

10th May Easter 5: I am the Way, the truth and the life 2020 Facebook live

Welcome and Introduction

Good morning and a warm welcome to the vicarage and to this service on the fifth Sunday of Easter.

The Weekly sheet is on the All Saints Website together with regular updates about church life and various resources.

In the gospel Jesus assures us that ultimately all of us have a home to go to – our Heavenly Father's house. He even promises to prepare a place for us in that house. And this is a cause of tremendous hope as we walk on our Christians journeys. Our sins, though, cause us to stumble on that journey (to God's house) so let us pause to call to mind those things we have said, or done, or not done, for which we seek his forgiveness,

Confession

Like Mary at the empty tomb, we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence. Lord, have mercy...
Like the disciples behind locked doors, we are afraid to be seen as your followers. Christ have mercy...
Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe.
Lord, have mercy....

Absolution

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. **Amen**

In a moment of silence let us bring to God our hopes and concerns for today and the days ahead....

Collect

We have beheld your glory, O God, in the face of Christ Jesus your Son. Enliven our faith, that through Christ we may put our trust in you. Deepen our faith, that in Christ we may serve you.

Complete our faith, that one day we may live with you in that place which Christ prepares for us, where he lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen**

Gospel

Alleluia! Christ is risen! *He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. Glory to you, O Lord. (14:1-14)

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going."^l ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." ⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it

Alleluia! Christ is risen! *He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

In the name....

How are you? When we try to answer that question these days it may be a difficult one. Lots of answers.

Many people feel uncertain – there are so many questions – what will change after the Prime Minister speaks this evening – how long will

guidelines last – when will the schools open – when will we be able to go out / gather/ travel/ eat out/ feel safe again? How are you? Maybe we feel in suspended animation, not really sure, feeling it's all up in the air.

The theme of the readings is that uncertainty is a reality – that the feeling of being 'at sea' or 'off course' without regular patterns is real. God provides when all feels uncertain.

'I am the way, the truth and the life', says Jesus.

We are in the Easter season, but the gospel reading, where Jesus says these words, takes us back to the Last Supper. The disciples are in the upper room, Judas has gone out to betray Jesus. Jesus has told Peter how he will deny him. There are dark days ahead.

A world of fear, sadness and chaos is soon to come upon the disciples. They will lose hope and lock themselves away. Jesus did not promise them an easy time. Now he calls on them to trust in God the Father and in himself, to hang on by putting their faith in him.

'In my Father's house there are many dwelling places'. This can mean resting places on our journey where we will find refreshment and comfort. Such places help us to keep going and develop.

'Many dwelling places' can mean there is room for all. God has room for all, even if the world closes its doors, no wonder it is a favourite reading at funerals. God has room for us, 'If it were not so, I would have told you.' Jesus continues, 'I go to prepare a place for you'. Jesus goes on ahead for us to follow.

It's easy to be a church goer when things are good. It's easy to say we have a faith when life is going well. It's when a disruption occurs that we discover the nature of our faith. A crisis may cause us to question our faith. To have a faith means to trust in God.

A time of uncertainty we can feel that God is distant – we may feel abandoned. In the Upper Room, when Jesus starts to talk about his death, the disciples become troubled and are filled with fear. But Jesus assures them that he won't abandon them. Rather, he was going to prepare a place for them. So no matter how difficult things might get, they must go on believing, do on trusting, in Him and in the Father.

Faith assures us that God is with us in the midst of any crisis. knowing that we are not alone, not abandoned, enables us to continue.

The temptation, when we feel alone, is to think that we have to make the journey in our own strength. We think that our salvation can be achieved on our own – if we are good enough, or strong enough. Perhaps this is why Jesus says, 'I am the way, the truth and the life'.

We are not the way. Jesus is the way.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life." Keep going. The path is solid. We won't get lost. God won't let us go. Jesus offers assurance that following him is the way to know God, the way to an abundant life, the way to peace and joy, no matter our circumstances and no matter how uncertain we feel life to be.

Intercessions:

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain, knowing that whenever danger threatens your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe. Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Good Lord, you call us to walk in your way, make us the people that you would have us be, guide us that we may do what you would have us do, that we may lead others to you and know the fullness of life that is your will, Lord...

Lord, we pray for all those in positions of authority, for all called upon to make difficult decisions. We pray for the government and their advisers. We pray for all who are involved in research.

We ask that you guide those who makes decisions that affect the lives of many.

Lord, in your mercy..

Lord, we thank you for all who have accompanied us on the journey of life, those who have enriched our lives, for all who have built up our community, for those who have set us on a good path. We pray for our families and friends. Lord in

We pray for the elderly, for those who are in Care Homes, and all who are coming to the end of their earthly journey. We pray for those who have lost their way. And for all who are distressed, and not at peace, may you come to them and grant them peace. Lord in....

We pray for those who have died, those who have lost family members or friends due to the virus,

We pray that you will protect us in our journey, until we share with the saints in your kingdom.

Our father.....

Concluding prayer and Blessing:

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your faith; and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ, Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!

Notices:

Weekly Sheet and other resources on the All Saints' website

Email list – let me know if you wish to be on that.

<https://allsaintspeterborough.org.uk/covid-19/>

Daily Hope the line, which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044, If you know of someone who isn't on internet, let them know, ...

Online collection:

<https://allsaintspeterborough.org.uk/about/giving/>

Evensong 5.30 pm, OoS on the website

Eucharist 11 am Tuesday Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2069378522?pwd=WkVWMUpZR01ieXE3dFFVK2ZVcHVkQT09>

Prayer Group 7 pm Thursday, Zoom

Coffee morning 11 am Saturday, Zoom

Sunday 10.30 and 5.30

<https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsPeterborough/>