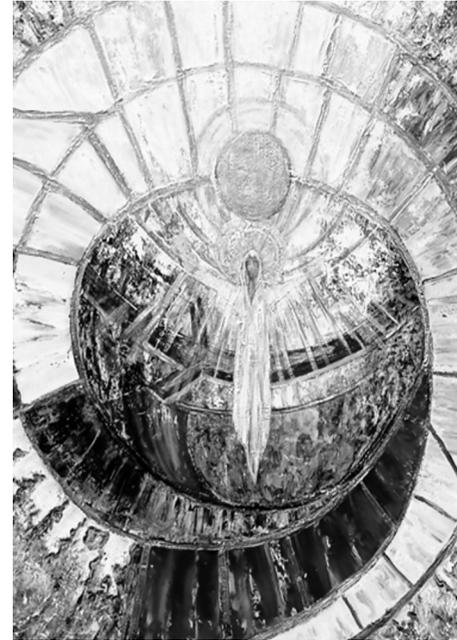


St Mary the Virgin, Mortlake



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A service for the
6th Sunday of Easter
May 17th at 10am

The Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia

Informal words of welcome are said.

Opening Hymn

Jerusalem the golden,
with milk and honey blest,
beneath your contemplation
sink heart and voice oppressed.
I know not, O I know not,
what joys await us there;
what radiancy of glory,
what bliss beyond compare.

They stand, those halls of Zion,
all jubilant with song,
and bright with many an angel,
and all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever in them,
the daylight is serene;
the pastures of the blessed
are decked in glorious sheen.

There is the throne of David;
and there, from care released,
the song of them that triumph,
the shout of them that feast;
and they who with their Leader
have conquered in the fight,
forever and forever
are clad in robes of white.

O sweet and blessed country,
the home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country
that eager hearts expect!
Jesus, in mercy bring us
to that dear land of rest;
who are, with God the Father
and Spirit, ever blest.

Notices

The Blessing

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,
fill you with his new life;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Please join us for virtual coffee via Zoom.

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Anthem: Gaelic Blessing by John Rutter
(sung by members of St Mary's choir)

Spiritual Communion

Loving Lord, we know that your risen presence is with us wherever we are. Since we cannot at this moment receive you in the bread and wine of the Eucharist, we ask you to open our eyes to your presence, to speak your words of peace to our anxious hearts and to help us to know the presence of your Spirit, the Advocate in the week ahead. May we know that though we are for a time separated from one another, we can never be separated from you.

Amen

A time of silence follows as we open our hearts to God.

Prayer

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

We pray together

**Eternal God,
our beginning and our end,
accompany us in this week's journey.
Dawn on our darkness,
open our eyes to praise you for your creation
and strengthen us for the challenges which lie before us.
Take us and use us to share with others
the love we find in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Prayers of Penitence

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

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.

The Collect

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire
of your love, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen

First Reading: Acts 17. 22 - 31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor* he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would

search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him - though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring." Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

Psalm 66:7-end (sung by members of St Mary's choir)

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3. 13 – end

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered* for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you - not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Gospel Acclamation (Celtic Alleluia)

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.
Fear not said the angel to Mary
He is not here he is risen
Go tell the world that Jesus is alive
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading John 14. 15 – 21

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

Jesus said 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,' to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

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

Sermon

After the sermon a short period of silent reflection is kept.

Prayers of Intercession (Alan Powell)

The prayers conclude with

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

The Lord's Prayer (we sit or kneel)

As our risen Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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 forever.
Amen**