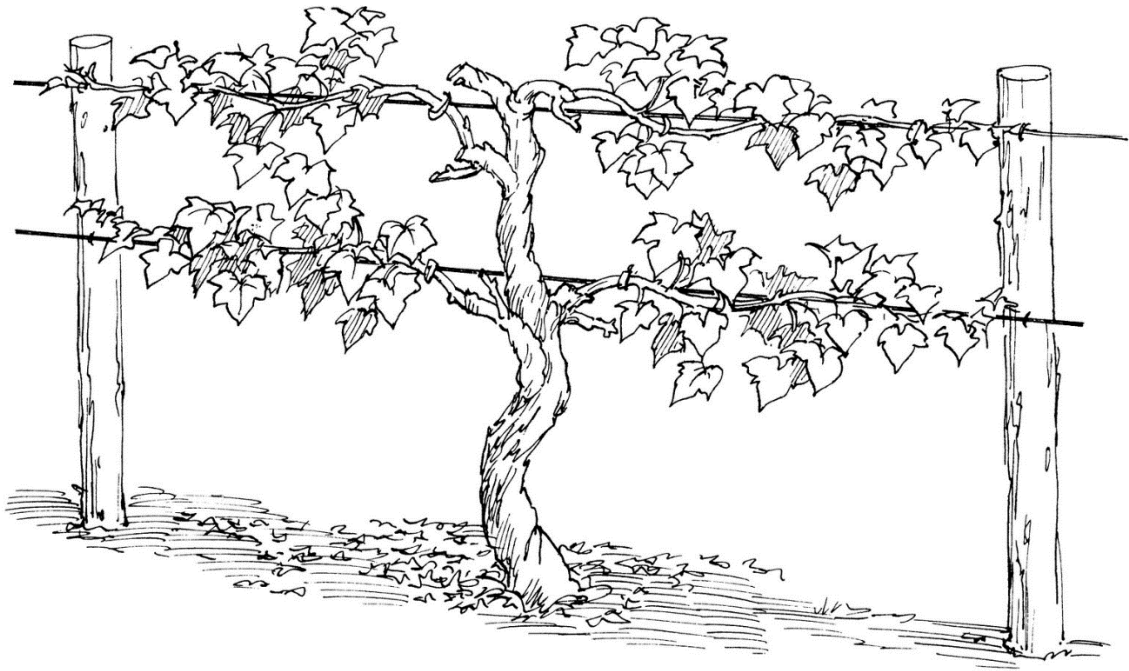


# **St Nicholas Church, Shepperton**



**Parish Eucharist**  
**28th April 2024**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

## 28th APRIL 2024 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

*In the name of the Lord Jesus we welcome you to St Nicholas Shepperton today. It is wonderful that you have chosen to worship here today. For centuries, people have gathered on this site to support each other, to laugh and cry together, to sing and pray and to come before God and be nourished and sustained at the altar. It is our hope that you will leave here today having been given a glimpse of God's kingdom. Please join in where indicated in bold.*

### **Hymn 503**

**O Jesus, I have promised  
To serve Thee to the end;  
Be Thou for ever near me,  
My Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
If thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway  
If Thou wilt be my Guide.**

**O let me feel Thee near me;  
The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
The tempting sounds I hear;  
My foes are ever near me,  
Around me and within;  
But Jesus, draw Thou nearer,  
And shield my soul from sin.**

**O let me hear Thee speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
Above the storms of passion,  
The murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
To hasten, or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
Thou Guardian of my soul.**

**O Jesus, Thou hast promised  
To all who follow Thee  
That where Thou art in glory  
There shall Thy servant be;  
And, Jesus, I have promised  
To serve Thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow  
My Master and my Friend.**

**O let me see Thy footmarks,  
And in them plant mine own;  
My hope to follow duly  
Is in Thy strength alone.  
O guide me, call me, draw me,  
Uphold me to the end;  
And then in heaven receive me,  
My Saviour and my Friend.**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

*Words of Welcome and Introduction*

**Invitation to confession**

My sisters and brothers to prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries let us call to mind our sins:

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that  
we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen**

*The priest pronounces God's forgiveness:*  
Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Gloria**

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on  
earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for  
your glory.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest,  
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.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest,  
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.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.**

## **The Collect**

Risen Christ,  
your wounds declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

*Please sit*

## **First Reading**

A Reading from Genesis 22:1-18

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.' Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?' Abraham said, 'God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.' So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill\* his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham,

Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ He said, ‘Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.’ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place ‘The Lord will provide’; as it is said to this day, ‘On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.’

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, ‘By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.’ to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

### **Second Reading Acts 8 26-40**

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.  
In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

### **Hymn 216**

**God is love: his the care,  
tending each, everywhere.  
God is love, all is there!  
Jesus came to show him,  
that mankind might know him!**

#### **Chorus**

**Sing aloud, loud, loud!  
Sing aloud, loud, loud!  
God is good! God is truth!  
God is beauty! Praise him!**

**None can see God above;  
We can share life and love;  
thus may we Godward move,  
seek him in creation,  
holding every nation.**

*Chorus*

**Jesus lived on the earth;  
Hope and life, brought to birth,  
And affirmed human worth;  
for he came to save us  
by the truth he gave us.**

*Chorus*

**To our Lord praise we sing,  
light and life, friend and king,  
coming down love to bring,  
pattern for our duty,  
showing God in beauty:**

*Chorus*

### **Gospel Reading**

**Jesus we love you, we worship and adore you,  
Glorify your name in all the earth,  
Glorify your name, Glorify your name,  
Glorify your name in all the earth.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 15: 1-8

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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.



Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Glorify your name, Glorify your name,  
Glorify your name in all the earth**

**Sermon – Richard Ghail, Licensed Lay Minister**

**The Creed**

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

We pray with and for the People of God in every place.

Lord hear us

**Lord Graciously hear us**

*At the end of our prayers*

Merciful Father,

**Accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **The Peace**

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

*Let us offer one another a sign of peace.*

## **Hymn 349**

*A collection for the mission and ministry of the parish will be taken during this hymn. Many people give regularly by standing order so do not put a gift into the bag each Sunday, but we hope that everyone will contribute to the life of the church according to their own means. Thank you for your generosity.*

**Jesus Christ is waiting,  
Waiting in the streets;  
No one is his neighbour,  
All alone he eats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus,  
I am lonely too.  
Make me, friend or stranger,  
Fit to wait on you**

**Jesus Christ is raging,  
Raging in the streets,  
Where injustice spirals  
And all hope retreats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus,  
I am angry too.  
In the Kingdom's causes  
Let me rage with you.**

**Jesus Christ is healing,  
Healing in the streets;  
Curing those who suffer,  
Touching those he greets.  
Listen, Lord Jesus,  
I have pity too.  
Let my care be active,  
Healing just like you.**

**Jesus Christ is dancing,  
Dancing in the streets,  
Where each sign of hatred  
He, with love, defeats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus,  
I feel triumph too.  
On suspicion's graveyard  
Let me dance with you.**

**Jesus Christ is calling,  
Calling in the streets,  
"Come and walk faith's tightrope?  
I will guide your feet."  
Listen, Lord Jesus,  
Let my fears be few.  
Walk one step before me;  
I will follow you.**

*The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest;  
make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

**Amen.**

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The priest prays the Eucharistic prayer and we join together to sing ..*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord**

**God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes**

**in the name of the Lord**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

*Please sit or kneel*

*The priest recalls the Last Supper....*

Jesus Christ is Lord

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection**

**you have set us free.**

**You are the saviour of the world.**

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

As our Saviour taught us, 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.  
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.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

### **Agnus Dei**

*We all join together to sing:*

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world  
Have mercy on us  
Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world  
Have mercy on us  
Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world  
Grant us peace**

### **Giving of Communion**

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*(A prayer for personal and silent use before receiving communion)*

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.

*The president and people receive communion.*

*Authorized words of distribution are used and the communicant replies* **Amen.**

### **Anthem by Choir:**

## **Hymn 674**

**This is my body, broken for you,  
bringing you wholeness, making you free.  
Take it and eat it, and when you do,  
do it in love for me.**

**This is my blood poured out for you,  
bringing forgiveness, making you free.  
Take it and drink it, and when you do,  
do it in love for me.**

**Back to my Father soon I shall go.  
Do not forget me; then you will see  
I am still with you, and you will know  
you're very close to me.**

**Filled with my Spirit, how you will grow!  
you are my branches; I am the tree.  
If you are faithful, others will know  
you are alive in me.**

**Love one another - I have loved you,  
and I have shown you how to be free;  
serve one another, and when you do,  
do it in love for me.**

## **Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept.*

**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. **Amen.****

*We join together to say*

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**NOTICES BEFORE THE FINAL HYMN.**

**Hymn 332**

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,**

**I have heard my people cry.**

**All who dwell in dark and sin**

**my hand will save.**

**I, who made the stars of night,**

**I will make their darkness bright.**

**Who will bear my light to them?**

**Whom shall I send?**

***Chorus Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?***

***I have heard you calling in the night.***

***I will go, Lord, if you lead me.***

***I will hold your people in my heart.***

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,**

**I have borne my people's pain.**

**I have wept for love of them.**

**They turn away.**

**I will break their hearts of stone,**

**give them hearts for love alone.**

**I will speak my word to them.**

**Whom shall I send?**

***Chorus***

**I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will send the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?  
Chorus**

*Please remain standing for the final Blessing*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### **Blessing**

God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,  
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life. **Amen.**

God the Son, who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious  
victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the  
risen Lord, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace. **Amen.**

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

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**You are invited to join us for coffee in the Parish  
Centre after this service.**