

## Prayer and worship at home



## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, 2021

### The Preparation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Alleluia, Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

### The Act of Penitence

As we pray, we reflect on the week that has passed  
and ask the Lord for his forgiveness and healing.

Loving God, we confess the times we have not  
abided  
in your love and strayed from the path of faith  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Loving God, we confess the times we have been less  
than loving to those around us.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Loving God, we confess the times we have not held  
ourselves accountable to you the true vine  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

### Words of forgiveness

May the God of love and power  
forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,  
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### The Special Prayer for this week

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the  
world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

### The Word of the Lord

#### Acts 8.26-end

Then an 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.) So 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 and  
was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was  
reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to  
Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip  
ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet  
Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are  
reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone  
guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit  
beside him. Now 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.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask  
you, does the prophet say this, about himself or  
about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak,  
and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to  
him the good news about Jesus. As 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?' He commanded  
the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the  
eunuch, went down into the water, and  
Philip baptized him. When 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. But 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.

## The Holy Gospel | John 15. 1-8

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

### Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide 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. I 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Affirmation of faith

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

**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.**

### Prayers of intercession

*(Here you may wish to offer prayer in your own words,  
or be prompted by the words here)*

*We pray for the Church of God throughout the world:  
for the Diocese of Blackburn and for Julian, Philip and  
Jill our bishops...*

*We continue to give thanks for the resurrection of Jesus  
Christ and for the hope and light He brings into the  
world...*

*We pray for the Diocesan Coronavirus Task Group...*

*We pray for all living with Covid-19... for those caring  
for them and for all who are anxious or worried...*

*We pray for our NHS and all doctors and nurses...  
We remember those who have died in recent days, and  
all whom we love but see no longer... may they rest for  
ever in the light and peace of Christ.*

### The Lord's Prayer

Joining with Christians throughout the world,  
we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven....**

*or*

**Our Father in heaven....**

### The Grace

*We conclude our prayers*

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the fellowship of the  
Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

### Readings for the coming week:

Monday	Psalm 105	John 14.21-26
Tuesday	Psalm 19	John 14. 27-end
Wednesday	Psalm 30	John 15.1-8
Thursday	Psalm 57	John 15.9-11
Friday	Psalm 138	John 15.12-17
Saturday	Psalm 146	John 15.18-21