

Benefice of Great Harrowden, Little Harrowden, Orlingbury, Isham and Pytchley

God of Sorrow

Morning Worship at Home.

6th Sunday of Easter

Welcome and Notices

Leader Man born of woman has but a short time to live. We have our fill of sorrow. We blossom like a flower and wither away, we slip away like a shadow and do not stay.

All Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

Leader In the midst of life we are in death. Where can we turn for help? Only to You Lord, who are justly angered by our sins.

All Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

Leader Shut not Your ears to our prayers, but spare us O Lord.

All Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

Leader The Lord enrich you with His grace, and nourish you with His blessing. The Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil. The Lord accept your prayers and forgive you your sins, For the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour; Amen.

Leader Lord, we lay at Your feet

All all that we are, all that we have been and all that we could become.

Leader We come Lord because we can trust You not to reject us. We come
Lord to confide in you our pains and our sorrows, our nagging
doubts and regrets, and our deepest fears.

Open now your hearts and minds to receive God's word.

New Testament Reading Acts 17: 22—31

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said, “ People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship, and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth: and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. For in him we live and move and have our being.

As some of your own poets have said,
“ we are his offspring.”

Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone-

An image made by human design or skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.

All This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading. John 14: 15—21

“ if you love me, keep my commands, and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans;

I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realise that I am in the Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.

All This is the Gospel of Christ,
Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon

PRAYERS

Leader The God we worship is also the Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

All He shares in the depth of each personal sorrow.

Leader He shares in the deepest darkness of pain.

All He shares in the anguished faces of those who are tortured or abused.

Leader He suffers with the hungry, the rejected, the oppressed.
So Lord in our sorrow,

All We cry to You for help.

Leader For the exhausted and the lonely

All For the disabled and the weak,

Leader For the frightened and the slandered,

All For the desperate and the poor,

Leader For the homeless and the bereaved,
Lord in Your mercy, come to their aid.

All May the peace of the Lord be upon those for whom we have prayed for today, upon His world, and upon each of us here today, joined by the Holy Spirit and sharing in this act of worship and thanksgiving, and upon those whom we love.

Leader Lord, help us to remember the amazing power and capacity of Your love for all. It is large enough to take the suffering of every person in every nation and generation. Father, may we lean on that love and allow it to sustain and refresh us.
O Lord, the power of Your love for us is too great for us to measure.

All Lord Jesus Christ, You willingly took our suffering and sins upon Yourself, dying that we may be brought to new life, Lord may we thank You and praise You for ever, both in our words and the way that we live.

Leader Lord remember us when we come into your kingdom, as we pray:

**All Our Father who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
They will be done on earth
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us,
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
The power and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Leader Lord, anoint us to love one another with Your love, sharing one another's burdens and bearing the light of Your hope. Amen.

Blessing and dismissal

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,
fill you with His new life;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you all and all those you love,
Now and for ever. Amen.

Leader Go now in peace, to love and to serve others
 as we serve the Lord and to share the Good News
 of God's saving love for us all.

All in the name of Christ ..Amen.