

**SAFFRON WALDEN AND VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY**  
**Order of service for Holy Communion at 9.30am on Wednesdays in**  
**Eastertide – 5, 12, and 19 May**

*This booklet covers the Wednesdays in May until Pentecost. Further booklets will be prepared for services on 26 May and subsequent weeks.*

**Introduction**

We gather together, united in purpose though separate in place, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you **and also with you**

*We prepare for worship by saying together:*

**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.**

**Prayers of Penitence**

**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**

**Hearing God's forgiveness**

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

**Collect**

**Readings**

**Weds 5 May (Easter 5):** Acts 15:1-6; Gospel: John 15:1-8

**Weds 12 May (Easter 6):** Acts 17: 15, 22-18:1: Gospel: John 16:12-15

**Weds 19 May (week after Ascension):** Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26 and John 17:6-19  
*(as Grapevine)*

*Before the Gospel reading:*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N* **Glory to you, O Lord**

*After the Gospel reading:*

This is the gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ**

## **Reflection**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*Our prayers of intercession will be led by the president using the customary responses, unless otherwise stated:*

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

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

### **Sharing Christ's 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. **And also with you.**

*The altar and elements are prepared, with a suitable prayer.*

### **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**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works. For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal. And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your 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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.  
On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.  
When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them, and said:  
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
In him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;  
bringing before you the bread of life and the cup of salvation  
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.  
Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.  
Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms,  
and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.  
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

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

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

## The Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

### The Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*While only the priest can physically receive the consecrated bread and wine, you are all invited to say together this prayer of Spiritual Communion, inviting Jesus to enter your deepest being.*

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.**

**I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.**

**Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.**

**I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you.**

**Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

*A post communion prayer is said, from the Grapevine*

### We ask God's grace for the week ahead

Heavenly Father, sustain us in our joys and in our anxieties. Enfold us in your peace in our waking and in our sleeping, and may we know your presence with us now and always: in the name of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### The Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, make you perfect in every good work to do his will; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

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