**Morning Prayer for The Fifth Sunday of Lent** (*Passiontide begins*)

**Sunday 6 April 2025 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:**

A picture containing text, linedrawing

Description automatically generated\* 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.**

Let your ways be known upon earth,

*All* **your saving power among the nations.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,

to you be praise and glory for ever.

As a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief

your only Son was lifted up

that he might draw the whole world to himself.

May we walk this day in the way of the cross

and always be ready to share its weight,

declaring your love for all the world.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

**A prayer of confession**

Father, we are sorry for taking our eyes off you and yearning for worldly riches.  
Forgive us for losing sight of your grace.  
Jesus, we are sorry for investing in things that are not of you, believing and valuing worldly opinions and aspirations instead.  
We’re sorry for taking our eyes off you and moving the goalposts.  
We’re sorry for attempting to hide things from you.  
We know it is futile trying to be something we’re not, as you know us inside out.  
You know the real us. You know our passions and what we truly value. And you accept us just as we are.  
Holy Spirit, help us to put away everything that is not good for us, that works to take us further from you.  
**Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forgive us and refresh us.**  
**Enable us to put all aside for you, and to focus on getting to know you better and mining your riches.**  
**Amen.**

**Assurance of forgiveness**

Salvation is ours through faith in Jesus.  
 Through him our sins are forgiven.  
 Our past is behind us. We walk step-by-step  
 in glorious freedom with Jesus, our Saviour.  
 **Amen.**

*A Song of Lamentation*

1 Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?

Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,

2 Which was brought upon me,

which the Lord inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.

3 For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears;

for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my courage.

4 Remember my affliction and my bitterness,

the wormwood and the gall!

5 But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

6 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,

his mercies never come to an end;

7 They are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness.

8 ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul,

‘therefore I will hope in him.’

9 The Lord is good to those who wait for him,

to the soul that seeks him.

10 It is good that we should wait quietly

for the salvation of the Lord.

11 For the Lord will not reject for ever;

though he causes grief, he will have compassion,

12 According to the abundance of his steadfast love;

for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Lamentations 1.12, 16a,b; 3.19, 21-26, 31-33

*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.**

**The Word of God**

First reading Isaiah 43: 16-21

**16**This is what the Lord says—  
     he who made a way through the sea,  
     a path through the mighty waters,

**17**who drew out the chariots and horse  
     the army and reinforcements together,  
     extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:  
 **18**“Forget the former things;  
 **19**See, I am doing a new thing!  
     Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
 I am making a way in the wilderness  
     and streams in the wasteland.  
 **20**The wild animals honour me,  
     the jackals and the owls,  
 because I provide water in the wilderness  
     and streams in the wasteland,  
 to give drink to my people, my chosen,  
 **21** the people I formed for myself  
     that they may proclaim my praise.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalmody* Psalm 126

#### A song of ascents.

**1**When the Lord restored the fortunes ofZion,  
     we were like those who dreamed   
 **2**Our mouths were filled with laughter,  
     our tongues with songs of joy.  
 Then it was said among the nations,  
     “The Lord has done great things for them.”  
 **3**The Lord has done great things for us,  
     and we are filled with joy.

**4**Restore our fortunes, Lord,  
     like streams in the Negev.  
 **5**Those who sow with tears  
     will reap with songs of joy.  
 **6**Those who go out weeping,  
     carrying seed to sow,  
 will return with songs of joy,  
     carrying sheaves with them.

**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 12: 1- 8

### Jesus Anointed at Bethany

**12**Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. **2**Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. **3**Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

**4**But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, **5**“Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.” **6**He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

**7**“Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. **8**You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*We pause to reflect on the readings before turning to prayer.*

**Hands holding up a cross

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**Intercessions**

Lord of all time, we thank you for the great things you have done for us and your creation over generations. We thank you for all those saints of faith who have worshipped here, running the race of life and faith that you have called them to. We thank you for the great things you have done in many individual lives - when we have seen people healed, given new hope, supported through troubles and helped to grow in faith. We thank you for calling our leaders and those who work quietly behind the scenes to serve others, and their commitment to make a positive difference to our church community. We thank you for being with us in our own joys and challenges, helping us at school, at work, in our homes, and in all we do. We thank you for the great things you have done as we have served and continue to serve and help those in our area, shining the light of Jesus in the darkness of the world.

The Lord has done great things for us,  
**The Lord has done great things.**

 Lord of peace, we join with the psalmist in thanking you for filling us with the joy of knowing you. We thank you for our homes, our safety, our privileges, our peace and our security. So we pray for all those across your created world that do not have those things that we rely on and take for granted. We pray for the millions of refugees who have had to flee their homes in the Sudan as civil war continues and the true horror of brutality is normal. We pray for people whose homes in Gaza and the West Bank have been destroyed, who have nowhere to go, and whose lives are filled with fear and darkness. We pray for the thousands of people in Myanmar who have lost their lives, and the many more who are bereaved, homeless and feeling hopeless. We pray for all the people of Ukraine who look for peace and justice in our ever-changing, confusing world. We pray that you, Lord, will do great things to comfort, heal and bring peace.

The Lord has done great things for us,  
**The Lord has done great things.**

 Lord of all good things, we hear the words of Jesus reminding his followers that in this fallen world there will always be the poor. We thank you for the things we have that make our lives good. So at this time of increased prices, costs and bills we pray for all those who live with the daily struggle to find money for food, heating, water and the other essentials of life. We pray for those children who live in poverty and go to school hungry, remembering the work of schools and other agencies that do all they can to help. We pray for those who need extra support through additional needs and disability, that help would be available and they would not feel left out or isolated. We pray for those who feel they are losing hope and have nowhere to turn. Show us what we can do to support and share the joy of faith in generous, practical ways to help those who despair and feel lost in an expensive and selfish world. Lord, you do great things, so please show us how we can do great things for you.

The Lord has done great things for us,  
**The Lord has done great things.**

Lord of salvation, we thank you that as we look forward to Easter we think of your son who came to save us and all people. We thank you that you do the great thing of knowing and loving each one of us, offering us forgiveness, a way through life and the hope of eternal life. We pray for those we know who are suffering loss, illness or sadness, that they will have the strength to look to you for their help.(Prayer List) We pray for those who are struggling on their journey of faith, and reaching out, that you would take their hand and pull them onto safe ground. We pray that we would have the strength and determination to put everything else aside that the world offers, and focus only on you. May our desires, hopes and passion always look to you, so that we may know Jesus fully and serve others as he served. You have done great things, so we look for your greatness to renew us again.

The Lord has done great things for us,  
**The Lord has done great things.**

*The Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Most merciful God,

who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ

delivered and saved the world:

grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross

we may triumph in the power of his victory;

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.

*All* **Amen.**

*The Lord’s Prayer*

Standing at the foot of the cross,

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 Blessing*

Christ crucified draw us to himself,

to find in him a sure ground for faith,

a firm support for hope,

and the assurance of sins forgiven;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among us and remain with us,

and those we love and for whom we pray,

this day and forever.

*All* **Amen.**

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**What’s on ….**

**Exe Valley Community Lunches**

The next lunch is at Oakford Village Hall on Thursday 10 April at 12.30pm. Please let the church office if you will be joining us.

**Agape Meal Maundy Thursday**

Agape Meal at Cruwys Morchard Village Hall on Thursday 17 April at 6.30pm. Please let the office know if you will be joining us.

**Prayer Breakfast at The Rectory**

The next prayer breakfast will be at 9.00am on Saturday 26 April 2025. Everyone welcome.

**Prayer Chain**

The Exe Valley Mission Community are starting a telephone prayer chain. If you like to be included for prayer or know someone who would like to be included, please contact Steph at the church office 01884 250417. Only first initials will be used on the prayer chain to ensure total confidentiality.

**Coffee and Chat with Steph**

Steph will be at Banburys from 10.15am on Friday 11April for coffee and a chat if you would like to join her.

**Practicing the Way – A course for Lenten Discipleship**

Steph will be running this course during Lent at The Rectory Withleigh.

Thursday 13, 20 & 27 March, 3 April, 24 April and 1 May at 11.00am & 7.00pm.

Please come along when you can and encourage others to sign up. Please let the church office know when you can come. 01884 250417

**Contacting Church Office**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00am -12 noon

Email: [office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org](mailto:office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org) Tel: 01884 250417 or 07733949295

**Giving to the Exe Valley Mission Community**

If you would like to make a contribution to the work of The Exe Valley Mission Community please make a gift using the Exe Valley Group of Churches BACS details. Please use the reference EVMC Services.

**Account Name:** Exe Valley Group of Churches

**Sort Code:**60-21-27

**Account No:** 54731690

Cheques should be made payable to: 'Exe Valley Group of Churches'

To give to St Peter’s Church PCC, please use account number 00213815 and

sort code 30-98-61. Please use the reference St Peter’s services.

Thank you for your support.