

St George's Church
17 May 2020 Eucharist
6th Sunday of Easter

Introit *This joyful Eastertide*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**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.

Collect of the day

First Reading: Acts 17. 22 - 31

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For 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. ²⁴The 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, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From 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, ²⁷so 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. ²⁸For "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.'" ²⁹Since 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. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because 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. 7-18

Bless our God, O you peoples; ♦
make the voice of his praise to be heard,

Who holds our souls in life ♦

and suffers not our feet to slip.

For you, O God, have proved us; ♦

you have tried us as silver is tried.

You brought us into the snare; ♦

you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

You let enemies ride over our heads;

we went through fire and water; ♦

but you brought us out into a place of liberty.

I will come into your house with burnt offerings

and will pay you my vows, ♦

which my lips uttered

and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

I will offer you fat burnt sacrifices

with the smoke of rams; ♦

I will sacrifice oxen and goats.

Come and listen, all you who fear God, ♦

and I will tell you what he has done for my soul.

I called out to him with my mouth ♦

and his praise was on my tongue.

If I had nursed evil in my heart, ♦

the Lord would not have heard me,

But in truth God has heard me; ♦

he has heeded the voice of my prayer.

Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, ♦

nor withheld his loving mercy from me.

Epistle: I Peter 3. 13 - 22

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but 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; ¹⁶yet 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. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For 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, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who 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 persons, were saved through water. ²¹And 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, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Solo *Blest are the pure in heart*

Gospel: John 14. 15 - 21

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:¹⁵If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. ¹⁷This 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. ¹⁸I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They 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

The Nicene Creed

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 the 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.

The Prayers of Intercession

Prayers of Penitence

God is love and we are his children. There is no room for fear in love. We love because he loved us first. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

God our Father, we confess to you and to our fellow members in the body of Christ that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do.

We are truly sorry. Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil, for the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

God, who is both power and love, forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, "Peace be with you".

Then they were glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

Solo: *The Call* (Vaughan Williams, text: George Herbert)

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.

Worship and praise belong to you, author of all being. Your power sustains, your love restores our broken world. You are unceasingly at work from chaos bringing order and filling emptiness with life. Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope.

He lives in us that we may walk in light. Your Spirit is fire in us, your breath is power to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love. As children of your redeeming purpose, freed by him who burst from the tomb and opened the gate of life, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

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.

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Lord of all, for by the Cross eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory.

In the first light of Easter, glory broke from the tomb and changed the women's sorrow into joy. From the garden the truth shone clear that he whom they had loved and lost was with them now in every place for ever.

Making himself known in the breaking of the bread, speaking peace to the fearful disciples, welcoming weary fishers on the shore, he renewed the promise of his presence, and of new birth in the Spirit who sets the seal of freedom on your sons and daughters.

On the night when he was given up to death, knowing that his hour had come, having loved his own, he loved them to the end.

At supper with his disciples

he took bread and offered you thanks.

He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:

"Take, eat. This is my body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them, saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command.

We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom. Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the body and blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's body, to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. **Amen.**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Lord's Prayer

Please come forward to receive the sacrament at the chancel step, keeping 1.5 m distance from others. At this time we are not sharing the cup.

After Communion:

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude O Jesus; I have promised

--:--:--:--

Sunday services: (including Pentecost, 31 May)

10.30 Eucharist St George's

18.00 Evening Prayer, Mite (Marienkirche, S/U bahnhof Alexanderplatz)

- **Please sit in the marked places.**
- **There will be a retiring collection at the door.**
- **Children's Church is currently only online.**
- **There will be a service on Ascension Day, 21 May, at 10.30 in St George's. Please let us know if you will come to this or other services next week (office@stgeorges.de).**
- **Our morning service will be broadcast today on our YouTube channel (see our website www.stgeorges.de / newsletter)**

Organist Scott Clemons

Soloist Stewart Emerson