

Opening Verse

1 Peter 1v3

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Hymn

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

2. Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father and I Thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

3. Be Thou my battle Shield, Sword for the fight; Be Thou my Dignity, Thou my Delight;
Thou my soul's Shelter and Thou my high Tower: Raise Thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

4. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only the first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

5. High King of Heaven, my victory won, May I reach Heav'n's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Confession

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of our forgiveness

1 Peter 2v24-25

²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse you from your sins and restore you in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song

God United <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUTZPdwMJ8Q>

Words of belief

Nicene 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. **means universal*

Bible Reading

Acts 2v22-41

²² "Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵ David said about him:

"I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

²⁶ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope,

²⁷ because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.'

²⁹ "Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day.³⁰ But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne.³¹ Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay.³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.³⁴ For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

"The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand³⁵ until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

³⁶ "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."

⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Sermon – Acts 2v22-41

1. The Son of God was accredited by God the Father v22

2. The Son of God was handed over by God the Father v23

God the Father was working at the cross. But note too, human responsibility. As so often said is it this, or is it this? The Bible answer is yes. And it's your story too. Go out tomorrow and choose to live for God and then when you do, give thanks to him.

3. The Son of God was raised by God the Father v24

Yes, Jesus lived, and died but God continued to act and raised Jesus to life in a victory over death. And Peter then explains we shouldn't expect anything less!

4. Now exalted, Jesus pours out the Holy Spirit

Raised to place of honour, And then Peter summarises it all – in v36
He's Lord – it's right to bow to him. He's Christ – Run to him.

Prayers

This morning's prayer from The Barnabas Fund...

O Triune God, we pray today for isolated Christians who have no opportunity of fellowship, whether they are secret believers converted from another religion, converts whose families will not let them meet with other Christians, those punished by the authorities by a ban on meeting others, or those in lockdown because of coronavirus. We ask that your presence will be very real to them, and that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit will be with them all to encourage, comfort, console, teach and guide. Amen.

Pilgrim's Friend run Christian Residential Homes. It's their annual week of prayer. Their prayer for today...

Please pray for opportunities for older people to serve others around them. For younger people to seek out older people so that they can support one another in the work that they do. For health and strength for older people as they continue serving God.

Thank you, Lord for the dedication, love and creativity shown by the staff at Luff House especially during Lockdown. Please sustain them so that they will have the strength and energy they need day to day and bless them richly in their work. Amen.

The prayers for the whole week here: <https://www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk/Listing/Category/prayer-week-2020>

Covid-19

Heavenly Father, our ever-present help in trouble, our fortress and our God: calm the anxious fears of all who turn to you; give strength and healing to those who are sick, and courage and skill to those who care for them; grant wisdom and clarity to those in authority; and humble us all to call upon you that we may be saved not only in this life, but also for that which is to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Prayer for the Day (Trinity Sunday)

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us grace, thereby enabling us to bear witness to the glory of the eternal Trinity and to worship you as the one God: we humbly pray that you will keep us firm in the confession of this faith and always defend us when we are in trouble, for you live and reign the one true God. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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, & the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see, only thou art holy; there is none beside thee perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

The Grace

2 Corinthians 13v14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, evermore. Amen.