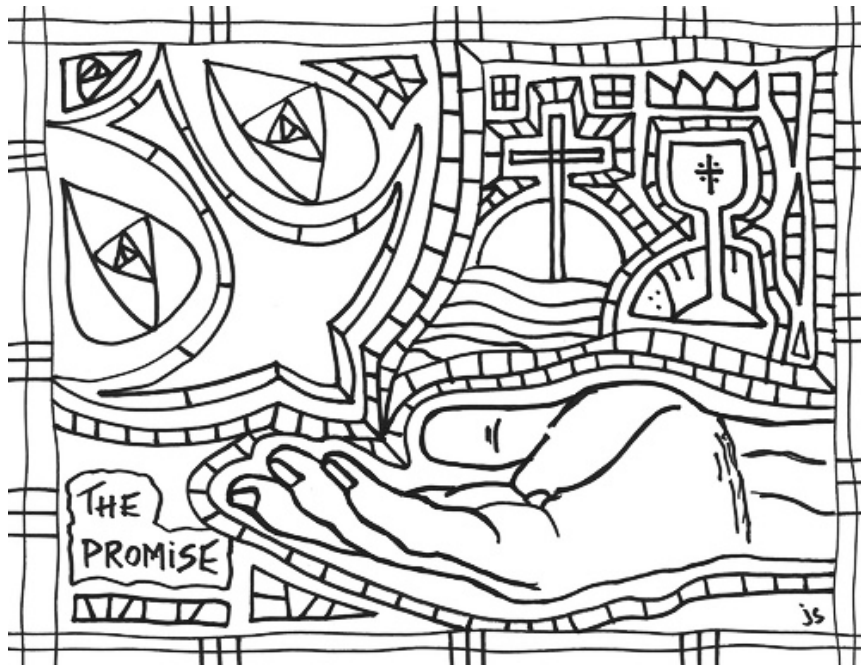


Service of the Word

6th Sunday of Easter

May 10th, 2026



Grac[†]ε
GRONINGEN ANGLICAN CHURCH

GATHERING

Let us worship God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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

This is the day which the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

HYMN Great is thy Faithfulness Words T Chisholm; Music WM Runyan arr R Simpson

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father

There is no shadow of turning with Thee

Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not

As thou hast been, thou for ever will be:

Refrain Great is thy faithfulness / Great is thy faithfulness

Morning by morning new mercies I see

All I have needed thy hand hath provided

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest

Sun, moon and stars in their courses above

Join with all nature in manifold witness

To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love:

Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth

Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow

Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

Opening Prayer

Faithful one, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence is kept and then the Collect (Prayer for the Day), is prayed.

Collect Prayer (Sixth Sunday of Easter)

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.**

Saying Sorry to God

In baptism we died with Christ, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, we might walk in newness of life. Let us receive new life in him as we confess our sins in penitence and faith. *cf Romans 6.4*

Like Mary at the empty tomb, we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Like the disciples behind locked doors, we are afraid to be seen as your followers.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution.

SONG As the deer pants for the water Words & Music: Martin Nystrom

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

Chorus You alone are my strength and shield,
 to you alone may my spirit yield.
 You alone are my heart's desire
 And I long to worship you.

I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye. *Chorus*
You're my friend and you are my brother, even though you are a king.
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything.

Chorus

Acts Reading Acts 17:22-31 (NIV)

Paul speaks in Athens

17:²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said:
'People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious.

²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of
worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN
GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship – and this
is what I am going to proclaim to you. ²⁴ 'The God who made the
world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and
does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not
served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he
himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit
the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in
history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that
they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him,
though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ "For in him we live and
move and have our being." As some of your own poets have said,
"We are his offspring." ²⁹ 'Therefore since we are God's offspring,

we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone – an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.'

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading 1 Peter 3:13-22 (NIV) *Suffering for doing good*

¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. 'Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.' ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits – ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolises baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience towards God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

SONG Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God Words & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
Breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord
To renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me;
Give me faith for what I cannot see;
Give me passion for Your purity.
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within;
May Your joy be seen in all I do—
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin
In each thought and deed and attitude,
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace.
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
Giving life to all that God has made,
Show Your power once again on earth;
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise.
Lead us on the road of sacrifice
That in unity the face of Christ
Will be clear for all the world to see.

Gospel Reading John 14:15-21 (NIV) *Jesus promises the Holy Spirit*
14:¹⁵ 'If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the
Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be
with you for ever – ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept
him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know
him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you
as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not
see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also
will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and
you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands
and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me
will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show
myself to them.'

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

SONG The Prayer of St Patrick Words & Music: Rend Collective

I arise today by the mighty strength / Of the blessed Trinity
For the three in one Father, Spirit, Son
Bind my heart with bravery
You're my breastplate and my shield

Chorus Christ before me / Christ behind me
Christ within me / All around me
You're the only armour that my soul will ever need
Jesus You're my victory / You're my everything
Amen / Amen

I can face this day by the matchless power
Of the cross and empty grave
For the spirit of resurrecting love / Is alive in me today
You're alive in me today *Chorus*

Bridge My pilot / My captain / My guide and my guardian
Blessed be Your name
My wisdom / My wonder / My Father forevermore
Blessed be Your name

Chorus

Affirmation of Faith

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, 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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

INTERCESSIONS

Prayers are offered, and this response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

The prayers may end with:

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

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour has 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.**

NOTICES

HYMN Be thou my vision Words: ME Byrne & EH Hull, Music: Trad Irish

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee, and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I thy true heir;
Thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.

Be Thou my breastplate my sword for the fight
Be Thou my armour, and be Thou my might
Thou my soul's shelter Thou my high tower
Raise Thou me heavenwards O power of my power

Riches I heed not, nor all the world's praise,
Thou mine inheritance, through all my days;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, when battle is done
Grant heaven's joy to me, O bright heaven's sun
Christ of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my vision O ruler of all

SHARING THE GRACE and GOING OUT TO SERVE

All: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen

Let us bless the Lord: **thanks be to God.**
Blessing, honour and glory be yours, here and
everywhere, now and for ever. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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Morning worship: **2nd Sundays, Morning Prayer/Service of the Word at 10:30 am;**
 4th Sundays (Holy Communion) at 10:30 am,
all at **St Maarten-langs-de-weg (Oud Katholieke Kerk), Witte de Withstraat, 2, Groningen.**

Web-site: <http://gracechurchgroningen.com/>; Facebook (Grace Church Groningen).
Chaplain: the Ven Sam Van Leer, Mon-Wed-Fri, chaplaingracechurchgn@gmail.com or 050 785 0703.

Safeguarding Officer: Debbie Kramer; gracesafeguarding@gmail.com
Safeguarding in Grace Church: <https://gracechurchgroningen.com/caring/safeguarding/>
Diocese: <https://www.europe.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding-diocese-europe>

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Our worship services and ministry in Groningen are made possible by people voluntarily offering their time, talents and financial support.

As God has blessed us, so we thank Him by giving accordingly. To help support Grace Church, there is an opportunity to put an offering in the collection basket during the service or near the exit afterwards.

It is also possible to donate by electronic transfer to
Grace Church (Groningen Anglican Church),
account: NL 67 RABO 03012946 23. Or with this QR code:



Grace Church Forthcoming Services & Activities:

- **Sunday 24 May, 10:30:** Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.
- **Sunday 14 June, 10:30:** Grace Service of the Word, Old Catholic Church.
- **Sunday 28 June, 10:30:** Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.
- **Summer Break (July).**

Movie Nights (at 19:30 at SKLO Bldg, Kraneweg 33, Groningen): dates t.b.a.

For info on Home Groups, Bible Study gatherings & other events, please do ask us!