

Stainton with Hemlington, Hilton, and Brookfield  
**Easter 7, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021**  
**Sunday after Ascension**

**Welcome to worship at home-**

**Thought for the day**

Although hidden from our sight, Jesus lives forever and with him we can live the resurrection life even while we are on earth. *Susan Sayer*

**COLLECT**

O God the King of glory,  
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.**  
*ch1.15-17, 21-26*

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people). He said, 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus –for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us – one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

**Psalm 1**

**Happy are they who trust in the Lord.**

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on his law day and night.

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

4 It is not so with the wicked: they are like chaff which the wind blows away;

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgement comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed.

**A reading from the first letter of John.**

*ch1 John 5.9-13*

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

**Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.**

*ch17.6-19*

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed: 'Father, 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. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.'

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Everlasting God Your son Jesus' Ascension into heaven marked the completion of the Easter Mystery. May we live life in the same way as his disciples did at that time, knowing no sense of abandonment but patiently waiting for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen  
Holy God we thank you for our church and her leaders; locally in our parish

and plurality and throughout the Anglican Communion in the world. We pray too for our relationships with other Christian communities. May all who worship you Lord God remember that in our various ways we are all members of your family of faith.

Creator God help the people of your world make the best use of science and technology in order to achieve a better life on this planet. Protect people of third world countries from being exploited and underpaid for their labour just so that we can enjoy cheap luxury goods at their expense. We especially pray for the fair distribution of the Coronavirus vaccine to the whole needy world.

Father God your Son remained with his disciples after his resurrection, teaching them to love all people as neighbours. Thank you for our families, friends and fellow Christians and for the people with whom we work or share our daily lives. We pray for those who are lonely, those isolated because of age or ill-health, and those who find it difficult to make friends or be accepted.

Loving God we remember today those who are sick, sad or lonely and those who are brave and patient when things are going wrong. We pray that they may be aware of your comforting

presence and know that in your hands they are safe and loved.

Heavenly Father, we raise before you all who have died and who are now with your ascended Son Jesus Christ. We pray for those who have recently died, for their resurrection into Your kingdom and for those whose anniversary falls at this time.

Everlasting God open our eyes to see You acting in our lives and our hearts to understand not only what you do for us but what you call us to do to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.**

The history of Stainton Church as we know it began in the 7<sup>th</sup> century when the Christianisation of AngloSaxon England was at its zenith. The first York Minster, a small wooden structure, was built and Ripon Minster and MonkWearmouth too. And a well to do young lady died and was buried with her jewel in what is now the Stainton churchyard. The jewel is in the Dorman Museum. Was there a church building here?. We don't know. It might have been a small wooden church that has left no trace.

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