



# St Stephen with St John Westminster

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**Today:**

10:00am Parish Eucharist  
6:00pm Evensong

## Weekly Notes

9<sup>th</sup> May 2021

(The Sixth Sunday of Easter)

Morning & Evening Prayer are said Monday to Friday, 9.15am & 6.00pm

Silent Hour on Tuesdays at 5pm

BCP Wednesdays at 12:30pm.

**Today** we welcome visiting preacher: Revd Alan Le Grys From St Augustine Theological College

**APCM** will be held on Pentecost Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of May. All welcome and all who are on the Electoral Roll will be eligible to vote.

**Slow Art** will be held after Evensong on 23<sup>rd</sup> of May at 6:45pm, facilitated by Marc Woodhead. We will be taking a “Close Look at two depictions of Pentecost” by comparing Giotto’s depiction of the scene (National Gallery, London), and El Greco’s (Prado) and discussing how theology evolved from 1300 - 1600, specifically thinking about Pentecost

**NHS Covid Testing Kits** are now available to collect at the church.

**Covid in India:** As you will have seen on the news, in India, a second wave of Covid-19 is having a devastating impact. Infections are spiralling out of control and the country’s health system is unable to cope. If you are able, please make a donation to USPG’s emergency appeal <https://donations.uspg.org.uk/give>

### Dates for your Diary

- 13<sup>th</sup> May – Ascension Day – 8:30pm Sung Compline.
- 14<sup>th</sup> May – St Matthias – 1:15pm BCP Sung Holy Communion (St John’s Smith Square)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Pentecost Sunday – APCM  
Evening Prayer followed by Slow Art at 6:45pm.
- 30<sup>th</sup> May – Trinity Sunday - Preacher in Eucharist: Dr Elizabeth Welch  
Evening Prayer followed by meditation from Tamara: The Holy Trinity, Formulae and Families
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Evening Eucharist at 6:30pm with Civil Service Choir
- 19<sup>th</sup> June – Helena’s ordination to the Priesthood
- 20<sup>th</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> July – St Stephen’s Week
- 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Jeremy’s ordination to the Diaconate

## Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Gathering

### *Entrance Hymn*

### *The Introduction*

*Remain standing as the minister says*

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

Alleluia Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### **Invitation to Confession**

In baptism we died with Christ,  
so that as Christ was raised from the dead, we might walk in newness of life.  
Let us receive new life in him  
as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Like Mary at the empty tomb,  
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence. Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Like the disciples behind locked doors,  
we are afraid to be seen as your followers. Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Or

We have lived by our own strength,  
and not by the power of your resurrection. In your mercy forgive us.  
**Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.  
In your mercy forgive us.  
**Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven. In your mercy  
forgive us.  
**Lord, hear us and help us.**

### **The 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.**

### **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

God our redeemer,  
you have delivered us from the power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,  
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us  
to eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

*Silence is kept*

## The Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading: Acts 10.44-end

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 98

- 1 *Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.*
- 2 *His own right hand and his holy arm have won for him the victory.*
- 3 *The Lord has made known his salvation; his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.*
- 4 *He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*
- 5 *Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; break into singing and make music.*
- 6 *Make music to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the voice of melody.*
- 7 *With trumpets and the sound of the horn sound praises before the Lord, the King.*
- 8 *Let the sea thunder and all that fills it, the world and all that dwell upon it.*
- 9 *Let the rivers clap their hands and let the hills ring out together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.*
- 10 *In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity.*

## **Second Reading: 1 John 5.1-6**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel Reading: John 15.9-17**

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.'

**Alleluia.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

## **The Creed**

**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.**

## The Prayers of Intercession

Lord , in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

**In our parish cycle of prayer:** London Diocesan House, Causton Street, and The Westminster Almshouses Foundation

**For those who live in:** Cureton Street and Rochester Street

**As part of St Stephen's link with the Church in Myanmar:**

the Holy Cross Theological College, Yangon, its Principal, the Revd. Samuel San Myat Shwe, staff and students, and for a just and peaceful solution to the recent troubles

**We pray for our New York City link parish:**

The Church of the Holy Trinity and their Rector, Revd John F. Beddingfield, praying particularly for Programs and people served through Holy Trinity Neighborhood Center (HTNC)

**In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:**

Pray for the Anglican Church of Kenya: Jackson Ole Sapit (Primate and Archbishop of All Kenya)

Västerås (Sweden): Mikael Mogren (Bishop)

Confident Disciples: pray for those in low paid or temporary jobs

Pray for The Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin, Bishop of Kensington, and for his staff, Emma Hughes and Victoria O'Neill

**Among those who have asked for our prayers:**

Robin Fairfax; Vera Godsall; Marian Hall; Jean Haswell; Dyfrig Jones; Alan Mack; Michael Pryce Jones; Miriam Lesmond; Pete Read; Henry Taylor; John Travis-Clarke; Gay Widmer; Marian McHale; Amal Griffin; Fraser Copley and his dad, Kevin Copley; Pete Barney; Tom Robinson; Ramone, his parents Anne and Mo, and his brothers Liam and Raheem; John Turpin; Tony Reid; Mark O'Donnell; Jan Broad; Angela Farquhar; Lynette Burrows; Michael Cross; Joanna Smith; Baby Alexander and his parents Rebecca and Oliver Peachey; Janet St John Austen; Tony Sewell

**RIP:** Anne Norman-Butler

**For the Years' Mind of:** Gertrude Pearce; Elizabeth Looker; Anne Marie Randall; Tony Fox

**For the impact of Covid in India:** Healing and wholeness to people in India suffering from direct impact of COVID-19; God's comfort and peace to those who are grieving for their loved ones who sadly died due to pandemic; timely provision of support and oxygen to those who are ill; protection and strength to frontline workers in the healthcare and social services; strength, healing and comfort to the Clergy and members of the Church in India affected by the pandemic

*And at the end*

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

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

### **Introduction to the Peace**

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.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### **Offertory Hymn**

*Offering is available online at [CAF Donate](#), or please leave donations in the box by the  
North Door at the end of the service.*

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

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, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father,  
and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts  
the memory of your wonderful works.  
For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son,  
has conquered the powers of death and hell  
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal. And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

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

**Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with St Stephen,  
St John and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ,  
and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours,  
O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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*

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.**

### **Agnus Dei**

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

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

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

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

***During Communion please stay in your seats, and Communion will be brought to you.***

### **The Post Communion Prayer**

God our Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:  
may we thirst for you,  
the spring of life and source of goodness,  
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**Amen**

**Loving God,  
whether we are in your church or joining online from another place,  
we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and  
nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
Now send us forth a people forgiven, healed, and renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world and  
continue in the risen life of Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

### **Notices**

### **Final Hymn**

***The Dismissal***

### **The Blessing**

The God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep,  
through the blood of the eternal covenant,  
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,  
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;  
and the blessing ...

Filled with the Spirit's power,  
go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**