

Holsworthy Benefice

May News Sheet

Bridgerule, Hollacombe, Holsworthy, Pyworthy with Pancrasweek

	Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Holsworthy	Pancrasweek	Pyworthy
3rd May	11am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Mass	9.30am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Family Service
10th May	11am Morning Prayer	3pm Evensong	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist
17th May	11am Joint Service at Methodist Chapel	3pm Mass	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist
24th May	11am All Age Eucharist		11am Cafe Church with refreshments from 10.30am		9.30am Morning Prayer
30th May			2pm Dedication of the Bells		
31st May	10am Benefice Songs of Praise at Pancrasweek				
7th June	11am Sung Eucharist	11am Patronal Eucharist & 3pm Benediction	9.30am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Family Service
14th June	11am Morning Prayer	3pm Evensong	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist
21st June	11am Joint Service at Methodist Chapel	9.30am Mass	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist
28th June	11am Joint Service at Methodist Chapel		11am Cafe style Church	9.30am All Age Service	9.30am Morning Prayer

WWW.holsworthybenefice.org.uk

Find us on Facebook at Holsworthy Churches

www.achurchnearyou.com

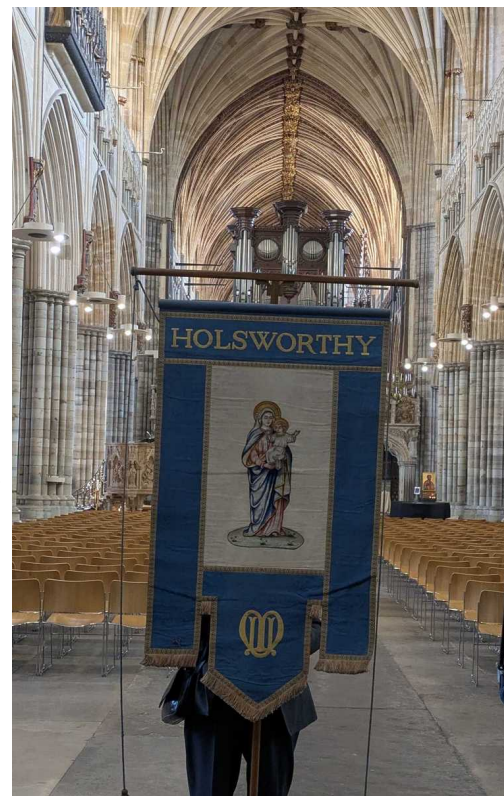
Revd Alison Hardy - Alison Hardy – reverendalisonhardy@gmail.com, 07780 295752

Reader – Mary Aicheler – maryaicheler@btinternet.com, 01409 478019

Administrator – Libby Cullimore - holsworthybenefice@icloud.com - 07717 750198

Dear Friends

On Lady Day, a group of us took part in a Mothers' Union Banner Parade in Exeter Cathedral. The banners arrived from churches across Devon including those which no longer have a MY Branch in their church. Nevertheless, over 30 banners gathered in the Cathedral before joining together in a Lady Day service during which bishops Mike and Moria each joined the MU. Although I only led the first half of the service, it was the only time I have had a dubious honour of absolving a bishop! Here is St Peter & St Paul's banner inside the cathedral, and the full spread of banners outside.



Confirmations

Sunday 19th April saw a full church for the confirmation service led by Bishop Moira of six candidates: Ben, Emma & Jacquie from Bradworthy Benefice and Katherine, Kerry & Laura-Jane from Holsworthy Benefice. It was an uplifting service with good support from the various parishes supporting their candidates. Please submit a photo if you have one!

Prayer

Eagle-eyed pedestrians and motorists alike will have spotted the Eastertide call to prayer outside Holsworthy Church: TryPraying. All the churches have TryPraying booklets and the Lord's Prayer leaflets. As we move through Easter time to Pentecost during May we focus on prayer as Jesus' disciples focussed on prayer whilst waiting in Jerusalem for the promised 'gift of the Father' – the Holy Spirit.

Prayer Stations will be set up for interactive prayer as we engage with the Lord's Prayer: praying for our world (Thy Kingdom Come); our needs (Give us our Bread); our forgiveness; and our turning from temptation. We also focus at this time on praying for those who do not know God. The booklets and leaflets are available to give to those you are praying for.

Family Wedding

During the first two weeks of May I am away from the parish to attend a family wedding in Scotland. I leave on Sunday 3rd in the evening, returning Saturday 16th. During this time I will be unavailable - please contact Libby for all queries and she will put you in touch with the relevant person.

May is a favourite month: the soil warms up, trees bud, the garden invites. It is also a wonderful month in the church calendar as we reflect on the Easter resurrection of Jesus, his new life springing to life in ourselves, awakening a spirituality and a longing to know Jesus better, and a time for prayer and joy as we move towards that great festival of Pentecost. May you have a wonderful month.

In Christ, with every blessing,
Alison

Notices for May

Annual Parochial Church Meetings held in Church Building

30th April Pyworthy 7.30pm

20th May Bridgerule 7.30pm

21st May Holsworthy 7pm

Two events on Saturday 30th May:

Local Worship Leaders' Training

for all involved in leading worship across the Deanery

9am-12 noon, Pancrasweek Village Hall, led by Revd Mark James

Dedication and blessing service

for the works on Holsworthy Church Tower: Clock, Carillon & Bells

2pm St Peter & Paul's, service led by Bishop Moira Astin

followed by the playing of the Carillon and a Cream Tea

The winners of the St. Peter's Monthly Jackpot Draw for April were:

1st Prize £17.50 -

2nd Prize, £3.50 -

The St Peter's Monthly Jackpot Draw will sadly be finishing after the draw in March 2026. The PCC of Holsworthy Parish Church would like to thank everyone that has taken part in the draw over the years. The money raised has been invaluable to the maintenance of the church and, as such, we would like to ask all participants whether past or present, to consider making an annual donation of £12 straight to church funds.

Our bank details are - PCC of Holsworthy Parish Church, acct no. 05007216, sort code 53-50-52. You could also pay by card, using the machine in church or there is a wall safe for cash donations.

Many thanks, The PCC of Holsworthy Parish Church

LIFFY'S TOWER ABSEIL

Some of you by now will know that I intend to abseil down one of the cliffs at Hartland to raise money to help repair our church, St Swithun's. I would be so very grateful if you felt you could sponsor my trip. It is taking place on Wednesday May 6th. I have abseiled before and found it a lot less stressful than I thought it might be; the worst bit is going over the cliff at the top, once that's done it's plain sailing, hopefully not literally! Please help if you feel that you can. *Liffy*
liffylowes@gmail.com

A MESSAGE FROM LIZZY FLAHERTY

As many of you know, I have been training for the priesthood in Oxford for the last several years. Thank you so much for all your support throughout.

As my training comes to an end, I will be ordained Deacon and will take up my first post as Curate of St Peter & St Mary Magdalene's Church, Barnstaple, in the summer.

My ordination will take place at 11am on 27th June at Exeter Cathedral. All are very welcome to attend and it would be lovely to see anyone who would like to come along.

Due to capacity restraint, supporters are required to book tickets, which are free of charge. To book tickets, please go to the Ticket Source website and search - Exeter Cathedral Ordination of Deacons. *Lizzy*

COFFEE MORNING 10th June

St Peter & St Paul's will be holding a coffee morning in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday, 10th June. Please could we ask for donations of tombola prizes, raffle prizes and cakes, pastries, cheese scones, produce etc. Please can you let Mary O or Helen know if you are able to help on the day either behind a stall, on the door or serving teas & coffees. All donations and offers of help will be gratefully received.

DO YOU, OR YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS SHOP ONLINE?

**You can help St. Peter & St. Paul's Church, Holsworthy,
raise much needed funds for upkeep and maintenance**

**We have signed up to the easyfundraising website.
If you shop online using their website or mobile app,
we can benefit from donations without it costing you anything.**

**Over 8,000 retailers will donate to us for FREE
whenever you shop with them.**

**Please help us by joining easyfundraising
using the website or mobile app
easyfundraising.org.uk
and select Holsworthy Parish Church as your cause**

**When you shop online, go to the easyfundraising site
or app first and search for your retailer**

**There are many major retailers including supermarkets,
insurance, travel, department stores, breakdown cover etc.**

**You can also download a browser extension
so that you get a Donation Reminder if you forget
to go through the easyfundraising site or app**

Readings for April & May

3rd May- White– Fifth Sunday of Easter -

Acts 7: 55-end, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2: 2-10, John 14:1-14.

10th May- White– Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17: 22-31, Psalm 66,: 7-end, 1 Peter 3: 13-end, John 14: 15-21.

17th May- White– Seventh Sunday of Easter-

Acts 1: 6-14, Psalm 68 : 1-10 32-end, 1 Peter 4: 12-14; 5:6-11, John 17: 1-11.

24th May- Red–Pentecost -

Acts 2: 1-21, Psalm 104: 26-36. 37b, 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13, John 20:19 23.

31st May- White–Trinity Sunday -

Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-end, Matthew 28: 16-end.

7th June- Green– First Sunday after Trinity -

Hosea 5:15-6:6 , Psalm 50:7-15, Romans 4:13-end, Matthew 9:9-13. 18-26.

14th June- Green– Second Sunday after Trinity

Exodus 19: 2-8a, Psalm 100, Romans 5: 1-8, Matthew 9:35- 10:8.

21st June- Green– Third Sunday after Trinity-

Jeremiah 20: 7-13, Psalm 69 :8-11, Romans 6: 1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39.

28th June – Green–Fourth Sunday after Trinity -

Jeremiah 28: 5-9, Psalm 89 :1-4 1-18, Romans 6: 12-end, Matthew 10:40-end.

Contacts

Bridgerule Church Wardens

Trevor Bowden – 01288 381247

Peter Harris – 01288 381 149

Bridgerule Safeguarding Lead

Val Harris -01409 259192

Holsworthy Church Warden

Mary Osborne – 01409 253115

Holsworthy Deputy Church Warden

Helen Flaherty – 07790 380119

Samantha Hatter -07808 889489

Holsworthy Safeguarding Lead

Libby Cullimore – 07717750198

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Paul Dymond – 01288 381309

Hollacombe Safeguarding Lead

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Pyworthy Church Wardens

Liffy Lowes - 01409 254423

Ali Davies - 01409 251281

Pyworthy Safeguarding Lead

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Pancrasweek Church Wardens

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Pancrasweek Safeguarding Lead

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Holsworthy Foodbank

01271 377077

Samaritans

116 123

Age UK -

0808 055 6112

Domesic Abuse – Womens Aid

0808 2000 247

Domesic Abuse – Mens Advice Line

0808 8010 327

Childline

0800 111

Sunday

3 May 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son
Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to
us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going
before us you put into our minds
good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

*The reading from Acts must be used
as either the first or second reading.*

Either Acts 7:55-end

*A reading from the Acts of the
Apostles.*

Standing before the high priest and
the council, Stephen, filled with the
Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and
saw the glory of God and Jesus
standing at the right hand of God.
"Look," he said, "I see the heavens
opened and the Son of Man standing
at the right hand of God!" But they
covered their ears, and with a loud
shout all rushed together against him.
Then they dragged him out of the
city and began to stone him; and the
witnesses laid their coats at the feet
of a young man named Saul. While they
were stoning Stephen, he prayed,
"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then
he knelt down and cried out in a loud
voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin
against them." When he had said this,
he died.

Or **Genesis 8:1-19**

PSALM Psalm 31:1-5. 15-16

R *Into your hands I commend my
spirit, for you have redeemed me,
O Lord God of truth.*

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.
Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a fortress to save
me, for you are my rock and my
stronghold;
guide me, and lead me for your
name's sake. **R**

Take me out of the net
that they have laid secretly for me,
for you are my strength.
Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord
God of truth. **R**

SECOND READING

Either 1 Peter 2:2-10

*A reading from the first letter of
Peter.*

Like newborn infants, long for the
pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you
may grow into salvation – if indeed
you have tasted that the Lord is
good. Come to him, a living stone,
though rejected by mortals yet
chosen and precious in God's sight.
Like living stones, let yourselves be
built into a spiritual house, to be a
holy priesthood, to offer spiritual
sacrifices acceptable to God through
Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:
"See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a
cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not
be put to shame." To you then who
believe, he is precious; but for those
who do not believe, "The stone that
the builders rejected has become the
very head of the corner," and
"A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall."
They stumble because they disobey
the word, as they were destined to
do. But you are a chosen race, a
royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's
own people, in order that you may
proclaim the mighty acts of him who
called you out of darkness into his
marvellous light. Once you were
not a people, but now you are
God's people; once you had not
received mercy, but now you have
received mercy.

Or **Acts 7:55-end**

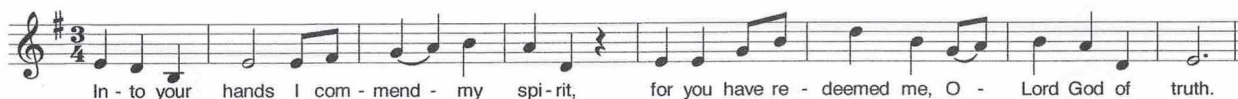
GOSPEL John 14:1-14

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to John.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not
let your hearts be troubled. Believe in
God, believe also in me. 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?
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. And you know the
way to the place where I am going."
Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do
not know where you are going. How
can we know the way?" Jesus said to
him, "I am the way, and the truth, and
the life. No one comes to the Father
except through me. If you know me,
you will know my Father also. From
now on you do know him and have
seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord,
show us the Father, and we will be
satisfied." 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'? 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. 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. 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. I
will do whatever you ask in my name,
so that the Father may be glorified in
the Son. If in my name you ask me for
anything, I will do it."

POST COMMUNION

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.



Sunday 10 May 2026 Sixth Sunday of Easter

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.

FIRST READING

The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading.

Either Acts 17:22-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him – though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Or Genesis 8:20 – 9:17

PSALM Psalm 66:7-end

R *All the earth shall worship you, O Lord.*

Bless our God, O you peoples;
make the voice of his praise to be heard,
Who holds our souls in life
and suffers not our feet to slip. **R**

For you, O God, have proved us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.
You brought us into the snare;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water;
but you brought us out into a place of liberty. **R**

I will come into your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows, which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble. I will offer you fat burnt sacrifices with the smoke of rams; I will sacrifice oxen and goats. **R**

Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what he has done for my soul. I called out to him with my mouth and his praise was on my tongue. **R**

If I had nursed evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me, But in truth God has heard me; he has heeded the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld his loving mercy from me. **R**

SECOND READING

Either 1 Peter 3:13-end

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.



For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Or Acts 17:22-31

GOSPEL John 14:15-21

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

POST COMMUNION

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.



Sunday 17 May 2026 Seventh Sunday of Easter

COLLECT

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus
Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in
heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour
Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

The reading from Acts must be used as
either the first or second reading.

Either Acts 1:6-14

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the apostles 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." Then
they 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, 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 James. All these were
constantly devoting themselves to prayer,
together with certain women, including
Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his
brothers.

Or Ezekiel 36:24-28

PSALM

Psalm 68:1-10. 32-end (or 68:1-10)

R Sing to God, sing praises to his name.

Let God arise and let his enemies be
scattered;
let those that hate him flee before him.
As the smoke vanishes, so may they vanish
away;



Sing - to God, sing prai-ses to his name.

as wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked
perish at the presence of God. R

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice
before God;
let them make merry with gladness.
Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
exalt him who rides on the clouds.
The Lord is his name; rejoice before him. R

Father of the fatherless, defender of
widows,
God in his holy habitation!
God gives the solitary a home
and brings forth prisoners to songs of
welcome,
but the rebellious inhabit a burning desert. R

O God, when you went forth before your
people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
The earth shook and the heavens dropped
down rain, at the presence of God, the
Lord of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of
Israel. R

You sent down a gracious rain, O God;
you refreshed your inheritance when it was
weary.
Your people came to dwell there;
in your goodness, O God, you provide for
the poor. R

Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth;
make music in praise of the Lord;
He rides on the ancient heaven of heavens
and sends forth his voice, a mighty voice. R

Ascribe power to God, whose splendour is
over Israel,
whose power is above the clouds.
How terrible is God in his holy sanctuary,
the God of Israel, who gives power and
strength to his people!
Blessed be God. R

SECOND READING

Either 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery
ordeal that is taking place among you to
test you, as though something strange
were happening to you. But rejoice in so
far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings,
so that you may also be glad and shout
for joy when his glory is revealed. If you
are reviled for the name of Christ, you are
blessed, because the spirit of glory, which
is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.
Humble yourselves therefore under the
mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt
you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on
him, because he cares for you. Discipline
yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion
your adversary the devil prowls around,

looking for someone to devour. Resist him,
steadfast in your faith, for you know that
your brothers and sisters throughout the
world are undergoing the same kinds of
suffering. And after you have suffered for
a little while, the God of all grace, who has
called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will
himself restore, support, strengthen, and
establish you. To him be the power for ever
and ever. Amen.

Or Acts 1:6-14

GOSPEL John 17:1-11

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and said,
"Father, the hour has come; glorify your
Son so that the Son may glorify you, since
you have given him authority over all
people, to give eternal life to all whom
you have given him. And this is eternal
life, that they may know you, the only true
God, and Jesus Christ whom you have
sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing
the work that you gave me to do. So now,
Father, glorify me in your own presence
with the glory that I had in your presence
before the world existed. 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. Now they know that everything you
have given me is from you; 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. 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. All
mine are yours, and yours are mine; and
I have been glorified in them. 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."

POST COMMUNION

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.

COLLECT

God, who as at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy
Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy
comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our
Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading.

Either Acts 2:1-21

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see

visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Or Numbers 11:24-30

PSALM Psalm 104:26-36. 37b (or 104:26-end)

R I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
There is the sea, spread far and wide,
and there move creatures beyond number,
both small and great. **R**

There go the ships, and there is that
Leviathan
which you have made to play in the deep.
All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season. **R**

When you give it them, they gather it;
you open your hand and they are filled
with good.
When you hide your face they are
troubled;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return again to the dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are
created,
and you renew the face of the earth. **R**

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works;
He looks on the earth and it trembles;
he touches the mountains and they
smoke.
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will make music to my God while I have
my being. **R**

So shall my song please him
while I rejoice in the Lord.
Let sinners be consumed out of the earth
and the wicked be no more.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Alleluia. **R**

SECOND READING

Either 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are

varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Or Acts 2:1-21

GOSPEL

Either John 20:19-23

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

It was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Or John 7:37-39

POST COMMUNION

Faithful God,
who fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit
and opening to every race and nation
the way of life eternal:
open our lips by your Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
 you have given us your servants
 grace,
 by the confession of a true faith,
 to acknowledge the glory of the
 eternal Trinity
 and in the power of the divine
 majesty to worship the Unity:
 keep us steadfast in this faith,
 that we may evermore be defended
 from all adversities;
 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.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:12-17. 27-end

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has directed the spirit of the LORD, or as his counsellor has instructed him? Whom did he consult for his enlightenment, and who taught him the path of justice? Who taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as dust on the scales; see, he takes up the isles like fine dust. Lebanon would not provide fuel enough, nor are its animals enough for a burnt-offering. All the nations are as nothing before him; they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

PSALM Psalm 8

R O Lord our governor,
*how glorious is your name in
 all the world!*



Your majesty above the heavens is praised
 out of the mouths of babes at the breast.
 You have founded a stronghold
 against your foes,
 that you might still the enemy and
 the avenger. **R**

When I consider your heavens, the
 work of your fingers,
 the moon and the stars that you
 have ordained,
 What are mortals, that you should
 be mindful of them;
 mere human beings, that you should
 seek them out? **R**

You have made them little lower
 than the angels
 and crown them with glory and
 honour.
 You have given them dominion over
 the works of their hands
 and put all things under their feet. **R**

All sheep and oxen,
 even the wild beasts of the field,
 The birds of the air, the fish of the
 sea
 and whatsoever moves in the paths
 of the sea. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 13:11-end

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters, put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

GOSPEL Matthew 28:16-end

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

POST COMMUNION

Almighty and eternal God,
 you have revealed yourself as
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 and live and reign in the perfect
 unity of love:
 hold us firm in this faith,
 that we may know you in all your
 ways
 and evermore rejoice in your eternal
 glory,
 who are three Persons yet one God,
 now and for ever.

