**Morning Prayer 10th May 2020 Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Preparation:**

Grace, mercy and peace

from God our Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ

be with you

**and also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

We have come together in the name of Christ

to offer our praise and thanksgiving,

to hear and 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.

Jesus says, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.’ So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Lord God,**

**we have sinned against you;**

**we have done evil in your sight.**

**We are sorry and repent.**

**Have mercy on us according to your love.**

**Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.**

**Renew a right spirit within us**

**and restore us to the joy of your salvation;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

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.

**Amen.**

Blessed is the Lord,

**for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**

therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

**and in our song will we praise our God.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God,

creator and redeemer of all;

to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the waters of chaos you drew forth the world

and in your great love fashioned us in your image.

Now, through the deep waters of death,

you have brought your people to new birth

by raising your Son to life in triumph.

May Christ your light ever dawn in our hearts

as we offer you our sacrifice of thanks and praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**Blessed be God for ever.**

**The Word of God:**

**Psalm:** *Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16*

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;

 do not let me ever be put to shame;

 in your righteousness deliver me.

**Incline your ear to me;**

 **rescue me speedily.**

**Be a rock of refuge for me,**

 **a strong fortress to save me.**

You are indeed my rock and my fortress;

 for your name’s sake lead me and guide me,

**take me out of the net that is hidden for me,**

 **for you are my refuge.**

Into your hand I commit my spirit;

 you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

**My times are in your hand;**

 **deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.**

Let your face shine upon your servant;

 save me in your steadfast love.

**Glory to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit**

**As it was in the beginning is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Epistle:** *Acts 7:55-end*

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

**The Easter Anthems:**

*1 Corinthians 5.7b, 8; Romans 6.9-11 & 1 Corinthians 15.20-22*

**Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:**

**so let us celebrate the feast,**

**not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:**

**but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

**Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:**

**death has no more dominion over him.**

**In dying he died to sin once for all:**

**in living he lives to God.**

**See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:**

**and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Christ has been raised from the dead:**

**the first fruits of those who sleep.**

**For as by man came death:**

**by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;**

**for as in Adam all die:**

**even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now**

**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Gospel:** *John 14:1-14*

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

**Sermon:** *Rt. Rev. Philip Mounstephen, Bishop of Truro*

**The Creed:**

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:**

Lord Jesus, you are the way:

**You are the truth and the life.**

Lord Jesus we continue to pray for all who bear particular responsibility for the rest of us in this crisis. We pray for local and national government, especially for Cornwall Council and for all the voluntary and community initiatives here in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. We pray too for everyone who works to care for the most vulnerable in our society: for those who work to combat domestic abuse, to tackle loneliness and isolation and to ensure that our foodbanks remain stocked and staffed. And however we can, help us all to be truly good neighbours to one another.

And we pray for our Churches, in this strange time. Even though we still cannot meet, strengthen us as your body and give us the inspiration and creativity of your Holy Spirit that we may reach out effectively in love and care to those in our communities in your name.

And help us to be ready to be the kind of Church you would have us be as we emerge from this crisis: a Church above all that reflects and reveals just who you are; a people full of hope for all eternity; a people who share that hope with confidence and with love.

Lord Jesus, you are the way:

**You are the truth and the life.**

Lord Jesus, we pray for all those whose hearts are troubled; who are lonely and fearful of what the future holds. Help them to know that you are the way the truth and the life, and that there is room in the Father’s house for us all.

We pray for all those who care for us in this time of trial. We pray especially for all those working in the NHS and the emergency services; for those in the social care sector and delivery drivers. We pray for all who work to keep us safe and supplied with what we need. We thank you for them and we pray that you will bless, strengthen and encourage them.

We pray especially for those who are sick and suffering. We pray that your caring hand will rest upon them to give them comfort and peace.

And we pray for all those who are bereaved, and for those who care for them: may they know that as they weep so you weep with them. Give them confidence in the resurrection of the dead. And grant us all hope for the future, and protection here in the present.

Lord Jesus, you are the way:

**You are the truth and the life.**

Lord Jesus, in this troubled time we pray that you will help us to be people of hope, people who have hopes for a better future beyond all this. And may we be people who see those hopes come to fruition. Help us together to work for a better, a more compassionate, a less acquisitive and a more sustainable and loving world: one whose hopes are founded on you: on all you are and on all you have done for us

And Lord whatever trials and troubles we may currently face, keep us strong in hope and help us so to be the Church you would have us be that many others too come to know you as their Saviour, their Lord, and their God

Lord Jesus, you are the way:

**You are the truth and the life. Amen**

**Hymn:**

Thou art the Way: to thee alone

from sin and death we flee;

and those who would the Father seek,

must seek him, Lord, by thee.

Thou art the Truth: thy Word alone

true wisdom can impart;

thou only canst inform the mind,

and purify the heart.

Thou art the Life: the rending tomb

proclaims thy conquering arm,

and those who put their trust in thee

nor death nor hell shall harm.

Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life:

grant us that Way to know,

that Truth to keep, that Life to win,

whose joys eternal flow.

*G. Doane (1799-1859)*

**A Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter:**

Eternal God,

whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:

grant us to walk in his way,

to rejoice in his truth,

and to share his risen life;

who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,

let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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**

**The Blessing:**

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself;

the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service;

and the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts.

And the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

be amongst you and remain with you both now and evermore. Amen

**The Grace:**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ**

**And the love of God**

**And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit**

**Be with us all evermore.**

**Amen**