



Living the story. Telling the story.

## Shaping our Future

In response to God's immense love for us, we seek to be **God's people living and telling the story of Jesus**

We have discerned four priorities for action that need to be at the centre of our diocesan life to help each and every one of us:

1. Valuing what we already have
2. Sharing our faith and worshipping in new and different ways
3. Growing in faith
4. Sharing in ministry and leadership

*Gracious God, may your Holy Spirit guide us into the future.*

*Help us, throughout the diocese, to show uninhibited reliance on your grace and power as we seek the renewal of our lives.*

*Give us courage, rigour, imagination and generosity in order that your kingdom may come and your abundant life be known by all. Amen*

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## The St J's Group HOLY COMMUNION

11.15am - Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024 - Seventh Sunday of Easter

**'God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.'** Acts 19:11-12

### Welcome/Notices

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

### And also with you

### Hymn

- 1 Thou whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard,  
and took their flight;  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and where the Gospel-day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light.
- 2 Thou, who didst come to bring  
on thy redeeming wing  
healing and sight,  
health to the sick in mind,  
sight to the inly blind,  
O now to all mankind  
let there be light.
- 3 Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving, holy Dove,  
speed forth thy flight;  
move on the water's face,  
bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place  
let there be light.
- 4 Holy and blessed Three,  
glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might;  
boundless as ocean's tide  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the earth far and wide  
let there be light.

### Prayers of Penitence - We sit or kneel to pray

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

**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.**

### Absolution

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. **Amen.**

## **The collect for the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Hymn**

1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God,  
and His righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you.

Allelu, allulua.

2 Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word  
that proceeds from the mouth of God.

Allelu, allulua.

3 Ask and it shall be given unto you,  
seek and ye shall find;  
knock and the door shall be opened up to you.

Allelu, allulua.

### **Reading –Acts 19:1-20**

1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2 and asked them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’

They answered, ‘No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’

3 So Paul asked, ‘Then what baptism did you receive?’

‘John’s baptism,’ they replied.

4 Paul said, ‘John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.’ 5 On hearing this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. 7 There were about twelve men in all.

8 Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. 9 But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. 10 This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to those who were ill, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

13 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, ‘In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.’ 14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 One day the evil spirit answered them, ‘Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?’ 16 Then the man who had the evil

**Blessing and Dismissal** - *We remain standing for the Blessing and Dismissal*  
Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**To God, who is higher than our highest thoughts, yet closer than our closest friend, be thanks and praise, glory and honour, this day and for evermore. Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**You are most welcome to stay for coffee after the end of service**

**the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.**

*The President and people receive communion*

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ, and you have made yourself known in the breaking of the bread. Abide with us, we pray, that, blessed by your royal presence, we may walk with you all the days of our life, and at its end behold you in the glory of the eternal Trinity, one God for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn**

1 There is a redeemer  
Jesus God's own Son,  
Precious Lamb of God,  
Messiah, Holy One.  
Thank You, O my Father,  
For giving us Your Son,  
And leaving Your Spirit  
'Till the work on earth is done.

2 Jesus, my Redeemer,  
Name above all names,  
Precious Son of God, Messiah,  
Lamb for sinners slain;  
Thank You, O my Father,  
For giving us Your Son,  
And leaving Your Spirit  
'Till the work on earth is done.

3 When I stand in glory,  
I will see His face,  
And there I'll serve my King forever,  
In that holy place.  
Thank You, O my Father,  
For giving us Your Son,  
And leaving Your Spirit  
'Till the work on earth is done.

spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

17 When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honour. 18 Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. 19 A number who had practised sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. 20 In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Talk - 'Ministry in Ephesus' - Andy Fraser*

**Creed**

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

**Prayers of Intercession**

King of Kings, Prince of Peace, we exalt You and praise Your name. We daily delight in your endless love and bask in Your saving grace. Forgive what we have been, **and direct what we shall be.**

We come to You on bended knee, in earnest prayer and petition: Help us to live in harmony; this is our goal and our mission. Forgive what we have been, **and direct what we shall be.**

Where there is brokenness, we ask You to mend it. Where there is weakness, we ask for Your strength. Where there is sin, we beg Your forgiveness. Forgive what we have been, **and direct what we shall be.**

Where there is doubt, we invite more faith. Where there is pride, help us be humble. Where there's resentment, help us find peace. Where there is threat, we ask for protection. Please shelter our love beneath Your wings. Forgive what we have been, **and direct what we shall be.**

Where there's a need, let us help one another. Where there's temptation, help us resist. Where we stumble, help us recover. Where praise is needed, let it come from our lips. Forgive what we have been, **and direct what we shall be.**

Where there is pain, we ask for healing. Where there is hate, replace it with love. Where all seems hopeless, we beseech Your blessing. Forgive what we have been, **and direct what we shall be.**

From the depth of our heart we ask all the above. This is our prayer and our deep desire, this is the passion that consumes our hearts. Help us to be an example for others. Forgive what we have been, **and direct what we shall be.**

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

## **Peace - We stand for the Peace**

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

*Let us offer a sign of peace to those around us.*

### **Hymn**

1 To God be the glory! great things He hath done;  
so loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life gate that all may go in:

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*let the earth hear His voice;*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father,*

*through Jesus the Son;*

*And give Him the glory;*

*great things He hath done!*

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!  
to every believer the promise of God;  
the vilest offender who truly believes,

that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. *Chorus*

3 Great things he hath taught us, great things He hath done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see. *Chorus*

## **Eucharistic Prayer H - We sit or kneel for the Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

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

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son. **You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us. **He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. **Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me. **Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray using the words our Saviour 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, forever 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.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving

**Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners. So cleanse and feed us with**