



**SOUTH WOLD DEANERY**

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The Fifth Sunday of Easter  
A Service of the Word

## WELCOME

Alleluia Christ is risen

**ALL He is risen indeed. Alleluia**

O Lord, open our eyes to your presence

Open our minds to your grace

Open our lips to your praises

Open our hearts to your love

Open our lives to your healing

**All And be found among us. Amen**

## Prayer of Confession

Jesus Christ, risen master and triumphant Lord,

we come to you in sorrow for our sins,

and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,

and not by the power of your resurrection.

In your mercy, forgive us.

**All 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.

**All Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world alone,

and doubted our home in heaven.

In your mercy, forgive us.

**All Lord, hear us and help us.**

May the Father of all mercies

cleanse us from our sins,

and restore us in his image

to the praise and glory of his name,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE 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.

## Ministry of the Word

As we prepare to explore God's word let us pray together

**All** **May God guide each of us in the way of Christ,  
whatever our age or experience.**

**May the love of God speak to us all**

### **New testament reading is from Acts 11.1-18**

The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them."

Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'

"I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

"The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

"Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.'

"As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?"

When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life."

This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

## ***Hymn: How deep the Father's love for us***

### **The Gospel**

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

**All Glory to you O Lord**

When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

"My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

This is the gospel of the Lord

**All Praise to you O Christ**

### **Sermon**

#### **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us declare our faith  
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:  
this we have received,  
and this we believe.  
Amen.**

## ***Hymn: Your grace still amazes me***

## **Prayers Of Intercession** ending with The Lord's Prayer

**All** Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done in earth,  
As it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that 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.

## **Hymn: A new commandment**

### **Prayer of commitment**

**All** Living one, creator and lover of the world, we offer our lives to you this day and our life together in you.  
Accept us as we are, with all our stumbling and all our courage.  
Guide us into what you would have us be. And in the power of the spirit enable us to be a sign of your presence in the world.  
In the name of Jesus your living son. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

The blessing of God, ground of being, bread of life and spirit of peace  
Rest upon you and all whom you love, both living and departed  
Now and always

**All** Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All** In the name of Christ. Amen

## **Hymn: Great is thy faithfulness**