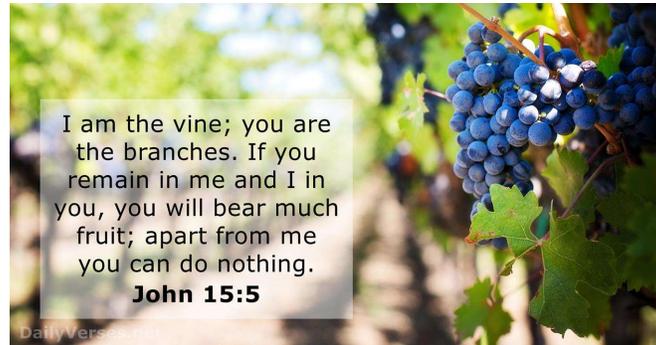




All Saints', Hertford

ALL THE CHURCH FAMILY SERVICE



Fifth Sunday of Easter 2nd May 2021

We say together the words printed in bold.

Gathering to worship God

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our father

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

All Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Praise God who loves us.

All Praise God who cares.

Hymn

We sing together- **Alleluia, alleluia, Hearts to Heaven....**
(Please mute yourselves)

- 1 Alleluia, Alleluia!
hearts to heaven and voices raise;
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise:
he who on the Cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

- 2 Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits
of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield;
then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine,
from the furrows of the grave.

- 3 Christ is risen, we are risen;
shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain and dew, and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
that we, with our hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel-hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with thee.

- 4 Alleluia, Alleluia,
glory be to God on high;
to the Father and the Saviour,
who has gained the victory;
glory to the Holy Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia, Alleluia,
to the Triune Majesty.

Opening prayer

**Lord, direct our thoughts,
and teach us to pray.**

**Lift up our hearts to worship you
in spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen,**

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 forever.

Confession

Let us remember that we often forget to love you God and to love other people as we should and we say sorry.

Let us return to the Lord our God and say to him:

**All Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you.
We are not worthy to be called your children.
We turn to you again.
Have mercy on us, bring us back to yourself
as those who once were dead but now have life
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The president declares God's 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.
Blessed is the Lord,

All for he has heard the voice of our prayer;

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
All and in our song will we praise our God.

Hearing and responding to the Word of God

John 15 1-8 *Dorothy Toyn*

Jesus the True Vine

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. **2** He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes^[a] to make it bear more fruit. **3** You have already been cleansed^[b] by the word that I have spoken to you. **4** 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. **5** 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. **6** Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become^[c] my disciples.

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Reflection

Anthem – Christ the Lord is risen again – John Rutter

Christ the Lord is risen again,
Christ hath broken every chain.
Hark, angelic voices cry,
singing evermore on high,
Alleluia.

He who gave for us his life,
who for us endured the strife,
is our paschal Lamb today;

we too sing for joy, and say
Alleluia.

He who bore all pain and loss
comfortless upon the cross,
lives in glory now on high,
pleads for us, and hears our cry:
Alleluia.

Now he bids us tell abroad
how the lost may be restored,
how the penitent forgiven
how we too may enter heaven.
Alleluia.

Thou, our paschal Lamb indeed,
Christ, thy ransomed people feed;
take our sins and guilt away:
that we all may sing for ay
Alleluia

Affirmation of Faith

Praise God who loves us.

All Praise God who cares.

Let us declare our faith in God

**All We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in
heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who
lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power
from on high.**

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Ephesians 3

Prayers of Intercession – *Martin Bird*

Response – God of love **Hear our prayer**

Concludes with

**Lord of the Church, hear our prayer and make us one in heart and
mind to serve you with joy forever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Hymn

We sing together – *I danced in the morning* (Please mute yourself!)

1 I danced in the morning
When the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
And the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven
And I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem
I had my birth.
*Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*

2 I danced for the scribe
And the pharisee,
But they would not dance
And they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
For James and John -
They came with me
And the Dance went on.
Chorus

3 I danced on the Sabbath
And I cured the lame;
The holy people
Said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
And they hung me on high,
And they left me there
On a Cross to die.
Chorus

4 I danced on a Friday
When the sky turned black -
It's hard to dance
With the devil on your back.
They buried my body
And they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance,
And I still go on.
Chorus

5 They cut me down
And I leapt up high;
I am the life
That'll never, never die;
I'll live in you
If you'll live in me -
I am the Lord
Of the Dance, said he.
Chorus

Going out to serve God

Heavenly Father, may we live in faith and fellowship, walk in love and be renewed in hope, until your world reflects your glory and you are known to all.

Blessing

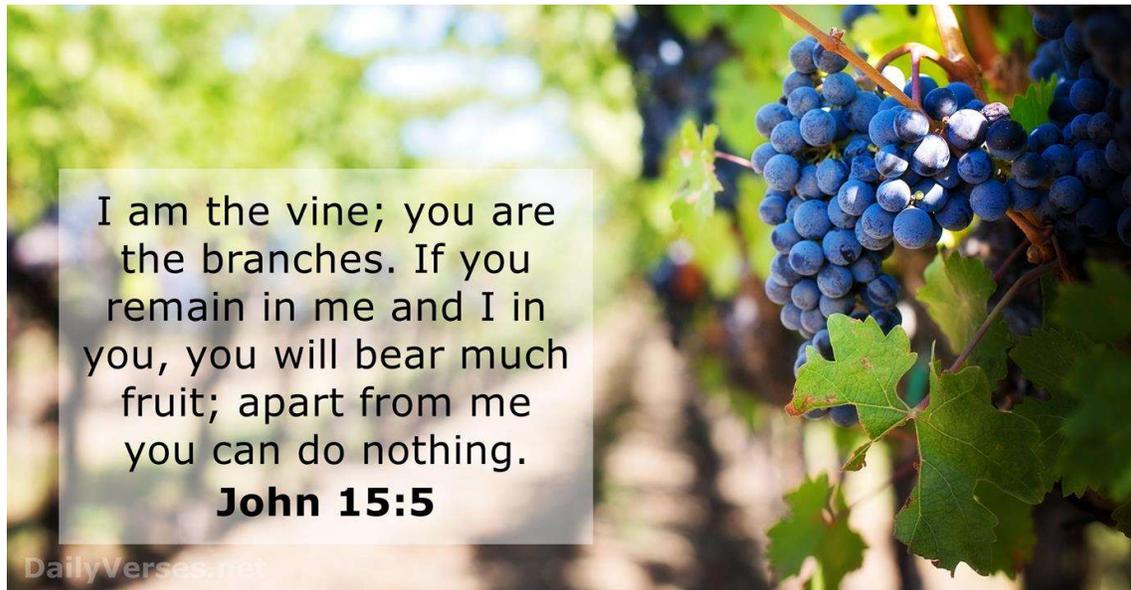
May the love of God enfold us; may the mercy of God absolve us;
May the strength of God support us; may the peace of God
console us;

And may blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us now and forever. **Amen**

Dismissal

We say the Grace together:

**May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen**



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