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| Diocese - Star only logo BCMYK | **The Diocese in Europe**  |

**A SERVICE FOR THE COMMISSIONING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

**President**

**Bishop Robert Innes**

**Preacher**

**Bishop David Hamid**

*Before the Feast of Pentecost*

*26th May, 2020*

*1800CET****via Zoom (please be online by 1750)***

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*Congregation members are asked to provide a candle for this service*

O r d e r o f S e r v i c e

**The Greeting**

*Please respond by saying the words in bold. However, because many people speaking at the same time doesn’t work in zoom, please keep yourself on mute during the service, and unmute yourself if you are doing one of the readings or prayers. At the end of the service, we will unmute everybody so that people can speak to each other.*

*Mary Talbot, Churchwarden at Holy Trinity, Geneva, will respond audibly throughout the service, but please join in where you are across the Diocese.*

*Bishop* Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

*All*   **And also with you.**

*Bishop* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*All*    **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**Introduction**

*The Bishop introduces the service*

Jesus Christ, whom we worship, is our crucified, risen and ascended Lord

and we have walked with him through his journey of love.

We have faced the agony of his suffering and death on a cross.

We have rejoiced at his bursting free from the bonds of death.

We have enjoyed his risen presence with us

and his revelation of himself through the breaking of bread.

We have seen his return to the throne before which every knee shall bow

and every tongue confess that this Jesus is Lord.

And now, with the followers of his own time,

we await the coming of the promised Holy Spirit, his gift to his people,

through whom we make Christ known to the world.

*Each member of the congregation has a candle which is now lit to signify the risen light of Christ present in the world and in our lives.*

**Blessing of Light**

Blessed are you, sovereign God, overflowing in love.

With Pentecost dawns the age of the Spirit.

Now the flame of heaven rests on every believer.

Strong and weak, women and men tell out your word;

the young receive visions, the old receive dreams.

With the new wine of the Spirit

they proclaim your reign of love.

Amid the birth pangs of the new creation

the way of light is made known.

Source of freedom, giver of life,

blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*All*    **Blessed be God for ever.**

**Responsory**

As we wait in silence,

*All*    **fill us with your Spirit.**

As we listen to your word,

*All*    **fill us with your Spirit.**

As we worship you in majesty,

*All*    **fill us with your Spirit.**

As we long for your refreshing,

*All*   **fill us with your Spirit.**

As we long for your renewing,

*All*   **fill us with your Spirit.**

As we long for your equipping,

*All*    **fill us with your Spirit.**

As we long for your empowering,

*All*   **fill us with your Spirit.**

*Silence is kept.*

**The Pentecost Reading**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles* *2.1-13*

*Read by Madeleine Resuhr, Churchwarden at St. Thomas à Becket, Hamburg*

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’ All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’

*Reader* The Lord is here.

*All*    **His Spirit is with us.**

**Gloria in Excelsis**

*All*    **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.**

**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.**

**The Collect**

Let us pray that the Spirit will work through our lives

to bring Christ to the world.

*Silence is kept.*

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,

ignite in us your holy fire;

strengthen your children with the gift of faith,

revive your Church with the breath of love,

and renew the face of the earth,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Reading**

*A reading from Ezekiel 34. 11-16*

*Read by John Errey, Reader at St. Andrew’s, Pau, France*

**Ezekiel 34.11-16**

11 For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. 12As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. 16I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*    **Thanks be to God.**

**Canticle**

*All*    **The Spirit of God fills the whole world. Alleluia.**

1    I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries.

2    I will sprinkle clean water upon you,

and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses.

3    A new heart I will give you, and put a new spirit within you,

4    And I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

5    You shall be my people, and I will be your God.

*Ezekiel 36.24-26,28b*

*All*    **The Spirit of God fills the whole world. Alleluia.**

**Gospel**

*The Gospel according to Matthew 6.25-33*

*Read by Lis Watkins, Lay Vice Chair of the Italy and Malta Archdeaconry Synod and Treasurer at The Church of the Holy Ghost, Genoa*

Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people

and kindle in them the fire of your love.

*All*    **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

*All*    **Glory to you, O Lord.**

25 ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? 28And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, 29yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. 30But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” 32For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All*    **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

*Rt. Rev’d David Hamid*

**Prayers of Intercession**

*Led by Joan Berry, Archdeaconry Secretary, Gibraltar*

We pray for God to fill us with his Spirit.

Generous God, we thank you for the *power* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.

Lord, come to bless us

*All*    **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *wisdom* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to make us wise to understand your will.

Lord, come to bless us

*All* **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *peace* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to keep us confident of your love wherever you call us.

Lord, come to bless us

*All*   a**nd fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *healing* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness

where there is division, sickness and sorrow.

Lord, come to bless us

*All* **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *gifts* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to equip us for the work which you have given us.

Lord, come to bless us

*All*    **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *fruit* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus.

Lord, come to bless us

*All*    **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *breath* of your Holy Spirit,

given us by the risen Lord.

We ask you to keep the whole Church, living and departed,

in the joy of eternal life.

Lord, come to bless us

*All*    **and fill us with your Spirit.**

Generous God,

you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah at the river Jordan,

and upon the disciples in the upper room:

in your mercy fill us with your Spirit,

*All*    **hear our prayer,**

**and make us one in heart and mind**

**to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

*Bishop* Being made one by the power of the Spirit,

as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

*All*    **Our Father in heaven …**

**Commission**

*Andrew Caspari, our Chief Operating Officer for the Diocese, will respond audibly during the Commission on behalf of us all but please join in with the responses where you are across the Diocese*

*Bishop* For fifty days we have celebrated the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over the powers of sin and death. We have proclaimed God’s mighty acts and we have prayed that the power that was at work when God raised Jesus from the dead might be at work in us.

As part of God’s Church here in Europe, I call upon you to live out what you proclaim.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, will you dare to walk into God’s future, trusting him to be your guide?

*All*    **By the Spirit’s power, we will.**

Will you dare to embrace each other and grow together in love?

*All*    **We will.**

Will you dare to share your riches in common and minister to each other in need?

*All*    **We will.**

Will you dare to give yourself in the service of others, building up the body of Christ in unity and love.

*All*    **We will.**

Will you dare to carry the light of Christ into the world’s dark places?

*All*    **We will.**

*The candles we have lit have reminded us of that one true Light, Jesus Christ, risen from the dead. Now as we too are given the gift of God’s Holy Spirit, that same Light dwells forever in our hearts and lives.*

*We now live the life that Jesus calls us to in the world He has given us.*

*Please extinguish you candle.*

**Conclusion**

*Bishop* The Lord is here.

*All*    **His Spirit is with us.**

Today we have remembered the coming of God’s power on the disciples and we invite that same Spirit to drive us out into the wild places of the world.

*The Bishop blesses the people, saying*

May the Spirit, who hovered over the waters when the world was created,

breathe into you the life he gives.

*All*   **Amen.**

May the Spirit, who overshadowed the Virgin when the eternal Son came among us, make you joyful in the service of the Lord.

*All*    **Amen.**

May the Spirit, who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost,

bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

*All*    **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

*All*    **Amen.**

*The Bishop says*

Filled with the Spirit’s power,

go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

*All*    **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*Following this service you are invited to stay on line, make a cup of coffee/tea, and take part in a question and answer session with our Bishops and Diocesan Officers including the Chief Operating Officer, Diocesan Registrar, Head of Communications and Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser*

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