

**The Benefice of All Saints', Highbrook
& St Margaret of Antioch, West Hoathly**

Prayers and Readings for Easter 6 – Sunday 10th May 2026

The Collect

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

Genesis 8:20-9:17

20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt-offerings on the altar. 21 And when the Lord smelt the pleasing odour, the Lord said in his heart, 'I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done.

22 As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night,
shall not cease.'

9 God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. 2 The fear and dread of you shall rest on every animal of the earth, and on every bird of the air, on everything that creeps on the

ground, and on all the fish of the sea; into your hand they are delivered. 3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you; and just as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. 4 Only, you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. 5 For your own lifeblood I will surely require a reckoning: from every animal I will require it and from human beings, each one for the blood of another, I will require a reckoning for human life.

6 Whoever sheds the blood of a human,
by a human shall that person's blood be shed;
for in his own image

God made humankind.

7 And you, be fruitful and multiply, abound on the earth and multiply in it.' 8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. 11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' 12 God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' 17 God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Psalm 66.7 – end

7 Bless our God, O you peoples; •
make the voice of his praise to be heard,
8 Who holds our souls in life •

- and suffers not our feet to slip.
- 9 For you, O God, have proved us; •
you have tried us as silver is tried.
- 10 You brought us into the snare; •
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
- 11 You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water; •
but you brought us out into a place of liberty.
- 12 I will come into your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows, •
which my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
- 13 I will offer you fat burnt sacrifices
with the smoke of rams; •
I will sacrifice oxen and goats.
- 14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, •
and I will tell you what he has done for my soul.
- 15 I called out to him with my mouth •
and his praise was on my tongue.
- 16 If I had nursed evil in my heart, •
the Lord would not have heard me,
- 17 But in truth God has heard me; •
he has heeded the voice of my prayer.
- 18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, •
nor withheld his loving mercy from me.

Acts 17:22-31

22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship

as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26 From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27 so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28 For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said,

“For we too are his offspring.”

29 Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

The Gospel

John 14.15-21

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,

whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:

may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness,

through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen