

The Anglican Parish of  
St. Peter and St. Paul  
May 17<sup>th</sup> 2026  
Home Church Connections Service  
Celebration of Ascension Sunday



“Nourishing faith and community”

Words of Welcome

## The Gathering of the Community

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

May his grace and peace be with you.

**May he fill our hearts with joy.**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**He gave us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.**

Rejoice, then, even in your distress.

**We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.**

God has claimed us as his own.

**He called us from our darkness into the light of his day.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Let us pray,

Almighty God, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven. Mercifully give us faith to know that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Proclamation of the Word

## First Reading: Acts 1:6-14

A reading from the book of Acts.

*So when [the apostles] had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'*

*Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered;  
**let those who hate him flee before him.**  
As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;  
**as wax melts before the fire,**  
**let the wicked perish before God.**  
But let the righteous be joyful;  
**let them exult before God;**  
**let them be jubilant with joy.**

Sing to God, sing praises to his name;  
**lift up a song to him who rides upon the**  
**clouds—**  
his name is the Lord—  
**be exultant before him.**

Father of orphans and protector of widows  
**is God in his holy habitation.**  
God gives the desolate a home to live in;  
**he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,**  
**but the rebellious live in a parched land.**

O God, when you went out before your people,  
**when you marched through the wilderness,**  
the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain  
**at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,**  
**at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;  
**you restored your heritage when it languished;**  
your flock found a dwelling in it;  
**in your goodness, O God, you provided for  
the needy.**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

*Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.*

*Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: John 17:1-11

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

*After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.*

*'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am*

*no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.*

The Gospel of Christ  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon *The Rev Gail Rodger*  
Announcements

Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism as we say

**I believe in God, The Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People  
The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

### The Lord's Prayer

And now as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy 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.**

### Doxology

Glory to God,  
**whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.**  
**Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### The Blessing

The blessing of the Holy Trinity; the loving Creator, who is the source of all being, of Jesus Christ who is the love incarnate in the world, and the ever present Holy Spirit, hold you and surround you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## Weekly Cycles of Prayer

**In the world wide communion**, we pray for The Church of Bangladesh; for our Primate, Bishop Shane Parker; for Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Diocese of Caledonia - Bishop David Lehmann; for our own bishop, Anna Greenwood-Lee, and for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

**In our region**, we pray for St Barnabas, The Rev. Dr. Travis O'Brian.

**In our parish** we pray for: Barbara Anne Holt, Barbara Hooper, Graham & Licette How, Judy Ingram, Fay & Roy Johnson, Fred King, Rhonda Koch, and Rob Bagley & Teresa Krause.

**In our community** we pray for the Victoria Native Friendship Centre. For the month of May, we pray for the ministry of St. Peter & St. Paul to Selkirk Seniors Village.

If you are visiting St. Peter and St. Paul, welcome!

We welcome saints, seekers and sinners as we live into a life in Christ, learning about and from one another as we worship God together. Christ binds us together in love through our diversity. If you are comfortable, please give us your name and address so we can add you to our weekly prayer list. We are looking forward to getting to know you better.

## Territorial Acknowledgement

We worship on the traditional lands of the Esquimalt, Songhees and other Nations of the Salish and Coast Salish Peoples. We, who came from many lands to join the line of those worshipping here, commit our Church to continue the journey of truth and reconciliation with our First Nations' neighbours.

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ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL  
ESQUIMALT

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