

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY, PULBOROUGH



THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Thursday 14th May, 2026

7.30pm THE SUNG EUCHARIST

Welcome to the Sung Eucharist on this Feast of the Ascension

Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Paul

Organist: Tony Hancock

The Setting: Thorne

The First Reading: Maureen Varndell

The Second Reading: Jaquie Walbridge

The Intercessions: Susie Hindman

Ministers of Communion: David Hayes and Tony Holloway

We administer communion in both kinds. Receiving consecrated wine directly from the chalice is offered for those who feel comfortable to do this. Please do not dip the consecrated wafer into the chalice.

Please wait to be directed to communion.

In the event of a fire or emergency in the Church, the exits available are: the West Door, the North Door, the South Door in the Chancel and the door through the Vestry. Please leave the building by an exit nearest to you.

*Introductory Organ Music: Pelude on "Llanfair" –
Malcolm Archer.*

Please stand when the bell is rung

**The Entrance Hymn: NEH 130 omitting verse 5 (1st Tune)
Charles Wesley (1707-1788)**

- 1 Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluya!
Glorious to his native skies; Alleluya!
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluya!
enters now the highest heaven! Alleluya!**
- 2 There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluya!
lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluya!
Christ hath vanquished death and sin; Alleluya!
take the King of glory in! Alleluya!**
- 3 See! The heaven its Lord receives, Alleluya!
Yet he loves the earth he leaves: Alleluya!
Though returning to his throne, Alleluya!
Still he calls mankind his own. Alleluya!**
- 4 See! He lifts his hands above; Alleluya!
See! He shows the prints of love: Alleluya!
Hark! His gracious lips bestow Alleluya!
Blessings on his Church below. Alleluya**
- 6 There we shall with thee remain, Alleluya!
partners of thy endless reign, Alleluya!
there thy face unclouded see, Alleluya!
find our heaven of heavens in thee, Alleluya!**
- 7 There we shall with thee remain, Alleluya!
Partneers of thinbe endless reign; Alleluya!
There thy face unclouded see, Alleluya!
Find our heaven of heavens in thee. Alleluya!**

The Gathering

✠ In the name of the Father, and
of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Greeting

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia

Fr. Paul introduces the service

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 of sin and death. He appeared to his disciples many times and told them about the kingdom of God.

Today we recall how he left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers. Trusting in his reign over all creation, and submitting to his kindly yet loving rule, let us prepare to hear the story of his parting.

The Prayers of Penitence

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in
newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria

Glory to God, Glory to God, glory to God in the Highest.

**Glory to God in the Highest, and
peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, Heav'nly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, glory to God in the Highest.

**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.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, glory to God, in the Highest.

**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.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest

The Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ
to have ascended into the heavens,
so we in heart and mind may also ascend
and with him continually dwell;
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit

The First Reading: Acts 1. 1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took

him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

The Second Reading: Ephesians 1. 15 23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Please stand

The Gradual Hymn: NEH 443
Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and John Taylor (1750-1826)

- 1 Rejoice, the Lord is King.
Your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore:
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*
- 2 Jesus the Saviour, reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above: *Chorus*
- 3 His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given: *Chorus*
- 4 He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet: *Chorus*

The Gospel Reading: Luke 24.44-53

The Alleluia is sung by the choir and then repeated by the congregation



The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

Please sit

The Homily

Please stand



**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
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, was incarnate from
the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again 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 dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We 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
worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of
sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Please kneel or sit

The Prayers of Intercession

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
you have exalted your Son Christ Jesus to your right hand,
and made him the head over all things for his body the Church:
hear us as we pray for the Church throughout the world ...
Make us and all your people receptive to the gifts he pours upon
us, that we may use them to your glory,
and the building up of the body of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

Lord God Almighty, the Ancient of Days,
you have given your Son all authority in heaven and on earth:
hear us as we pray for the world he came to redeem ...
Grant that we may know even in this time the things that make for
peace, and may strive for the reconciliation of all people
in his kingdom of justice and love.

Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

Father of all, whose Son has promised to be with us always,
to the end of the age:
hear us as we pray for those among whom we live and work ...
Grant that we may be so aware of his presence with us,
that people may take note of us, that we have been with Jesus.

Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

O God our Redeemer, whose Son ever lives to make intercession for us:

hear us as we pray for those in any kind of need ...

May he who has borne our infirmities strengthen and heal them, that they may find grace to help in time of need, and rejoice in his salvation.

Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, whose Son has borne our humanity into the heavenly realms, and gone before us to prepare a place for us: hear us as we remember before you those whose earthly sojourn is over,

and whose life is now hidden in him with you ...

Make us joyful and expectant, that at his coming with all his own we too may go forth to meet him, and share in his eternal joy.

Merciful Father,

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

Please stand

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

Fr. Paul introduces the Peace:

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace

The Offertory Hymn: NEH 332
Edward Perronet (c.1762-1792)

- 1 All hail the power of Jesu's name
let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem
to crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.
- 2 Crown him, ye morning stars of light,
who fixed this floating ball;
now hail the Strength of Israel's might,
and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.
- 3 Crown him, ye martyrs of your God,
who from his altar call;
praise him whose way of pain ye trod,
and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.
- 4 Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
ye ransomed of the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.
- 5 Hail him, ye heirs of David's line,
whom David Lord did call;
the God incarnate, Man divine,
and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.
- 6 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your trophies at his feet,
and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.

**7 Let every tribe and every tongue
to him their hearts enthrall,
lift high the universal song
and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.**

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

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 holy Church.

The Prayer over the Gifts is said

Let this table, O God, stand for us at the gate of Heaven, so that we who offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving may share the joy of Christ in glory; we ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give thanks and praise

Fr. Paul continues with the prayer:

**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.**

Fr. Paul continues until the following is used:

**Great is the mystery of faith,
Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again.**

Fr. Paul continues and leads into the conclusion of the prayer:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever
and ever. Amen.**

Please kneel or sit

The Lord's Prayer

**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 Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**



The Giving of Communion

Fr. Paul issues the invitation to communion in these or very similar words:

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

***Choir Anthem: Ascendit Deus
Samuel Webbe***

The Communion Hymn: NEH 295
Liturgy of St James, Anonymous Greek,
***Sigesato pasa sarx broteia* translated**
Gerard Moultrie (1829-85)

- 1** Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

- 2** King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture-
in the Body and the Blood-
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

- 3** Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

- 4** At his feet the six-winged Seraph;
cherubim with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord most high.

Please kneel or sit

The Prayer after Communion

God our 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. **Amen**

**We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us with this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples. We make this prayer through the
same Christ our Lord. Amen**

Please stand

The Blessing

The Lord be with you.
and also with you.

The Dismissal

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,
Go in the peace of Christ, Alleluia, alleluia
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

The Recessional Hymn: NEH 134 Thomas Kelly (1769-1855)

**1 The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now;
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty victor's brow.**

- 2** The highest place that heaven affords
is his, is his by right:
the King of kings, and Lord of lords,
and heaven's eternal light.
- 3** The joy of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below,
to whom he manifests his love
and grants his name to know:
- 4** To them the cross, with all its shame,
with all its grace, is given;
their name an everlasting name,
their joy the joy of heaven.
- 5** They suffer with their Lord below;
they reign with him above;
their profit and their joy to know
the mystery of his love.
- 6** The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.

*Concluding organ music: Gavotte from Suite no. 3 –
J.S.Bach.*



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 10th to 17th May

This year we will have the church open **on Saturday from 11am to 4pm and serving cream teas and a cake sale in aid of Christian Aid.**

With so much unrest in many parts of the world, the funds raised by Christian Aid are so desperately needed.

Please help us to make this fund-raising day a well-worth effort, by baking a cake, biscuits or savouries for sale.

Everyone attending church two weeks ago, received an envelope for Christian Aid donations. There are spare CA envelopes at the back of the church. If you are able to give a donation this would be so helpful to make our overall sum, **a very worthwhile donation this year.** Many thanks for your support,

