

Sunday 17th May

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Today's 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 forever.

Post Communion Prayer

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.

Next Week Services: Sunday 24th May

10:00am	Harvington	Holy Communion
10:00am	Norton & Lenchwick	Church @ 10
11:00am	Church Lench	Church @ 11
11:00am	Rous Lench	Holy Communion
3:30pm	Harvington	Messy Church

Mid-week Eucharist: 11:00am Wednesdays at St James', Harvington

Events

- **Degree Show Open Exhibition:** 10am- 4pm daily (-Bank Holiday) 22nd May - 28th May, At the Art House, Worcester, WR1 3HN
- **The Knitted Bible Exhibition:** 10am-4pm daily (-Fri morning and Sun) 21st May - 5th June, at Evesham Methodist Church, WR11 4SF
- Harvington churchyard **Summer Fete** -6th June, 11am-3pm.
- Church Lench School **Summer Fete** -13th June, 12-2pm.
- Rous Lench **Annual Pig Roast**– 27th June. Willing helpers can contact Fran on Herdmanfrances@gmail.com.

This Week's First Reading: Acts 1.6-14.

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?'

⁷ He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.⁸ 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.'

⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.¹¹ 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.'

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.¹³ 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.¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

This Week's Second Reading: 1Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11.

¹² 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.¹³ 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.¹⁴ 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.

This weeks Psalm: Psalm 68.1-10,

1 Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered;
let those that hate him flee before him.

2 As the smoke vanishes, so may they vanish away;

Continued: Psalm 68.1-10,

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

3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them make merry with gladness.

4 Sing to God, sing praises to his name; exalt him who rides on the clouds.
The Lord is his name; rejoice before him.

5 Father of the fatherless, defender of widows, God in his holy habitation!

6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners to songs of welcome,
but the rebellious inhabit a burning desert.

7 O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

8 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.

9 You sent down a gracious rain, O God;
you refreshed your inheritance when it was weary.

10 Your people came to dwell there; in your goodness, O God, you provide for the poor.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 17.1-11.*

¹⁷ After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you,² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ 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.⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you;⁸ 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.⁹ 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.¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.¹¹ 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.

Next Weeks Readings: *Acts 2.1-21, Psalm 104.26-end,
1Corinthians 12.3-13, John 20.19-23.*

Prayer of Intercession

Almighty and most merciful Farther,
we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost
sheep.

We have followed the devices and desires of our
own hearts too much.

We have offended against thy holy laws.

We have left undone those things

which we ought to have done;

and we have done those things

which we ought not to have done;

and there is no health in us.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable
offenders.

Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults.

Restore thou them that are penitent;

according to thy promises declared unto mankind

in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,

that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and
sober life,

to the glory of thy holy name.

Amen.