

**Weobley and Staunton  
Holy Communion for Ascension Day**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020**

**The Gathering (The Revd Charles Overton)**

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

*All* **Amen.**

**The Greeting (The Revd Charles Overton)**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*All*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

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**Prayer of Preparation (The Revd Charles Overton)**

*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.**

**Invitation to confession (The Revd Charles Overton)**

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.  
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil  
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

*All*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

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.

*All*

**Amen.**

All

**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.**

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**The Collect (The Revd Charles Overton)**

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ  
to have ascended into the heavens,  
so we in heart and mind may also ascend  
and with him continually dwell;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever

Amen

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**The Liturgy of the Word**

**First Reading:** *Acts 1.1-11*

In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."

So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

All

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**Second Reading** *Ephesians 1.15-23*

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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All

**Hymn:**

**Hail the day that sees him rise, alleluia!  
To his throne beyond the skies; alleluia!  
Christ, the lamb for sinners giv'n, alleluia!  
Enters now the highest heav'n! Alleluia!**

**There for him high triumph waits: alleluia!  
Lift your heads, eternal gates, alleluia!  
He has conquered death and sin; alleluia!  
Take the King of glory in. Alleluia!**

**See now heav'n its Lord receives; alleluia!  
Yet he loves the earth he leaves, alleluia!  
Though returning to his throne, alleluia!  
Still he calls the world his own. Alleluia!**

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**Gospel Reading** Luke 24.44-53 (**Henry Verwey**)

Alleluia, alleluia.

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord.

Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

**Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 24.44-53

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

All

All

<sup>44</sup>Jesus said to the disciples, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

<sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup>and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

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**Homily (The Revd Peter Houghton)**

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**The Creed (The Revd Charles Overton)**

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

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**Prayers of Intercession (Wendy Hereford)**

*All* Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

*And at the end*

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

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**The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

**The Peace (The Revd Charles Overton)**

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.  
If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father.' Alleluia.

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

**Preparation of the Table**

**The Eucharistic Prayer (The Revd Charles Overton)**

*All* The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*All* Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

*All* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.  
And now we give you thanks  
because, after his most glorious resurrection,  
he appeared to his disciples,  
and in their sight ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us;  
that where he is, thither we might also ascend,  
and reign with him in glory.  
Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and *saying*:

**All**

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.  
In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

**All**

**Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of [*N and*] all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer (The Revd Charles Overton)**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that 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.**

### **Breaking of the Bread (The Revd Charles Overton)**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

*All* **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

### **Prayer after Communion (The Revd Charles Overton)**

*God our Father, you have raised our humanity in Christ  
and have fed us with the bread of heaven:  
mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings,  
we may set our hearts in the heavenly places;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory. Amen.**

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**Recorded Hymn:**

**Alleluia! sing to Jesus, His the sceptre, his the throne  
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone  
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood  
Jesus out of every nation hath redeemed us by his blood.**

Alleluia! not as orphans are we left in sorrow now  
Alleluia! He is near us, faith believes nor questions how  
Though the cloud from sight received him when the forty days were o'er  
Shall our hearts forget his promise, I am with you evermore?

Alleluia! bread of heaven, here on earth our food and stay  
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to thee from day to day  
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, plead for me  
Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, thee the Lord of Lords we own  
Alleluia! born of Mary, earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne  
Thou within the veil hast entered, robed in flesh, our great High Priest  
Thou on earth both Priest and Victim in the Eucharistic Feast.

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**Blessing (The Revd Charles Overton)**

*Christ our ascended King pour upon you the abundance of his gifts  
and bring you to reign with him in glory;  
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 the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

*All* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**