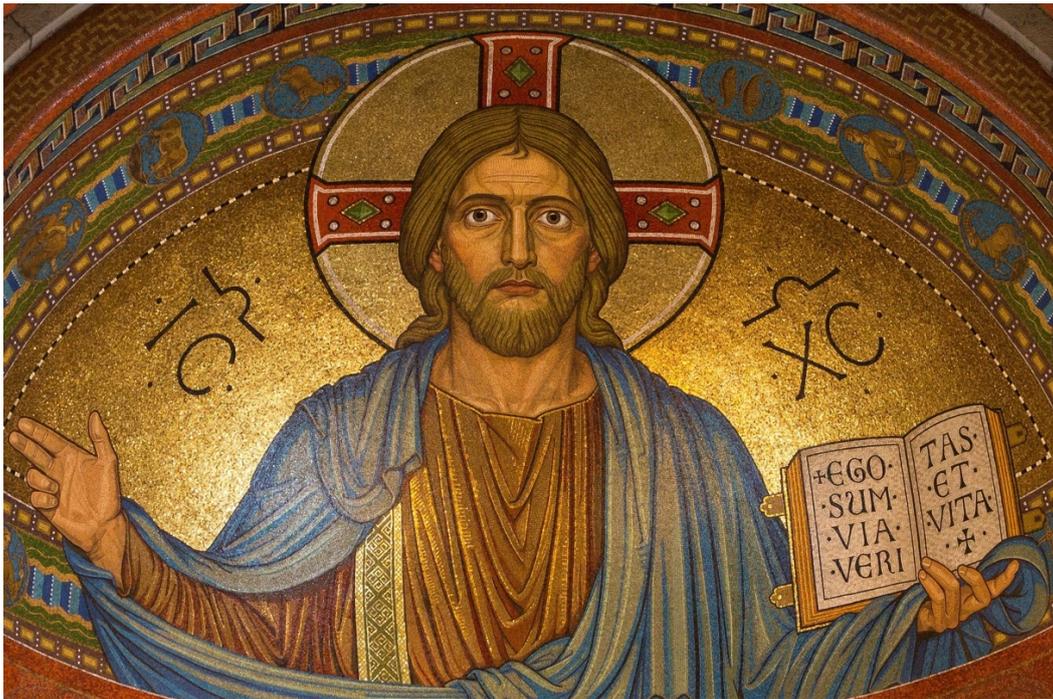


The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Northampton
7th Sunday of Easter 2020



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



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

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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

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First reading

A reading from the Book of Acts:

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.'

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

(Acts 1:6-14 - NRSV)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

- 1 Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered; ♦
let those that hate him flee before him.
- 2 As the smoke vanishes, so may they vanish away; ♦
as wax melts at the fire,
so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.
- 3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; ♦
let them make merry with gladness.
- 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
exalt him who rides on the clouds. ♦
The Lord is his name; rejoice before him.
- 5 Father of the fatherless, defender of widows, ♦
God in his holy habitation!
- 6 God gives the solitary a home
and brings forth prisoners to songs of welcome, ♦
but the rebellious inhabit a burning desert.
- 7 O God, when you went forth before your people, ♦
when you marched through the wilderness,
- 8 The earth shook and the heavens dropped down rain,

at the presence of God, the Lord of Sinai, ♦
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
9 You sent down a gracious rain, O God; ♦
you refreshed your inheritance when it was weary.
10 Your people came to dwell there; ♦
in your goodness, O God, you provide for the poor.

(Psalm 68:1-10 - Common Worship Psalter)

Second reading

A reading from First Peter:

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

(1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 - NRSV)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

Alleluia.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.'

(John 17:1-11 - NRSV)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

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, bless the world,
and hear the cry of our hearts.

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.