OOS 17th May 2026 - 7th Sunday of Easter - Holy Communion

WELCOME

A CALL TO WORSHIP:

Let us be joyful before God!

(All) We will sing praises to God's holy name.

Let us lift up a song to the One who rides upon the clouds,

(All) who protects orphans and widows and gives the desolate a home.

Sing to God, all nations of the earth.

(All) We sing praises to the Lord, our God!

OPENING HYMN: #207 Hallelujah! Sing to Jesus

INVITATION TO CONFESSION – *please be seated*

God our Father calls each of us his beloved child.
Trusting in his love and mercy, let us take a moment to reflect on the times we have fallen short.
Let us ask God to forgive us, heal us, and renew us.
The Spirit of God fills the whole world
and knows every thought, word, and action.
So let us open our hearts to God
And honestly confess our sins with faith and trust.
Lord, you are kind and full of compassion:
Lord, have mercy.

(All) Lord, have mercy.

You show love to everyone,
and Your mercy reaches all creation:
Christ, have mercy.

(All) Christ, have mercy.

Your people praise your name
and proclaim the glory of your kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.

(All) Lord, have mercy.

THE ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God
who sent His Son into the world to save sinners,
bring you His pardon + and peace, now and for ever.

(All) Amen.

THE COLLECT 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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.

(All) Amen

THE FIRST READING – ACTS 1: 6-14 (NRSVUE)

The Ascension of Jesus

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will
restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or
periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 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." 9 When he had said this, as they were
watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going
and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by
them. 11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward 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."

Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olives, which is near
Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. 13 When they had entered the city, they went
to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew,
Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the
Zealot, and Judas son of[a] James. 14 All these were constantly devoting themselves to
prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his
brothers.

This is the word of the Lord

(All) Thanks be to God

THE GOSPEL READING –*Please stand if you are able*

Alleluia, alleluia.
Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.' *(John 11.25,26)*

(All) Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 17:1-11

(All) Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

17 After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all people,[a] to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4 I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. 5 So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

6 "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, 8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. 9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. 11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

(All) Praise to you, O Christ.

THE HOMILY – *Please be seated*

THE NICENE CREED – *Please stand if you are able*

(All) 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.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER – *Please be seated.*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

Heavenly Father,
we thank you that through your Son Jesus Christ
you call us to be your people, united in prayer, hope, and love.
As the disciples waited faithfully for the coming of your Spirit,
help your Church throughout the world
to trust in your promises and proclaim your kingdom with courage and joy.
We pray for the Church of Christ in every place;
for bishops, priests, deacons, and all who minister in your name.
Strengthen and guide your people in faith and unity.
Lord, in your mercy,
(All) hear our prayer.

Father God,
we pray for the nations of the world
and for all in positions of authority and responsibility.
Grant wisdom to leaders, compassion to those in power,
and a desire for peace and justice among all peoples.
We remember especially places of conflict, division, and suffering.
Bring hope where there is fear, healing where there is pain,
and reconciliation where relationships are broken.
Lord, in your mercy,
(All) hear our prayer.

Loving God,
we pray for our local community,
for our families, friends, neighbours, and all whom we meet each day.
Help us to reflect your love in our words and actions,
and to support one another with kindness and generosity.
We give thanks for all that enriches our lives
and pray for those who feel lonely, anxious, or discouraged today.
Lord, in your mercy,
(All) hear our prayer.

Gracious Father,
we bring before you all who are sick in body, mind, or spirit.
Comfort those who suffer, strengthen those who care for them,
and bring healing according to your will.
We remember in a moment of silence
those known personally to us who need our prayers.
(Silence may be kept)
Lord, in your mercy,
(All) hear our prayer.

Merciful God,
we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ
and all whose memory we treasure.
We thank you for the hope of eternal life
and pray that we, with all your saints,
may share in the joy of your heavenly kingdom.
Lord, in your mercy,
(All) hear our prayer.

(All) Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace - *Please stand if you are able*

Alleluia! Christ is Risen

(All) He is risen indeed, alleluia!

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. *(John 20.19,20)*

Peace to you from God who is our Father

Peace from Jesus Christ who is our peace

Peace from the Holy Spirit who gives us life

The peace of the Triune God be always with you

(All) and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All who are baptised Christians are welcome to receive the sacrament.

If you are not baptised you are welcome to receive a blessing, keeping your hands to your sides or crossed across your chest.

Gluten free wafers are available, please raise your hand if this is your preference

OFFERTORY HYMN: #203 Hail, Thou once despisèd Jesus

THE PRAYER OF PREPARATION – *Please remain standing if you are able*

Generous and gracious God,

receive and bless these gifts for your holy work;

and bless everyone who offers them to you.

(All) Amen

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you

(All) and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

(All) We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

(All) It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father we give you thanks and praise

through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you
because you raised him gloriously from the dead.
For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us,
and has taken away the sin of the world.
By his death he has destroyed death,
and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

(All) 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.

Please be seated

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
(All) Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

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 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.
(All) Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(All) Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
(All) Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

THE AGNUS DEI

(All) 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.

GIVING OF COMMUNION

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.
(All) Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

All who are baptised Christians are welcome to receive the sacrament. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please come forward and keep your hands to your sides or crossed across your chest.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Silence is kept.

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world

to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE DISMISSAL *(Blessing)*

Go as witnesses to our Lord Jesus, risen and ascended,
and bear his love and mercy wherever you go.
Trust that the Holy Spirit is your companion.
And may the God of our Lord Jesus Christ
give you a spirit of wisdom and fill you with the hope
to which you are called as God's beloved.
(All) Amen.

NOTICES

CLOSING HYMN: The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Let us go in Peace to love and serve the Lord
(All) In the name of Christ. Amen.