation and for the needs of the Church's mission in bringing Christ's Gospel to the world. Through baptism we have been made one with Christ, our great high priest, and we share in his prayer before the Father for the needs of the Church's mission to the world and for of people. Our prayer flows from our listening to the Gospel and sermon by which we have been made more aware of our Christian commitment.*

*This Prayer of the Faithful, or General Intercession, is announced and consists of a series of intercessions; we pray for the universal Church and its mission and for our bishop and for our benefice - our parishes and our two Church schools; for the world, for our Queen and country, for our local communities, families and friends; for the sick and suffering and for all in pain; and we remember those who have died. And in communion with Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all the Saints of God we entrust one another and all people and all creation to God's saving love.*

**Priest:** My brothers and sisters, with the promise of Christ to be with us always,  
let us pray with renewed confidence to our heavenly Father.

*The deacon or minister continues:*

Heavenly Father, before our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven he asked his disciples to carry his message of repentance and forgiveness to all the world. We pray for the wisdom, the faith, and the love we need to witness to him and to his Gospel...

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray your blessing on Justin our Archbishop, Steven our Bishop and Olivia our area Bishop, and on the mission and ministry of your Church in this place - for our parishes and our schools of St Mary's and St John's, and that all our children may know the joy and the wonder of childhood, grow in wisdom, and be gifted with love and respect for all...

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for all who are considering Baptism and Confirmation that they may continue to grow in faith, hope, and love...

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for Charles our King; for all in Government; for our District and Village Councils; and for all in authority, that they may govern with justice and wisdom and seek the common good...

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, bless our families and friends and all those given us to care for... May our love for one another witness to the love of the risen and ascended Christ...

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray to you for all who suffer today in body, mind or spirit... May the love of the risen and ascended Christ bring comfort and the hope of the resurrection and ascension bring peace...

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we remember before you all who have gone before us... We pray in the hope of the ascension that we may be united for ever in the joy of heaven...

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, in communion with Mary, the Blessed Mother of our Lord, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all your saints, we commend all creation to your unfailing love.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Priest Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ and pray that we may always be blessed with the gift of recognising his abiding presence in our lives.  
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

### **THE LITURGY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

*At the Last Supper Christ 'took some bread and when he had given thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying "This is my body which will be given for you; do this in remembrance of me". He did the same with the cup...' (Luke 22:19-20). The Church, joyfully obedient to the Lord's command, celebrates the Eucharist taking care that our 'liturgy' corresponds to the words and actions of Christ: 1) Taking bread and wine - we take our own gifts to the Altar, such as our time and talents and our money for the poor and for ministry. 2) Giving thanks (the meaning of the word Eucharist) - in the Eucharistic Prayer the priest, in the name of us all, says the great hymn of our thanksgiving to God for the whole work of salvation, in which the offerings become the Body and Blood of Christ. 3) The breaking of the one bread is a sign of the unity of the faithful - a sign of the unity which comes through sharing in Christ. 4) And in Holy Communion we receive Christ. In this way, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, the Church tries to carry out what the Lord asked his disciples to do in remembrance of him.*

### **THE PEACE**

*We acknowledge and give thanks for our unity with one another in Jesus Christ our Lord, which his death and resurrection have brought to us. He is the peace between us. The sign of peace echoes Christ's own resurrection greeting to his disciples. Before we share in the same bread we express our love for one another in Christ and pray for peace and unity (cf Luke 1.78,79).*

Priest Jesus said: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.  
If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father'. Alleluia.

*John 14: 27,28.*

All The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

### **THE OFFERTORY HYMN**

**Alleluia, sing to Jesus!**  
**His the sceptre, his the throne;**  
**alleluia, his the triumph,**  
**his the victory alone:**  
**hark, the songs of peaceful Sion**  
**thunder like a mighty flood;**  
**Jesus out of every nation**  
**hath redeemed us by his blood.**

**Alleluia, not as orphans**  
**are we left in sorrow now;**  
**alleluia, he is near us,**  
**faith believes, nor questions how:**  
**though the cloud from sight received him,**  
**when the forty days were o'er,**  
**shall our hearts forget his promise,**  
**'I am with you evermore'?**

**Alleluia, King eternal,  
thee the Lord of lords we own;  
alleluia, born of Mary,  
earth thy footstool, heaven your throne:  
thou within the veil hast entered,  
robed in flesh, our great High Priest;  
thou on earth both Priest and Victim  
in the Eucharistic feast,**

## **THE PRESENTATION AND PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS**

*The peoples' gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. The offerings of money is made and promised to support the wider ministry and work of the Church. Taking the Gifts: We give thanks to God for the gifts in the following words.*

### **BREAD**

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

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

### **WINE**

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

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

### **OUR TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURE/MONEY**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have the gifts of our time, talents and money to offer. May our offerings of our gifts be a sincere sign of our gratitude and our dedication to your service.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

*The priest prays quietly: Lord God, we ask you to receive us and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer you with humble, contrite and thankful hearts. The priest washes hands as an expression of the desire for inward purification, praying quietly: Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin.*

## **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Priest Pray my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

**All May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Priest Amen.

Lord, receive the offering of our gifts  
as we celebrate the ascension of Christ your Son.  
May his gifts help us rise with him to heavenly joy,  
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

## **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*The Eucharistic Prayer is the centre and high point of the whole Christian celebration. This great prayer of praise and thanksgiving proclaims the wonderful works of God and through it we join ourselves with Christ in praise and thanksgiving to God the Father and in offering ourselves to him in union with Christ's self-offering on the cross. We express our share in the prayer, which is said on behalf of all the people, by listening inwardly and joining in the acclamations (joyful shouts or songs) and the Sanctus (the Holy, Holy, Holy which concludes the preface), the memorial acclamation and the great 'Amen' which concludes our Eucharistic Prayer.*

Priest 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.**

*In the Preface we praise God for his mighty acts:*

And now we give you thanks because after his glorious resurrection,  
he appeared to his disciples,  
and in their sight ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us;  
that where he is, thither we might also ascend.  
And so, with all the heavenly host, we proclaim your glory  
and join in their unending song of praise:

**All**            **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.**

*We pray to the Father for the sending down of the Holy Spirit and recall the Lord's Supper.*

Priest        We thank you, loving Father, because when we turned away  
                  you sent to us your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.  
                  He gave his life for us upon the cross. He shows us now the way to live.  
                  Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine  
                  may be for us Christ's body and his blood.  
                  On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks,  
                  broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
                  ‘This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.’  
                  After they had eaten he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples,  
                  saying:  
                  ‘This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.  
                  Do this to remember me.’  
                  So, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his risen and ascended life.  
                  As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit upon us and change us more and more  
                  to be like Jesus our Saviour.  
                  Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended  
                  and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.  
                  And now with Mary, the Blessed Mother of our Lord, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist,  
                  and all your saints, we give you glory, through Jesus Christ  
                  and in the strength of your Holy Spirit,  
                  today and for ever.

**All**            **Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

*The communion rite lays strong emphasis on peace, unity and our prayer for forgiveness. We come together to the Lord's table in accordance with the Lord's command, 'Take, eat... take, drink', as a community bound together by the love of God manifest in Christ. We can all be confident in Christ's mercy as we respond to his call to come to his table. Our communal recitation of the Lord's Prayer - the prayer he taught us - prepares us for Holy Communion with our Lord.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Priest        Looking for the coming of his kingdom,  
                  let us pray with confidence as our Saviour 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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*The priest takes the host and breaks it over the cup, praying quietly: 'May this mingling of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.' 'Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread' (1 Corinthians 10:17)*

*Christ's gesture of breaking bread with his disciples at the Last Supper gave the Eucharist the name of the 'breaking of bread.'. This gesture signifies that we who share one bread and one cup are made one. The breaking of the Eucharistic bread becomes a sign of unity and charity as the one bread is distributed to the family of God's people.*

**Priest** We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All** **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

*The priest prepares quietly for Holy Communion. We may all join quietly in this prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit your death brought life to the world. By your holy body and blood free me from all my sins and from every evil. Keep me faithful to your teaching, and never let me be parted from you. Amen.*

### **PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION**

**Priest** Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. *cf. John 1: 29*

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All** **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*The sign of communion is more complete when given under both 'kinds' since then the sign of the eucharistic meal appears more clearly. However, we live in exceptional times when communion may be given in one 'kind.'*

*The priest takes the host, raises it a little and shows it saying: The Body of Christ. And the same with the cup saying: The Blood of Christ. When receiving Holy Communion the response and assent to Christ is:*

**+ Amen.**

### **DURING HOLY COMMUNION** *The Choir may sing an Ave Maria or other hymns, or anthems or songs.*

Psalm 23 - 'The Lord is my Shepherd' - to a tune by Howard Goodall.

### **PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION**

**Priest** Let us pray.

*The priest invites us all to pray that the Holy Eucharist will have its effect in transforming our lives and bring us all to God's kingdom. We pray together silently for a while before the Post Communion prayer.*

**Priest** Heavenly Father,  
you have raised our humanity in Christ  
and have fed us with the bread of heaven:  
mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings,  
we may set our hearts in the heavenly places;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** **Amen.**

### **THE NOTICES FOR THE COMMUNITY ARE GIVEN.**

### **THE CONCLUDING RITE**

**Priest** The Lord be with you.

**All** **And also with you.**

**Priest** Alleluia, Christ is risen.

**All** **He is risen indeed, Alleluia.**

### **THE BLESSING**

**Priest** May our Heavenly Father enlighten the eyes of your hearts and minds that you may see  
that his blessed Son ascended above the heavens that he might fulfil in you all good things.

**All** **Amen.**

**Priest** May he, who ascended into heaven, prepare a place for you that, at the last, where he is  
you might also come to be.

**All** **Amen.**

**Priest** May the Holy Spirit, who pours out his abundant gifts, strengthen you and give you courage  
that you may be faithful to Christ and give yourselves lovingly to the service of his Gospel.

**All** **Amen.**

Priest            **+** And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
                         be upon you and remain with you forever.

**All                Amen.**

Wait with joyful expectation for the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit,  
and go forward together in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

**All                Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

### **RECESSIONAL HYMN**

**Christ is the King! O friends rejoice;  
brothers and sisters with one voice  
tell all the world he is your choice.**

*Alleluia.*

**Let love's unconquerable might  
your scattered companies unite  
in service to the Lord of light.**

*Alleluia.*

**So shall God's will on earth be done,  
new lamps be lit, new tasks begun,  
and the whole church at last be one.**

*Alleluia.*

*Please donate regularly to support the Church's mission and work. The church here needs your help in order to serve our villages, our diocese, our nation and our world in the future. Our doors have been closed due to Covid 19 and with no regular Government or Church of England funding we have lost significant income. Please see the website to see how to give efficiently. Thank you.*

