

Service for Week May 6th-12th 6th
Sunday of Easter Ascension Day 9th
May by Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ
You were brought low,
Yet you are above all and beyond all.
You were fully human,
Yet you are divine.
You were taken into heaven,
Yet you are here by our side.
And we can know you as a friend.
So, with all people in every age,
We bow before you and praise you as
the risen Christ.
The King of kings and Lord of all,
To the glory of God the Father

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,

.....Amen

Bible Reading Jn 17:6-19

"I have revealed you to those whom
you gave me out of the world. They
were yours; you gave them to me and
they have obeyed your word.
Now they know that everything you
have given me comes from you. For I
gave them the words you gave me and
they accepted them. They knew with
certainty that I came from you, and
they believed that you sent me.

I pray for them. I am not praying for
the world, but for those you have
given me, for they are yours. All I have
is yours, and all you have is mine. And
glory has come to me through them. I
will remain in the world no longer, but

they are still in the world, and I am
coming to you. Holy Father, protect
them by the power of your name—the
name you gave me—so that they may
be one as we are one.

While I was with them, I protected
them and kept them safe by that name
you gave me. None has been lost
except the one doomed to destruction
so that Scripture would be fulfilled. "I
am coming to you now, but I say these
things while I am still in the world, so
that they may have the full measure of
my joy within them. I have given them
your word and the world has hated
them, for they are not of the world any
more than I am of the world. My
prayer is not that you take them out of
the world but that you protect them
from the evil one.

They are not of the world, even as I
am not of it. Sanctify them by the
truth; your word is truth. As you sent
me into the world, I have sent them
into the world. For them I sanctify
myself, that they too may be truly
sanctified.

Holy words, Holy wisdom,

Thanks be to God

Amen

Reflection

On Thursday this week we remember
the Ascension of Jesus. By ascension
we mean the time when Jesus – after
coming back and appearing to his
disciples and followers, he then returns
to be with God.



In Luke's gospel (Lk 24:51) we read 'While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.'

But before Jesus leaves them, he offers a prayer for his followers and disciples as we heard in our reading. This was a prayer for them –but it is also a prayer for us all today.

This is Jesus's prayer – He says Holy Father, protect them —so that they may be one as we are one. While I was here, I protected them – but now I am to return to you I ask you to protect them. While I was here I taught them about you – but people rejected them –'the world hated them.' Because Jesus says - they are not of the world as I am not of the world.

What Jesus says there is I think the essence of what being a Christian is all about. Because Jesus in what he taught and the way he lived, went against, in so many ways what was accepted as normal in that society. He had compassion to help and to heal poor and the outcast. He befriended tax collectors and those on the edge of society. He did not discriminate against people of different races or cultures. He got angry at those exploiting their position and turned the tables over in

the temple. He was in the world but not of this world.

In the same way if we live true to Christian or Christ like principles we should also be– in the world but not of this world – How do we do this? By imitating in some small way Christ's actions. We do this by caring for one another, by not discriminating against those different from us. You may be fortunate to live in a place where there are people from different backgrounds, culture, and religion. Fortunate because we have the opportunity to make them feel not only welcome but accepted and the same as us. It is also right to get angry and feel it –even though we may not ourselves be able to do much about it , when we hear about injustice in our world.

So, we do not have to accept some of the things that happen in our world – we can stand apart from the evil and injustice we see in the world, and try to be more like Christ in the way we live – we can as Jesus was – 'in the world but not of this world.' In living like this Jesus' prayer is that we protect one another from evil and he says that God will protect us. **Amen**

Closing prayer – Broaden my vision Lord, deepen my faith, kindle my imagination, that I may glimpse your glory, and work faithfully for your kingdom. **Amen**