

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

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.
Amen

New Testament Reading

Acts 8.26 - end

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip,
'Get up and go towards the south to
the road that goes down from
Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a
wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and
went. Now there was an Ethiopian
eunuch, a court official of the Candace,
queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of
her entire treasury. He had come to
Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was
returning home; seated in his chariot,
he was reading the prophet Isaiah.
²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go
over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰So

Philip ran up to it and heard him
reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked,
'Do you understand what you are
reading?' ³¹He replied, 'How can I,
unless someone guides me?' And he
invited Philip to get in and sit beside
him.

³²Now the passage of the scripture that
he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the
slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its
shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was
denied him.

Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the
earth.'

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, 'About
whom, may I ask you, does the
prophet say this, about himself or
about someone else?' ³⁵Then Philip
began to speak, and starting with this
scripture, he proclaimed to him the
good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were
going along the road, they came to
some water; and the eunuch said,
'Look, here is water! What is to
prevent me from being baptized?' ³⁸He
commanded the chariot to stop, and
both of them, Philip and the eunuch,
went down into the water, and Philip
baptized him. ³⁹When they came up
out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord
snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw
him no more, and went on his way

rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at
Azotus, and as he was passing through
the region, he proclaimed the good
news to all the towns until he came to
Caesarea.

Psalm 22.25-end

²⁵From you comes my praise in the
great congregation;

**my vows I will pay before those
who fear him.**

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
**those who seek him shall praise
the LORD.**

May your hearts live for ever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall
remember

and turn to the LORD;

**and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.**

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.

²⁹To him, indeed, shall all who sleep
in the earth bow down;

**before him shall bow all who go
down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.**

³⁰Posterity will serve him;

**future generations will be told
about the Lord,**

³¹**and proclaim his deliverance to a
people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Gospel Reading

John 15.1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: ¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

ST JOHN

Those in continuing special need of prayer:

Pat Crowe, Jo Hearn, Ann Kinson, Allan Law

ST MICHAEL

Those newly in need of prayer

Alison Toplis,

Those in continuing special need of prayer:

Steve Baker, Sam Bassett, Mark Berry, Elizabeth Chapman, Chris Clayton, Dorothy Clayton, Jo Cobb, Martin Dewes, Chris Dickerson, Colin Eastwood, Phillip Goodwin, Robert Harris, David Kendrick, Chris Kirk, Alison Knight, Matthew Martel, Marielouise Oliver, Norah and Arthur Palin, Nick Rutter, Anthony Staples aged 7, John Tipper, Sheila Vaughan, Judith Watson, Renee Wellings, Anne Whatson, Felicity Woodfield, Jamie.

Those who have died

Sarah Young, Anthony Baker, Gwyneth Bates

Years Mind

Brian Vaughan

Post Communion Prayer

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**

SERVICE SHEET

2nd May

Easter 5

Canticle A Song of God's Love

**God's love was revealed among us
so that we might live through
Jesus.**

**Beloved, let us love one another,
for love is of God;
everyone who loves is born of God
and knows God.**

**Whoever does not love does not
know God,
for God is love.**

**In this the love of God was
revealed among us,
that God sent his only Son into the
world,
so that we might live through him.**

**In this is love,
not that we loved God but that he
loved us,
and sent his Son to be the
expiation for our sins.**

**Beloved, since God loved us so
much,
we ought also to love one another.**

**For if we love one another, God
abides in us,
and God's love will be perfected in
us.**

1 John 4.7-11,12b