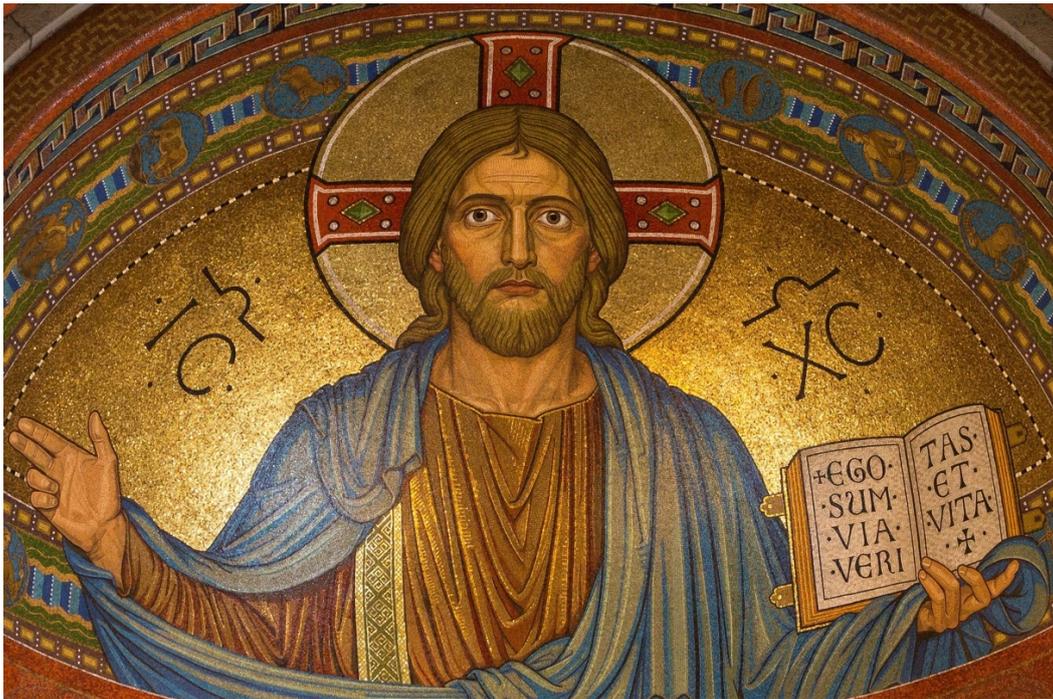


**The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Northampton**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter 2020**



**A Service of the Word**

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic this service will be available online on our YouTube channel (visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for Holy Sepulchre Northampton) and [facebook.com/holysepulchre.northampton](https://www.facebook.com/holysepulchre.northampton)

You are invited to join with the words in **bold**.



[stseps.org.uk](http://stseps.org.uk)



[holysepulchre.northampton](https://www.facebook.com/holysepulchre.northampton)



[@StSepsNN1](https://twitter.com/StSepsNN1)

**Office Tel: 01604 230 316**

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## Call to Worship

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

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**He has given us new life and hope.**  
**He has raised Jesus from the dead.**

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

**Faithful one, whose word is life:**  
**come with saving power**  
**to free our praise,**  
**inspire our prayer**  
**and shape our lives**  
**for the kingdom of your Son,**  
**Jesus Christ our Lord.**  
**Amen.**

## Invitation to Confession

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.  
Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil  
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

We have not always worshipped God, our creator.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We have not always followed Christ, our Saviour.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

We have not always trusted in the Spirit, our guide.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love  
bring us back to himself,  
forgive us our sins,  
and assure us of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### The 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.**

### The Liturgy of the Word

#### First reading

A reading from the Book of Acts:

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to

stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

(Acts 7:55-60- NRSV)

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

- 1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; ♦  
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; ♦  
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,  
for you are my rock and my stronghold; ♦  
guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.
- 4 Take me out of the net  
that they have laid secretly for me, ♦  
for you are my strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, ♦  
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

(Psalm 31:1-5 - Common Worship Psalter)

## Second reading

A reading from First Peter:

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,

a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’  
To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

‘The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner’,  
and

‘A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.’

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God’s people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

(1 Peter 2:2-10 - NRSV)

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord;  
No one can come to the Father except through me.

**Alleluia.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

‘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.

(John 14:1-14 - NRSV)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

## Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith  
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:  
this we have received,  
and this we believe.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*The following response will be used:*  
Lord, in your mercy:  
**hear our prayer.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praise 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 Gloria

**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 sin 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 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. Alleluia, alleluia!  
**And also with you. Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**He has given us new life and hope  
by raising Jesus from the dead.**

God has claimed us as his own.  
**He has brought us out of darkness.  
He has made us light to the world.**

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

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

We are raised to new life with Christ.  
Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**