

# Holsworthy Benefice

## May News Sheet

Holsworthy Benefice					
	Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Holsworthy	Pancrasweek	Pyworthy
<b>27th April</b>	<b>11am All Age Eucharist</b>		<b>11am Cafe style Church</b>	<b>9.30am All Age Service</b>	<b>9.30am Morning Prayer</b>
<b>4th May</b>	<b>11am Sung Eucharist</b>	<b>9.30am Mass</b>	<b>9.30am Sung Eucharist</b>		<b>9.30am Family Service</b>
<b>11th May</b>	<b>11am Morning Prayer</b>	<b>3pm Evensong</b>	<b>11am Sung Eucharist</b>		<b>9.30am Sung Eucharist</b>
<b>18th May</b>		<b>9.30am Mass</b>	<b>11am Sung Eucharist 3pm Leading your Church into Growth</b>		<b>9.30am Sung Eucharist</b>
<b>25th May</b>	<b>11am All Age Eucharist</b>		<b>11am Cafe style Church</b>	<b>2.30pm Songs of Praise</b>	<b>9.30am Morning Prayer</b>
<b>29th May</b>			<b>7pm Ascension Day Evening Service</b>		
<b>1<sup>st</sup> June</b>	<b>11am Sung Eucharist</b>	<b>9.30am Mass</b>	<b>9.30am Sung Eucharist</b>		<b>9.30am Family Service</b>

**Bridgerule, Hollacombe, Holsworthy and Pyworthy with Pancrasweek**  
**Revd Alison Hardy - [reverendalisonhardy@gmail.com](mailto:reverendalisonhardy@gmail.com) - 07780295752**  
**Admin: Libbi Cullimore - [holsworthybenefice@icloud.com](mailto:holsworthybenefice@icloud.com) 07717750198**

*Linda Piper and Jose Axford picking daffodils for Mothering Sunday at Herdwick Farm by kind permission of Graham and Jill Piper.*



### May Newsletter

Dear Friends

Happy Eastertide! Our Easter celebrations were glorious occasions: I have an abiding memory of the sun shining warm upon us. Not so on Good Friday, sadly, which turned out to be a wet day. Yet, in spite of the rain, over 150 walkers joined the annual parade in which the uniformed groups took turns to carry the Cross.

We enjoyed a second parade at the beginning of the summer term – this time of the primary school pupils parading their Easter bonnet creations through Holsworthy square. There were many delightful and inventive bonnets on display, it was a joy to watch.

### May in the Church

This year the month of May coincides with the Easter resurrection period. Sunday by Sunday we explore Jesus' resurrection appearances. Finally at the end of May we celebrate his Ascension into heaven with a special service on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm in St Peter & Paul's.

Pancrasweek host their annual Patronal Festival on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> with a Songs of Praise at 2.30pm.

Following the successful Lent Course, we are establishing a regular weekly Home Group on a Tuesday evening kindly hosted by one or two group members. Our first evening begins with an open buffet supper at the Rectory on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May from 6.30pm. Please let me know if you would like to come.

Every blessing for a rich and fruitful Eastertide,

**Alison**

# Notices

## Leading Your Church into Growth

Session 5 – Becoming an Inviting and Welcoming Church

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 3pm at the Rectory

## Lay Worship Training

31<sup>st</sup> May - 9.30am-12.30pm at Bradford Village Hall, 'Putting together the Reflection - plus a couple of fun items!'

## St Peter's Monthly Jackpot Draw

Renewals for the 2025/26 year are now due. The price is still only £12 for the year.

If you would like to renew your ticket(s), please could you make payment as follows:

online payment	A/c name	PCC of Holsworthy Parish Church
	Sort Code	53 50 52
	A/c Number	05007216

Please use surname and/or ticket number(s) as a reference

Cheque made payable to 'PCC of Holsworthy Parish Church'

Please deliver cheque or cash to the Treasurer at Lyndhurst, North Road or to The Rectory, Bodmin Street.

If you would like more tickets or know of anyone else who might wish to support Holsworthy Parish Church in this way, please contact the Treasurer on 07790 380119

**The winners of the St Peter's Monthly Jackpot Draw drawn in April were:**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize, £17.00 – ticket number 76, Richard

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, £3.40 – ticket number 169, Mary

## Scam emails warning

Dear friends,

We've been made aware of more emails - often purporting to be from members of the clergy or other trusted figures – that are from scammers trying to trick people into buying gift vouchers for them online.

There are a couple of ways to spot these:

1. The email address that they're sent from won't be the one that person normally uses
2. The sender will say that they are busy in meetings and ask that you don't call them but reply to the hoax email address email

Please be wary of such requests, and advise your parishes as you see fit.

With all best wishes,

Dave Lewis

PA to the Archdeacon of Barnstaple

## Safeguarding Course on Domestic Abuse

In person *Awareness of Domestic Abuse* training will take place in each Archdeaconry again this year. Please do encourage those who require *Awareness of Domestic Abuse* training to sign up if they wish to do it in person. Spaces are first come first served and participants can find more information on the [Safeguarding Training](#) page of the Diocesan website. For more information on who is required to undertake this training please contact your safeguarding representative.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 10:00 – 13:00 Holy Trinity **Barnstaple**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 10:00 – 13:00 Christchurch **Plymouth**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 10:00 – 13:00 Mint Methodist Church **Exeter**

The Domestic Abuse module can also be undertaken online via the [National Safeguarding Training Portal](#) and the current online module is available and takes around 1 ½ hours to complete.

# Readings for May

## 4<sup>th</sup> May

### Third Sunday of Easter - White

Acts 9: 1-6 (7-20)  
Zephaniah 3: 14-end  
Psalm 30  
Revelations 5: 11-end  
Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)  
Gospel John 21: 1-19

## 11<sup>th</sup> May –

### Fourth Sunday of Easter - White

Acts 9: 36 - end  
Genesis 7: 1-5. 11-18, 8:6-18 9: 8-13  
Psalm 23  
Revelations 7: 9-end  
Acts 9: 36-end  
Gospel John 10: 22-30

## 18<sup>th</sup> May –

### Fifth Sunday of Easter - White

Acts 11: 1-18  
Baruch 3: 9-15. 32-4:4  
Genesis 22:1-18  
Psalm 148  
Revelations 21: 1-6  
Acts 11:1-18  
Gospel John 13: 31-35

## 25<sup>th</sup> May –

### Sixth Sunday of Easter - White

Acts 16: 9-15  
Ezekiel 37: 1-14  
Psalm 67  
Revelations 21: 10. 22-22: 5  
Acts 16: 9-15  
Gospel John 14: 23-29  
Gospel John 5: 1-9



# Contacts

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## **Bridgerule Church Wardens**

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## **Bridgerule Safeguarding Lead**

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## **Pyworthy Church Wardens**

Liffy Lowes - 01409 254423

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## **Pancrasweek Church Wardens**

Adam Rivett – 07941 940524

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## **Pancrasweek Safeguarding Lead**

Libby Cullimore – 07717750198

## **Holsworthy Foodbank**

**Samaritans**

**Age UK -**

**Domesic Abuse – Womens Aid**

**Domesic Abuse – Mens Advice Line**

**Childline**

**01271 377077**

**116 123**

**0808 055 6112**

**0808 2000 247**

**0808 8010 327**

**0800 111**

**If you wish to advertise in upcoming news sheet please contact the benefice administrator by 20th May**



## COLLECT

Almighty Father,  
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples  
with the sight of the risen Lord:  
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,  
that we may be strengthened and sustained  
by his risen life  
and serve you continually in righteousness and  
truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

(Short or long reading)

*The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading.*

Either **Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptised, and after taking some food,

he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God.]"

Or **Zephaniah 3:14-end**

## PSALM Psalm 30

**R** You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead.

I will exalt you, O Lord,  
because you have raised me up  
and have not let my foes triumph over me.  
O Lord my God, I cried out to you  
and you have healed me.  
You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;  
you restored me to life from among those that  
go down to the Pit. **R**

Sing to the Lord, you servants of his;  
give thanks to his holy name.  
For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye,  
his favour for a lifetime.  
Heaviness may endure for a night,  
but joy comes in the morning. **R**

In my prosperity I said,  
"I shall never be moved.  
You, Lord, of your goodness,  
have made my hill so strong."  
Then you hid your face from me  
and I was utterly dismayed.  
To you, O Lord, I cried;  
to the Lord I made my supplication: **R**

"What profit is there in my blood,  
if I go down to the Pit?  
Will the dust praise you or declare your  
faithfulness?  
Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me;  
O Lord, be my helper." **R**

You have turned my mourning into dancing;  
you have put off my sackcloth and girded me  
with gladness;  
Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;  
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever. **R**

## SECOND READING Revelation 5:11-end

*A reading from the book of Revelation.*

I, John, looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and glory and blessing!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshipped.

Or **Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]**

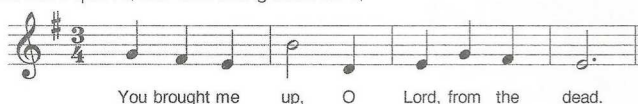
## GOSPEL John 21:1-19

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

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God. After this he said to him, "Follow me."

## POST COMMUNION

Living God,  
your Son made himself known to his disciples  
in the breaking of bread:  
open the eyes of our faith,  
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.





## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the  
resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of  
righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which  
are above,  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

*The reading from Acts must be used  
as either the first or second reading.*

Either **Acts 9:36-end**

*A reading from the Acts of the  
Apostles.*

In Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Or **Genesis 7:1-5. 11-18; 8:6-18;  
9:8-13**

## PSALM Psalm 23

**R** *I will dwell in your house for ever.*

The Lord is my shepherd;  
therefore can I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green  
pastures  
and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He shall refresh my soul  
and guide me in the paths of  
righteousness for his name's sake.  
Though I walk through the valley of  
the shadow of death, I will fear no  
evil;

for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they  
comfort me. **R**

You spread a table before me  
in the presence of those who  
trouble me;

you have anointed my head with oil  
and my cup shall be full.  
Surely goodness and loving mercy  
shall follow me all the days of my  
life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the  
Lord for ever. **R**

## SECOND READING

**Revelation 7:9-end**

*A reading from the book of  
Revelation.*

After this I looked, and there was a  
great multitude that no one could  
count, from every nation, from all  
tribes and peoples and languages,  
standing before the throne and before  
the Lamb, robed in white, with palm  
branches in their hands. They cried  
out in a loud voice, saying "Salvation  
belongs to our God who is seated  
on the throne, and to the Lamb!"  
And all the angels stood around the  
throne and around the elders and  
the four living creatures, and they fell  
on their faces before the throne and  
worshipped God, singing, "Amen!  
Blessing and glory and wisdom and  
thanksgiving and honour and power  
and might be to our God for ever and  
ever! Amen." Then one of the elders  
addressed me, saying, "Who are  
these, robed in white, and where have  
they come from?" I said to him, "Sir,  
you are the one that knows." Then

he said to me, "These are they who  
have come out of the great ordeal;  
they have washed their robes and  
made them white in the blood of the  
Lamb. For this reason they are before  
the throne of God, and worship him  
day and night within his temple, and  
the one who is seated on the throne  
will shelter them. They will hunger  
no more, and thirst no more; the sun  
will not strike them, nor any scorching  
heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the  
throne will be their shepherd, and he  
will guide them to springs of the water  
of life, and God will wipe away every  
tear from their eyes."

Or **Acts 9:36-end**

## GOSPEL John 10:22-30

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

At that time the festival of the  
Dedication took place in Jerusalem.  
It was winter, and Jesus was walking  
in the temple, in the portico of  
Solomon. So the Jews gathered  
around him and said to him, "How  
long will you keep us in suspense? If  
you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."  
Jesus answered, "I have told you, and  
you do not believe. The works that  
I do in my Father's name testify to  
me; but you do not believe, because  
you do not belong to my sheep. My  
sheep hear my voice. I know them,  
and they follow me. I give them  
eternal life, and they will never perish.  
No one will snatch them out of my  
hand. What my Father has given me  
is greater than all else, and no one  
can snatch it out of the Father's hand.  
The Father and I are one."

## POST COMMUNION

Merciful Father,  
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be  
the good shepherd,  
and in his love for us to lay down his  
life and rise again:  
keep us always under his protection,  
and give us grace to follow in his  
steps;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



I will dwell in your house for ever.



# Sunday

18 May 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter

## 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.

## FIRST READING

*The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading.*

Either **Acts 11:1-18**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticised him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your

entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Or **Baruch 3:9-15. 32 - 4:4**

Or **Genesis 22:1-18**

## PSALM Psalm 148

**R** Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.

Alleluia.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights.  
Praise him, all you his angels;  
praise him, all his host. **R**

Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you stars of light.  
Praise him, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens. **R**

Let them praise the name of the Lord;  
for he commanded and they were  
created.

He made them fast for ever and ever;  
he gave them a law which shall not pass  
away. **R**

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;  
Fire and hail, snow and mist,  
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;  
Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;  
Wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and birds on the wing; **R**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;  
Young men and women, old and young  
together;

let them praise the name of the Lord. **R**

For his name only is exalted,  
his splendour above earth and heaven.  
He has raised up the horn of his people  
and praise for all his faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are  
near him. Alleluia. **R**

## SECOND READING

**Revelation 21:1-6**

*A reading from the book of Revelation.*

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Or **Acts 11:1-18**

## GOSPEL John 13:31-35

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

During the supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

## POST COMMUNION

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.



Praise, O praise the name of the Lord

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# Sunday

25 May 2025

Sixth Sunday of Easter

## COLLECT

God our redeemer,  
you have delivered us from the power of  
darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your  
Son:  
grant, that as by his death he has recalled  
us to life,  
so by his continual presence in us he may  
raise us to eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

*The reading from Acts must be used as  
either the first or second reading.*

Either **Acts 16:9-15**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptised, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Or **Ezekiel 37:1-14**

## PSALM Psalm 67

**R** Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us,  
That your way may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations. **R**

O let the nations rejoice and be glad,  
for you will judge the peoples righteously  
and govern the nations upon earth.  
Then shall the earth bring forth her  
increase,  
and God, our own God, will bless us.  
God will bless us,  
and all the ends of the earth shall fear  
him. **R**

## SECOND READING

**Revelation 21:10. 22 – 22:5**

*A reading from the book of Revelation.*

In the spirit the angel carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day – and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Or **Acts 16:9-15**

## GOSPEL

Either **John 14:23-29**

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

Or **John 5:1-9**

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

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Bethzatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids – blind, lame, and paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

## POST COMMUNION

God our Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of  
eternal life:  
may we thirst for you,  
the spring of life and source of goodness,  
through him who is alive and reigns, now  
and for ever.

