



Morning Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 25th April 2021 at 10.00 (call in from 9.45)

To join by phone call 0330 336 0036 and use PIN 586191

To join this service by Zoom please email office@stpeterstiverton.org.uk.

Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

In your resurrection, O Christ,

All **Let heaven and earth rejoice.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

Safe in the knowledge that we are loved,
we come to the Good Shepherd
seeking succour for our souls.

Let not the wolf snatch our thoughts and scatter them,
for our minds belong to Jesus,
and our hearts are open to him.

All **Amen.**

Easter Anthems

¹ Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us:

All **So let us celebrate the feast,**

² Not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:

All **But with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

1 Corinthians 5: 7b – 8

³ Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:

All **Death has no more dominion over him.**

⁴ In dying he died to sin once for all:

All **In living he lives to God.**

⁵ See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:

All **And alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Romans 6: 9 – 11

⁶ Christ has been raised from the dead:

All **The first fruits of those who sleep.**

⁷ For as by man came death:

All **By man has come also the resurrection of the dead;**

⁸ For as in Adam all die:

All **Even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**

1 Corinthians 15: 20 – 22

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

All **As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Prayer

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us.

Let us pray with one heart and mind.

Faithful God,

Let your word be the treasure of our hearts,

that we may delight in your truth

and walk in the glorious liberty

of your Son Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

Word of God

1 John 3: 16 – 24

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and

sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be

in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we

know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.
²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

All ² **He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,**

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

All ⁴ **Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

All **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever more shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life – only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

We pause to reflect on God's Word

Prayers of Intercession

Gracious God, it is our privilege to pray for your world and your people. We pray for those who are in the news today, willingly or not.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for our Church community, our life together in Christ, and our witness to the world.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for those who we've met or talked to, who have some important issue to face. Especially we pray for dilemmas faced by our own family and friends.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for those coping with stress at work, at home, or in life generally – feeling that the world is a dark place. Especially we pray for those who are unwell...

and those who have recently been bereaved...

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for those who are waiting for something important – a birth, a job, a visit, a hospital appointment, a word of forgiveness. Especially we pray for those we know who are longing for love and friendship, and a way out of loneliness.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Father, Good Shepherd to us all, every person we have mentioned in our hearts is known and loved by you. We entrust them to you in confidence and hope, knowing that you will use our prayers for their healing and well-being, for we ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who is alive forever with you and the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

All **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.**

Blessing

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.

All **Amen.**

God the Son,
who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

All **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,
whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst you and remain with you
this day and always

All **Amen.**

**All Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps:
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

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What's On This Week?

Wed 28th April at 10.30 am: Coffee Morning Online

To join the coffee morning on Zoom, please email office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org or office@stpeterstiverton.org.uk for details.

Easter Online and Easter Trail

Our online celebration of Easter and the video of the Exe Valley Easter Trail both remain available on the Exe Valley Mission Community website <https://www.exevalleychurches.org>. Click on *Resources* and then on *Videos*. Our thanks go to Stephen Roche and all who contributed.

Giving

To give to the Exe Valley Mission Community by BACS, please use account number 54731690 and sort code 60-21-27. Please use the reference *EVMC services*.

To give to St Peter's Church, please go to www.stpeterstiverton.org.uk and follow the donations link on the front page of the website.

Thank you for your support. It is much appreciated.