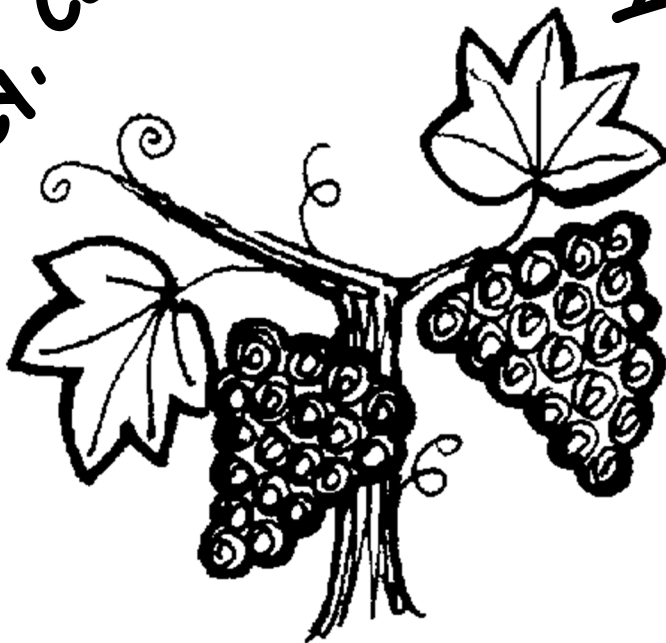


Botley, Curdridge and Durley Churches



5th Sunday  
of  
Easter

# Eastertide

## Welcome and Introduction

Alleluia. Christ is risen,

**ALL powerless are the demons.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen,

**ALL the angels rejoice.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**ALL everywhere is the triumph of life**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**ALL by death defeating Death.**

## The preparation

**ALL 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.**

In baptism we died with Christ,

so that as Christ was raised from the dead,

we might walk in newness of life.

As we acknowledge our sins  
let us receive new life in him.

Lord God, you look for faith and trust;  
**ALL yet we demand proof and certainty.**

Lord have mercy.

**ALL Lord have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, your love is stronger than death;  
**ALL yet we build tombs around our hearts.**

Christ have mercy.

**ALL Christ have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, you send us into the world  
with a message of hope;

**ALL yet we linger in comfortable despair.**

Lord have mercy.

**ALL Lord have mercy.**

May the God of love and power  
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.

**ALL Amen.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**ALL He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Let us pray:

God of deep soil  
and luxuriant growth;  
you call us from  
our shallow selves  
to find our depth in you:  
may we abide in him alone  
who can teach us who we are;  
through Jesus Christ, the true vine.

**ALL Amen.**

## New Testament Reading

**A reading from the Book of Acts 8.26-40**

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?'

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And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?'

He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the word of the Lord.

**ALL Thanks be to God.**

# Gospel Reading

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

**ALL** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. (John 15.1-8)

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**ALL** **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## Sermon

## The Prayers

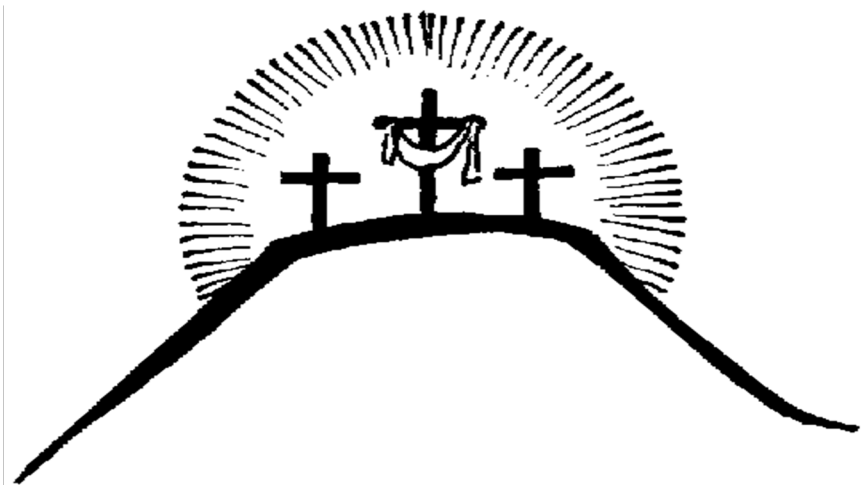
Lord in your mercy.  
**ALL Hear our prayer.**

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

## The Peace

Christ descended to death and hell,  
passed through doors locked by fear  
to breathe the Spirit of peace  
and make us one humanity. Alleluia.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**ALL and also with you.**

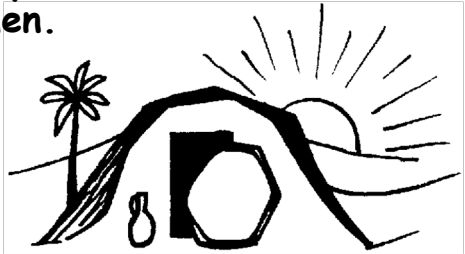
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.



ALL 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 Blessing

May the living God  
remove the shroud  
that lies upon our world;  
may the risen Saviour  
draw the sting of death,  
bringing all to life in him;  
May the flowing Spirit  
set us and all creation free  
and seal our hearts with faith;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.



ALL Amen.

Go in peace  
to mend what is broken,  
to unite what is divided  
and to live the gospel.  
In the name of Christ. Amen.



## HYMN

When I am down and oh my soul, so weary  
When troubles come and my heart burdened be  
Then, I am still and wait here in the silence  
Until you come and sit awhile with me

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas  
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders  
You raise me up, to more than I can be

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas  
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders  
You raise me up, to more than I can be

There is no life  
No life without its hunger  
Each restless heart beats so imperfectly  
But when you come, I am filled with wonder  
Sometimes, I think I glimpse eternity

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas  
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders  
You raise me up, to more than I can be

You raise me up, to more than I can be...