**Morning Prayer for the Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Sunday 28th April 2024 at 9.30 (call in from 9.15)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85649430168?pwd=QzFzNytXM01TQTc5cTROaHc2aElvZz09

Meeting ID: 856 4943 0168

Passcode: 336782

**Telephone instructions:**

\* Dial: 0131 460 1196  
  
\* You are then welcomed to Zoom and asked to type in the meeting ID ie. 856 4943 0168  
  
\* If the next instruction is to add your personal ID just press # to ignore  
  
\* When passcode requested type numbers i.e. 336782 plus #.  
  
\* At this point you should be admitted to the call.

**Preparation**

O Lord, open our lips

*All* **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

In your resurrection, O Christ,

*All* **let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.**

A black and white drawing of a cross and a sun

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Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
As once you ransomed your people from Egypt  
and led them to freedom in the promised land,  
so now you have delivered us from the dominion of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your risen Son.  
May we, the first fruits of your new creation,  
rejoice in this new day you have made,  
and praise you for your mighty acts.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

*Easter Anthems*

1Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us:

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

2not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:

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

*1 Corinthians 5.7b, 8*

3Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:

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

4In dying he died to sin once for all:

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

5See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:

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

*Romans 6.9–11*

6Christ has been raised from the dead:

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

7For as by man came death:

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

8for 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.

Risen Christ,

you filled your disciples

with boldness and fresh hope:

strengthen us to proclaim your risen life

and fill us with your peace,

to the glory of God the Father.

*All* **Amen.**

**The Word of God**

*First reading: Acts 8.26-40*

26Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the southto the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) 27So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” 30So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
    and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
        so he does not open his mouth.  
33In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
    Who can describe his generation?  
        For his life is taken away from the earth.”

34The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

36As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?”  38He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philipbaptized him. 39When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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*Psalmody: Psalm 22.24-30*

*All* **All the ends of the earth shall turn to you, O Lord.**

24My praise is of him in the great assembly,

I will perform my vows

in the presence of those who worship him.

25The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the Lord shall praise him:

‘May your heart live for ever!’

*All* **All the ends of the earth shall turn to you, O Lord.**

26All the ends of the earth

shall remember and turn to the Lord,

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27For kingship belongs to the Lord;

he rules over the nations.

*All* **All the ends of the earth shall turn to you, O Lord.**

28To him alone all who sleep in the earth

bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him;

they shall be known as the Lord’s for ever.

30They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn

the saving deeds that he has done.

*All* **All the ends of the earth shall turn to you, O Lord.**

*All* **Glory to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Second reading: John 15.1-8*

Jesus said, 1“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 2He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunesto make it bear more fruit. 3You have already been cleansedby the word that I have spoken to you. 4Abide in me as I abide in you.

Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 6Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

7If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and becomemy disciples.’

*We pause to reflect on God’s word.*

**Prayers**

On this day that the Lord has made,  
let us pray for the people he has redeemed;

and for the whole people of God,

that they may proclaim the risen Lord in word and deed.

Lord, hear us.

*All* **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray that we may live as those who believe

in the triumph of the cross.

We pray for all who live in despair and darkness

and the fear of death

that they may find the hope and light of Christ.   
Lord, hear us.

*All* **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray that all people may receive

the good news of Christ’s victory:

We pray for prisoners and captives,

and all who face an uncertain future.

Lord, hear us.

*All* **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray that all born to new life in the waters of baptism  
may know the power of the resurrection,

and grow into the fullness of their calling in Christ.

Lord, hear us.

*All* **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray that all who suffer pain and anguish  
may find healing and peace in the wounds of Christ.

We pray especially for …

Lord, hear us.

*All* **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray that in the undying love of Christ  
we may be united with all who have died in the faith of Christ. We give thanks especially for the lives of …

Lord, hear us.

*All* **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We commend this world,

in which Christ rose from the dead,  
to the mercy and protection of God this day. **Amen.**

*The Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ  
have overcome death

and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before us  
you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

A black and white drawing of a cave

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*The Lord’s Prayer*

Rejoicing in God’s new creation,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

*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.**

**The Conclusion**

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.

*All* **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

*All* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

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***Future events***

**9 May Thursday 2024 Ascension Day Holy Communion**

6.30pm Ascension Day Service at Loxbeare with Steph. Everyone welcome.

**Exe Valley Lunches 12.30- 2.30pm**

Thursday 9 May at The Beeches Templeton

Thursday 13 June A Trip to Knightshayes Court

Contact the Church Office to book a place. Tel: 01884 250417 or email: office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org

**Bible Study Group**

Looking at the Letter to the Hebrews

The next meeting will be held at Chapel House, Oakford Monday May 6th at 2.30pm If you would like to come please let me know so that there are the right number of handouts. Many thanks. Tim Gorringe [t.j.gorringe@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:t.j.gorringe@exeter.ac.uk)

**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](http://www.stpeterstiverton.org.uk) and follow the donations link on the front page of the website.

Thank you for your support. It is very much appreciated.