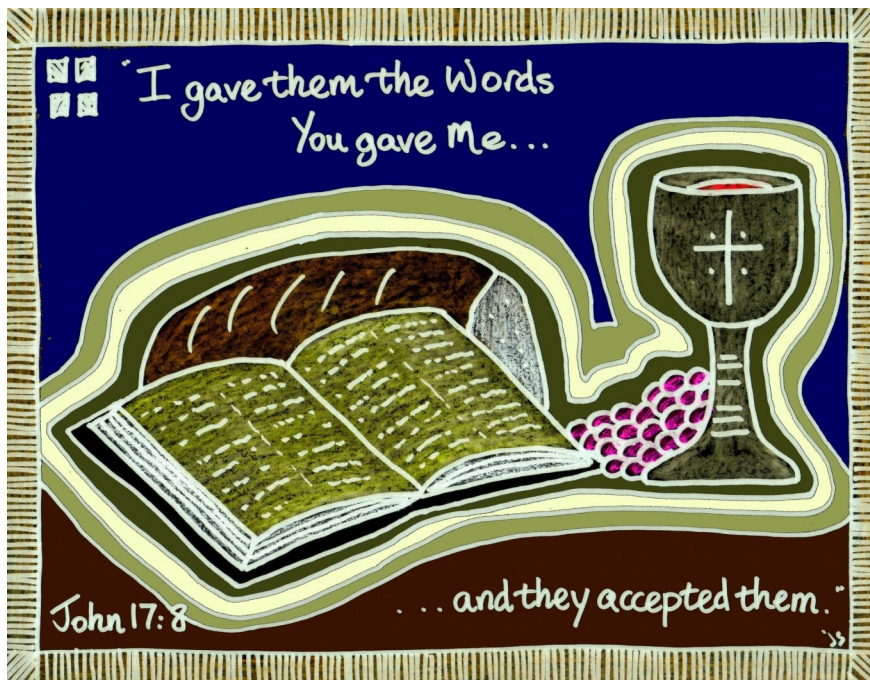




# The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings



**Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
*(The Sunday after Ascension Day)*

**17<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**at St Matthew's Church**

*Presider:* Alleluia! Christ is Risen!  
**He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!**

This is the day that the Lord has made.  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

*We stand*

Opening Hymn: **A Hymn for Ascension**

HiOS14 - Words © Marnie Barrell - Tune: **LAUDA ANIMA**

- 1 **Christ ascends to God! Behold him  
here, where earth and heaven meet.  
Unimagined powers enfold him,  
mortals worship at his feet.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
all his mission now complete.**
- 2 **God receives him into mystery -  
clouds of glory veil the sight;  
no more bound to human history,  
strong as love and free as light.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
now to reign in his own right.**
- 3 **He is with us. Do not seek him  
throned in splendour far above:  
meet him here where truth and freedom  
now reveal his work of love.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
countless signs his presence prove.**
- 4 **Universal Lord, now reigning  
deep in nature's smallest part,  
all things live by your sustaining,  
time and space your work of art.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
praise to Christ, creation's heart.**

*The Presider may greet the people informally before continuing*

## The Gathering

I runga i te Ingoa o te Atua, (In the name of God,  
te Matua, te Tama me te Wairua Tapu. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**Āmine.** Amen)

Grace and peace to you from God.  
**God fill you with truth and joy.**

We sit

## The Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,  
for more than forty days we have been celebrating, with joyful hearts, the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, his bursting from the tomb and his defeat of the power of sin and death. He appeared to his disciples many times and told them about the kingdom of God.

Today we recall how he left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers. Trusting in his reign over all creation, and submitting to his kingly yet loving rule, let us hear the story of his parting.

## The Ascension Reading

Reading:

### **The Acts of the Apostles 1: 3-11**

After his suffering, Jesus presented himself alive to the Apostles by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, Jesus ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father.

‘This’, he said, ‘is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’ So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 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.’

→

When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 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.'

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*Presider:*

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heaven, Jesus, the Son of God, let us stand, and, with confidence, offer him the praise worthy of his name.

## **The Gloria**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

*We sit or kneel*

Jesus has ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
As we prepare to celebrate this Eucharist together,  
in a moment of silence, we call to mind our sins  
and our need for God's forgiveness.

*Silence*

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

You bring pardon and peace to the broken-hearted:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*Silence*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
crucified, risen and ascended for us:  
**We have not loved you as our Redeemer,  
nor obeyed you as our Lord;  
we have not brought our prayers to you,  
nor heeded your tears shed over the world.  
Forgive us, we pray;  
breathe into us a new spirit of service,  
and make us joyfully obedient to your will:  
for your glory's sake. Amen.**

*Presider:*

Through the cross of Christ,  
God have mercy on you,  
pardon you and set you free.  
Know that you are forgiven  
and be at peace.  
God strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in life eternal.  
**Amen.**

The peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

**The word of Christ dwell in us richly.**

*Sentence of the Day*

This is eternal life, that we may know you, the only true God,  
and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. *John 17:3*

*Collect of the Day*

Christ our great high priest,  
you understand our weakness;  
**you pray for us while we are sinners.**  
**Help us, through you,**  
**to find a new and living way to God;**  
**for the glory of your holy name.**  
**Amen.**

*Reading:*

**1 Peter 4: 12-14; 5: 6-11** - *God sustains those who suffer*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**Thanks be to God.**

*Canticle:*

***The Exalted Lord*** - *Philippians 2:6-11*

- 1 Christ Jesus was in the form of God:  
yet he did not think to grasp at equality with God,
- 2 **but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant:**  
**and was born in our human likeness.**
- 3 Being found in our human state he humbled himself:  
and became obedient unto death,  
even death on a cross.
- 4 **Therefore God has highly exalted him:**  
**and bestowed on him the Name above every name;**
- 5 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow:  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- 6 **and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord:**  
**to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Gradual Hymn: **Lord, we hear your word with gladness**

Words: Margaret Clarkson © Hope Publishing - alt. Tune: **Converse**

- 1 **Lord, we hear your word with gladness:  
you have spoken - we rejoice:  
words of love and life and freedom -  
help us make their truth our choice!  
Now in holy celebration  
for your Word we worship you;  
spoken, written, known in Jesus,  
ours today to prove anew.**
  
- 2 **May we hear with understanding,  
by your Spirit taught and led.  
May the springs of all our being  
by your living Word be fed.  
May our hearts accept with meekness  
all the grace your light makes known.  
May obedience mark our footsteps  
till we make each word our own.**
  
- 3 **You have spoken; yours the fullness,  
ours the wealth of this your Word.  
Debtors, then, as living letters  
we must make your gospel heard!  
By your Spirit's power transform us;  
shed your saving light abroad  
till our lives by love in action  
show our world the truth of God!**

*We remain standing*

**Gospel Reading:** **John 17: 1-11** - *Christ's prayer for his disciples*

The Holy Gospel according to John, chapter seventeen,  
beginning at the first verse.

**Praise and glory to God.**

*After the reading:* This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ, the Word.**

## The Sermon

A brief period of silence and/or musical reflection may follow;  
then we stand to affirm our faith.

## An Affirmation of Faith

Let us celebrate and affirm our faith.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**We believe and trust in God the Father,  
Creator of the universe.**

Do you believe and trust in God's Son, Jesus Christ?

**We believe and trust in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord and our Saviour.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?

**We believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
the giver of life.**

This is the faith of the Church;

**this is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

*(adapted from 'Let Us Pray' - Janet Nelson)*

We sit or kneel

Let us pray for the Church and for the world,  
giving thanks for God's goodness.

V: Jesus Christ, ascended and glorified, in your mercy:

R: **Hear our prayer.**

Thanksgiving, blessing and praise be yours,  
God of the incarnation;

**because you care for us and for our prayer.**

**May our love for you and our likeness to you  
be strengthened every time we pray.**

**Amen.**

## **The Ministry of the Sacrament**

We stand

### **The Peace**

The peace of the risen, ascended, and glorified Christ  
be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*As we sing the next Hymn, the bread and wine are brought to the altar; our offerings for the Foodbank and money to support ministry and mission are collected and presented also.*

### **Offertory Hymn: Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour**

SG52 – Words: George Bourne

tune: **St Helen** [CP311] George C. Martin

- 1 Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour,  
glorious first-born from the dead,  
you alone our strong defender  
lifting up your people's head;  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Jesus, true and living bread!**
- 2 Prince of life, for us now living,  
by your body souls are healed;  
Prince of peace, your pardon giving,  
by your blood our peace is sealed:  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Word of God in flesh revealed.**
- 3 Paschal Lamb! Your offering finished,  
once for all, when you were slain;  
in its fullness undiminished  
shall for evermore remain:  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
cleansing souls from every stain.**

*continued ... →*

- 4 **Great High Priest of our profession,  
through the veil you entered in,  
by your mighty intercession  
grace and mercy there to win;  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
only sacrifice for sin.**
  
- 5 **Life-imparting heavenly Manna,  
stricken rock, with streaming side;  
heaven and earth, with loud hosanna,  
worship you, the Lamb who died:  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
risen, ascended, glorified!**

### ***The Preparation of the Gifts***

Risen Lord Jesus Christ,  
we believe you, and all we have heard is true.  
When you break bread  
may we recognize you  
as the fire that burns within us,  
that we may bring light to your world.  
**Amen.**

### ***The Great Thanksgiving***

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

Lift your hearts to heaven  
**where Christ in glory reigns.**

Let us give thanks to God.  
**It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For he is our great high priest  
who has entered once for all  
into the heavenly sanctuary,  
evermore to pour upon your Church  
the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit.

He is the one who has gone before us,  
who calls us to be united in prayer  
as were his disciples in the upper room  
while they awaited his promised gift,  
the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost.

Therefore all creation yearns with eager longing  
as angels and archangels sing the endless hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

To you indeed be glory, almighty God,  
because on the night before he died,  
your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread;  
when he had given you thanks,  
he broke it, gave it to his disciples,  
and said:

Take, eat, this is my body  
which is given for you;  
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;  
when he had given you thanks,  
he gave it to them and said:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood  
poured out for you;  
do this as often as you drink it  
to remember me.

And so in this great sacrament  
we celebrate and proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come in glory.**

Therefore, loving God,  
recalling now Christ's death and resurrection,  
we ask you to accept this our sacrifice of praise.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration,  
that we may be fed  
with the body and blood of your Son  
and be filled with your life and goodness.

Strengthen us to do your work,  
and to be your body in the world.

Unite us in Christ and give us your peace.  
Through your Holy Spirit,  
burning as a flame, gentle as a dove,  
may we who receive these gifts  
live lives of justice, love, and prayer,  
and be a voice for those who are not heard.

In union with your whole church  
we worship you, O God,  
in songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,  
here and everywhere,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

The risen Christ is in our midst, and so we pray:

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,  
for we all share the one bread.**

### **The Invitation**

Draw near and receive the body and blood of our Saviour  
Jesus Christ in remembrance that he died for us.  
Let us feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Communion will be served at standing stations at the Sanctuary steps - all are welcome to receive the bread and wine at communion, (however please note that intinction, ie dipping the wafer into the wine chalice, is **NOT** permitted); although you are welcome to receive the bread only if you prefer, or to come forward for a blessing only.*

*If you need communion served to you in your seat, please indicate to the servers.*

### **Prayers after Communion**

Eternal 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.  
Amen.**

King of kings, Lord of lords,  
you have ascended your royal throne  
carrying the crossbar for your crucifixion.  
Now you are lifted high,  
exalted to draw us all to your love.  
You are the captive saviour,  
who has led us in triumph  
from the sin, the anxiety, and the doom  
which held us captive.

**May we whom you have redeemed  
and called to be guests at your table  
receive and put to use the gifts you offer us.  
Praise and glory to you, God of space and time,  
humble saviour, king of love. Amen.**

*We share any notices and news*

Closing Hymn: **Now the green blades rises**

TiS382 – Words: JMC Crumm - Tune: **Noel Nouvelet** [CP153]

- 1 **Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
*Love has come again like wheat that springs up green.***
- 2 **In the grave they laid Him, love whom hate had slain,  
thinking that He never would awake again,  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;  
*Love has come again like wheat that springs up green.***
- 3 **Up he sprang at Easter, like the risen grain,  
He who for the three days in the grave had lain;  
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;  
*Love has come again like wheat that springs up green.***
- 4 **When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
then your touch can call us back to life again,  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;  
*Love has come again like wheat that springs up green.***

## **The Dismissal Reading:**

### **The Acts of the Apostles 1: 12, 13a-14**

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying. All were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Responsory: As we wait in silence and listen to your word,  
as we worship you in majesty:  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your refreshing,  
as we long for your renewing:  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your equipping,  
as we long for your empowering:  
**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

## **The Blessing**

God the Father,  
who has given to his Son the name above every name,  
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.

**Amen.**

God the Son,  
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,  
plead for you at the right hand of the Father.

**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,  
make you faithful servants of Christ our King.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be with you and remain with you always.

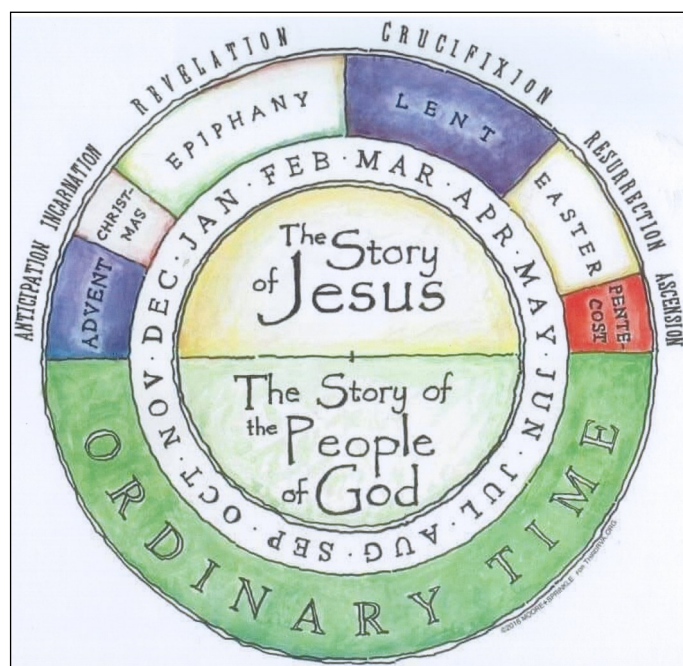
**Amen.**

## The Dismissal

With the power that raised Jesus from the dead  
at work within you, go now to love and serve the Lord.  
Go in peace. Alleluia, alleluia!

**Amen. We go in the name of Christ. Alleluia!**

*Following the service, all are welcome to share a time of fellowship and refreshment  
over morning tea which is served in the 'Hospitality' corner  
at the southern side of the church.*



Acknowledgements: This Order of Service for the Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings has been compiled and adapted from copyright resources offered on-line, and is used in accordance with regulations.

[A New Zealand Prayer Book / He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa](#)

[Worship texts and resources | The Church of England](#)

[Celebrating Eucharist - Liturgy](#)

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