

A service for 7th Week of Easter

Welcome and Acclamation

Glory to God in the highest.

Glory to God the Father.

Glory to Jesus the Son.

Glory to the Holy Spirit.

Glory to God in the highest.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God,

your Son has opened for us

a new and living way into your presence.

Give us new hearts and constant wills

to worship you in spirit and in truth;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

1st Song

1 Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it,
for by his power each tree and flower was planned and made.

Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it.

Sun, moon and stars in heaven cry Jesus is Lord!

Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!

Praise him with alleluias for Jesus is Lord!

2 Jesus is Lord! Yet from his throne eternal
in flesh he came to die in pain on Calvary's tree.
Jesus is Lord! From him all life proceeding,
yet gave his life a ransom thus setting us free.

3 Jesus is Lord! O'er sin the mighty conqueror,
from death he rose and all his foes shall own his name.
Jesus is Lord! God sends his Holy Spirit
to show by works of power that Jesus is Lord.
Chorus

David J Mansell (born 1936)
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The Confession

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:
fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:
fill us with your Spirit.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:
fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The Collect

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

We welcome Bishop Alan to our service today. These are the questions Kevin put to him earlier in the week.

Bible Reading

Acts.1.6-14

Then they gathered round (Jesus) and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?'

⁷ He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ 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.'

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

¹¹ '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.'

¹² Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city.

¹³ When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Our Second Song

- 1 All heaven declares
the glory of the risen Lord.
Who can compare
with the beauty of the Lord?
Forever He will be
the Lamb upon the throne.
I gladly bow the knee
and worship Him alone.

- 2 I will proclaim
the glory of the risen Lord,
who once was slain
to reconcile man to God.
Forever You will be
the Lamb upon the throne.
I gladly bow the knee
and worship You alone.

Noel and Tricia Richards
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The Reflection from Bishop Alan

I Let us declare our faith in God.

**All 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.**

Intercessions

Risen and ascended Lord, you have promised the gift of your Spirit to those who ask. As we wait . . . help us to wait for you, to discern your voice and to seek the Spirit's presence in our lives and in our fellowship.

Lord send your spirit

And refresh us with his life-giving presence.

As we tentatively begin to think about reopening places of worship, help us to seek to conserve what is good from our past, but to reach out boldly to the future. May your eternal truth in the words and works of Jesus accompany us as we embark on this journey into a world changed by coronavirus. Give to us the boldness and freshness of the Spirit that so empowered the church of the Acts of the Apostles.

Lord send your spirit

And refresh us with his life-giving presence.

May we discern those things that we have laid down that we need to recover again. We think particularly of our fellowship with one another and our communal life of prayer and worship. Help us to be ready to prune that which no longer yields life or spiritual sustenance.

Lord send your spirit

And refresh us with his life-giving presence.

We thank you for the reach of our online worship through YouTube and Zoom and we pray for opportunities to sustain our connection with the online community that join in our worship regularly. Today we also

pray that you will meet with those who haven't been able to participate online. May they also drink afresh of your Spirit.

Lord send your spirit

And refresh us with his life-giving presence.

We ask that that we will not forget the sacred spaces of our own homes may they continue to be a place of prayer, meditation and reflection for us in the days ahead. Help us not to let go of the spiritual disciplines we have learnt in our homes and on our walks through countryside and nature

Lord send your spirit

And refresh us with his life-giving presence.

Help us to strengthen the connections with our communities and the villages in which we live. May our good neighbourliness become part of our Christian witness. Turn our vision out towards your world in practical acts of love and service.

Lord send your spirit

And refresh us with his life-giving presence.

We pray that as we participate in this Season of prayer that you, Lord, would guide us, inspire us, and embolden us to ask for all those things that are your will for us in Christ at this time.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen

**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**

Song 3

Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
hear us as we sing:
*Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.*

2 Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Son of Man on earth!
power and majesty concealing
by your humble birth:
Yours the glory...

3 Suffering servant, scorned, ill - treated,
victim crucified!
death is through the cross defeated,
sinners justified:
Yours the glory...

- 4 Priestly king, enthroned for ever
high in heaven above!
sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love:
Yours the glory...
- 5 So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing,
this shall be our song:
Yours the glory...

Michael Seward (born 1932)
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8 5 8 5 7 9 including Refrain

The Blessing from Bishop Alan

Amen.

As we think about the needs of the world in this season of prayer, our service ends with a short video kindly sent to me by World Vision this week. Perhaps this could be a focus for your prayers today.