



Where all find a welcome and are nurtured in their journey with Christ.

# Sung Eucharist

Ascension Day



# Welcome to St Mary's



## **Please sanitise your hands**

Please clean your hands using the provided hand sanitiser when entering and leaving the building.



## **Communion is your choice**

Communion is available as both bread and wine, however if you wish to only receive the bread please do so and then return to your place. Receiving only the bread is still considered to be full communion by the Church of England.



## **Keeping your distance**

If you want to keep some extra space between yourself and others, we recommend sitting in our physically distanced pews at the north side of the building.



## **Follow the instructions of our stewards**

Please follow all instructions from our stewards, especially during communion.



## **Hearing loop available**

Our building is fitted with an inductive loop system which can be picked up by setting hearing aids to the "T" position.



## Support our work

St Mary's is a charity which receives no funding from the government and is entirely dependent on donations and fees to keep operating.

If you would like to donate to support our work you can place your offering in the plate by the door as you leave, or tap your contactless card or device on the reader. You can also donate online at **[whitkirkchurch.org.uk/donate](https://whitkirkchurch.org.uk/donate)** using either a bank card or directly from your bank account.

If you'd like to give in some other way, find out more about planned giving, or read about how we use donations then please see our donations page or ask a member of our team.



# The Gathering

*Our worship begins at the sound of the bell, please stand as the sacred ministers enter, during which the introit hymn is sung.*

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

**Circled round with angel-pow'rs, alleluia!  
Their triumphant Lord and ours; alleluia!  
Wide unfold the radiant scene, alleluia!  
Take the King of Glory in! alleluia!**

**Lo, the heav'n its Lord receives, alleluia!  
Yet he loves the earth he leaves; alleluia!  
Though returning to his throne, alleluia!  
Calls the human race his own; alleluia!**

**Still for us he intercedes, alleluia!  
His prevailing death he pleads; alleluia!  
Near himself prepares our place, alleluia!  
He the first-fruits of our race; alleluia!**

**Lord, though parted from our sight, alleluia!**  
**Far above the starry height, alleluia!**  
**Grant our hearts may thither rise, alleluia!**  
**Seeking thee above the skies; alleluia!**

**Ever upward let us move, alleluia!**  
**Wafted on the wings of love; alleluia!**  
**Looking when our Lord shall come, alleluia!**  
**Longing, sighing after home; alleluia!**

*Words: C. Wesley (1707-1788), T. Cotterill (1779-1823) and others, alt.*

*Music: R. Williams (1781-1821)*

*Hymn Tune: LLANFAIR*

God has gone up with a shout,  
**the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

*Psalm 47.5*

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

**Amen.**

# The Greeting

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

# Words of Welcome

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, for forty days we have been celebrating with joyful hearts the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, his bursting from the tomb and his defeat of the power of sin and death. He appeared to his disciples many times and told them about the kingdom of God.

Today we recall how he left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers. Trusting in his reign over all creation, and submitting to his kingly yet loving rule, let us hear the story of his parting.

# The Ascension Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy

Spirit not many days from now.’ So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

*1.4.11*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**



*A minister says:*

Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed through the heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us offer him the praise worthy of his name.

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

**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.**

# The Collect

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray that our risen and ascended Lord will lead us to eternal life.'*

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.**

*Please sit.*

# The Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. 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, 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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 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, 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. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

*1.15-end*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as the gradual hymn is sung. During the hymn a procession will make its way to the centre of the nave from where the Gospel for the day is read. To symbolise our desire to turn to Christ in our daily lives, at the end of the hymn we remain standing and turn to face the place where the Gospel is proclaimed.*

**Rejoice, the Lord is King!**

**Your Lord and King adore;**

**Mortals give thanks and sing,**

**And triumph evermore.**

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;*

*Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

**Jesus the Saviour reigns,**

**The God of truth and love;**

**When he had purged our stains,**

**He took his seat above.**

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;*

*Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

**His kingdom cannot fail;**

**He rules o'er earth and heav'n;**

**The keys of death and hell**

**Are to our Jesus giv'n.**

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;*

*Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

**He sits at God's right hand  
Till all his foes submit,  
And bow to his command,  
And fall beneath his feet.  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.***

*Words: C. Wesley (1707-1788)*

*Music: G. F. Handel (1685-1759)*

*Hymn Tune: GOPSAL*

## **Gospel Reading**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord.  
Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

*cf Matthew 28.19,20*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Jesus said to them, “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.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 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, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. 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.”

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

24.44-end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

*Please sit after the preacher leads us in prayer.*

# The Nicene Creed

*Please stand with the president.*

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*Following an invitation to pray from the intercessor we kneel or sit and the response to the bidding is:*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

*Then at the end.*

Merciful Father,

**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
Our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**



# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

*Please stand with the president.*

## The Peace

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.

*John 14.27,2*

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

## Preparation of the Table

*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

*A Hymn is sung.*

**Alleluia, sing to Jesus,  
His the sceptre, his the throne;  
Alleluia, his the triumph,  
His the victory alone:  
Hark, the songs of peaceful Sion  
Thunder like a mighty flood:  
Jesus, out of ev'ry 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 angels,  
Thou on earth our food, our 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, heav'n 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.**

*Words: W. Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)*

*Music: R. H. Pritchard (1811-1887)*

*arr. R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

*Hymn Tune: HYFRYDOL*

## **Taking of the Bread and Wine**

Blessed be God,  
by whose grace creation is renewed,  
by whose love heaven is opened,  
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

**Amen.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

*Please sit.*

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

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 and good,  
our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ the King of glory.  
Born of a woman, he came to the rescue of our human race.  
Dying for us, he trampled death and conquered sin.  
By the glory of his resurrection  
he opened the way to life eternal  
and by his ascension,  
gave us the sure hope  
that where he is we may also be.  
Therefore the universe resounds with Easter joy  
and with choirs of angels we sing for ever to your praise:

**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.

**Great is the mystery of faith:**

**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 Blessed Mary 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.

**Amen.** *(Sung)*

*Silence is kept.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,  
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.*

Lord, we died with you on the cross.

**Now we are raised to new life.**

We were buried in your tomb.

Now we share in your resurrection.

**Live in us, that we may live in you.**

*The **Agnus Dei** is sung as the bread is broken for distribution.*

**Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, Alleluia.

The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom.

**Blessed are those who are called  
to the supper of the Lamb. Alleluia.**

*The president and people receive communion. All baptised Christians are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please follow the guidance offered by the stewards.*

*If you are not baptised, or would prefer to not receive then do still come forward for a blessing bringing this book with you so the president knows your intention.*

*The sacrament is available in both kinds, however if you wish to only receive the bread please do so and then return to your place. Receiving in one kind is still considered to be full communion by the Church of England. Please do not dip bread in the wine (sometimes called 'intincting').*

*To the words "The Body/Blood of Christ" the communicant replies "**Amen**".*



*For those at home it might be helpful to use this prayer during the distribution.*

*Abide with us Lord, throughout this day.*

*Abide with us in our journeying, and in our homes.*

*Abide with us in our seeking and in our longings.*

*Abide with us now and to eternity,*

*Jesus, risen Lord,*

*who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit*

*in glory for ever. Amen.*

## **Choir Anthem**

### **‘God is gone up’**

God is gone up with a merry noise,  
and the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.

Thou art gone up on high,  
Thou hast led captivity captive  
and received gifts for men.

O sing praises unto our God,

O sing praises unto our King.

He hath led captivity captive  
and received gifts for men.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

God is gone up on high.

*Words: from Psalm 47, verses 5-6*

*and Psalm 68, verse 18)*

*Music: A. J. B. Hutchings (1906-1989)*

*A communion hymn may be sung during the distribution as time allows.  
Please remain seated.*

**The head that once was crowned with thorns  
Is crowned with glory now:  
A royal diadem adorns  
The mighty victor's brow.**

**The highest place that heav'n affords  
Is his, is his by right.  
The King of kings and Lord of lords,  
And heav'n's eternal light.**

**The joy of all who dwell above,  
The joy of all below,  
To whom he manifests his love,  
And grants his name to know.**

**To them the cross, with all its shame,  
With all its grace is giv'n;  
Their name an everlasting name,  
Their joy the joy of heav'n.**

**They suffer with their Lord below,  
They reign with him above,  
Their profit and their joy to know  
The myst'ry of his love.**

**The cross he bore is life and health,  
Though shame and death to him;  
His people's hope, his people's wealth,  
Their everlasting theme.**

*Words: T. Kelly (1769-1855)*

*Music: J. Clarke (c. 1674-1707)*

*Hymn Tune: SAINT MAGNUS*

## **The Post Communion Prayer**

*Please stand with the president who introduces a time of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'.*

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.

**Amen.**

**We thank you, Lord,  
that you have fed us in this sacrament,  
united us with Christ,  
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet  
prepared for all peoples.**

**Amen.**

*A hymn is sung.*

**Crown him with many crowns,  
The Lamb upon his throne;  
Hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns  
All music but its own:  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
Of him who died for thee,  
And hail him as thy matchless King  
Through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Virgin's Son,  
The God incarnate born,  
Whose arm those crimson trophies won  
Which now his brow adorn;  
Fruit of the mystic Rose,  
As of that Rose the Stem,  
The Root, whence mercy ever flows,  
The Babe of Bethlehem.**

**Crown him the Lord of love:  
Behold his hands and side;  
Rich wounds, yet visible above,  
In beauty glorified:  
No angel in the sky  
Can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends each burning eye  
At mysteries so bright.**

**Crown him the Lord of peace,  
Whose pow'r a sceptre sways  
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
Absorbed in prayer and praise:  
His reign shall know no end,  
And round his piercèd feet  
Fair flow'rs of paradise extend  
Their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown him the Lord of years,  
The Potentate of time,  
Creator of the rolling spheres,  
Ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
For thou hast died for me;  
Thy praise shall never, never fail  
Throughout eternity.**

*Words: M. Bridges (1800-1894)*

*Music: G. J. Elvey (1816-1893)*

*Hymn Tune: DIADEMATA*

# The Dismissal

## Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying. They were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

*1.12,13a,14*

*Silence is kept.*

## Responsory

As we wait in silence,

**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we listen to your word,

**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we worship you in majesty,

**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your refreshing,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your renewing,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your equipping,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your empowering,  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

*Silence is kept.*

## **The Blessing**

May the Spirit,  
who set the Church on fire upon the day of Pentecost,  
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,  
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

## **Our regular services**

Sung Eucharist:           Every Sunday at 10.00 am  
Said Eucharist:           Every Wednesday at 10.00 am  
Choral Evensong:        1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at 6.00 pm

## **Contact us**




If you'd like to talk to us you can call us on **0113 264 5790**, send an email to **hello@whitkirkchurch.org.uk**, or find more details on our website at **whitkirkchurch.org.uk/contact**.

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