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

Sunday 27th 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:**

\* 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**

*The 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.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Father God, creator of all things, you existed before the world began.
You are with us today. You are the future.
**Our hearts adore you.**

Jesus, all powerful king, you won the battle of the cross
and swapped your crown of thorns for heaven’s throne.
Now you are exalted and reign in victory.
All glory and power are yours.
**Our hearts adore you.**

Holy Spirit, breath of God, you are with us,
stirring hearts and opening truth.
**Our hearts adore you.**

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you unlocked our hearts to receive you.
Through you we have life with a capital L.
**Our hearts adore you.**
**Amen.**

**A prayer of confession**

Lord God, you call us to be witnesses for you
but very often fear holds us back –
fear of speaking out and being made to look a fool, or,
even worse, imprisoned, as many are in other countries.
Lord God, we’re sorry when we allow our fears to dominate.
Sometimes, like Thomas,
we need to see evidence of your promises before our fears subside.
Lord God, locked doors mean nothing to you but we often hang on to the key,
not wanting to face what lurks on the other side of the door;
sometimes unable to forgive ourselves for past actions.
Lord God, unlock any areas of our lives that we may not have dealt with.
**We’re sorry, Lord. Fling wide the doors.**
**Breathe on us afresh with your peace, we pray.**
**Amen.**

**Assurance of forgiveness**

Our Saviour hung on a tree, shed his blood and freed us from our
sins. Repentance and forgiveness are ours through his life blood
poured out for us. Receive what he died to give us.
**Thank you, Saviour God.**
**Amen.**

**The Word of God**

First reading Acts 5: 27-32

**27**The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. **28**“We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

**29**Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! **30**The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. **31**God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. **32**We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalmody* Psalm 150

 **1**Praise the Lord.

 Praise God in his sanctuary;
     praise him in his mighty heavens.
 **2**Praise him for his acts of power;
     praise him for his surpassing greatness.
 **3**Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
     praise him with the harp and lyre,
 **4**praise him with timbrel and dancing,
     praise him with the strings and pipe,
 **5**praise him with the clash of cymbals,
     praise him with resounding cymbals.

 **6**Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

 Praise the Lord

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

**and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**world without end. Amen.**

The second reading John 20: 19-31

### Jesus Appears to His Disciples

**19**On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” **20**After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

**21**Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” **22**And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23**If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

### Jesus Appears to Thomas

**24**Now Thomas (also known as Didymus[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john%2020&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26892a)]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. **25**So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

**26**A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” **27**Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

**28**Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

**29**Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

### The Purpose of John’s Gospel

**30**Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. **31**But these are written that you may believe[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john%2020&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26899b)] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

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**Intercessions**

**May we be your witnesses,**

**May we unlock your love.**

We think of the saints who have served and shared the faith of God over generations.

So we remember Pope Francis, who died just a few days ago. We give thanks to you, our God, for his gentleness and humility. We give thanks to you for his calm and wisdom in leading millions of worshippers across the world. We give thanks to you for the ways he worked with other churches to bring Christian unity, and we give thanks to you for his voice speaking out for peace, kindness and love in our world.

Following his example and knowing the joy of the risen Christ in our hearts, we pray that you will show us how we can follow the example of Pope Francis and other Christian leaders in our daily lives.

**May we be your witnesses,
May we unlock your love.**

We think of the world and all the countries in it, and we pray for financial calm and for peace.

We remember the difficulties the world is facing as it looks to the future, with money in the hands of the few, financial crises, and worries about savings and investments. We pray to you, our God, for wisdom to be given to those who make the big decisions in our world, that they would fully understand the global consequences of their actions. We pray to you for those continuing conflicts in Sudan, the Middle East and Ukraine, and the attempts to bring calm. We pray to you for all those innocent people caught up in horror and violence, that they would be comforted by the knowledge that Jesus suffered, and you heal.

Following the life of peace that Jesus led, we pray that we would be people of wisdom and peace in our homes, schools, colleges, churches and workplaces, thinking through our decisions and working for the good of all people.

**May we be your witnesses,
May we unlock your love.**

We think of those known to us who are in need right now, and we bring our own needs to God.

So we remember those in our families and our church family who are sick, lost, or lonely at this time. We pray especially for … (prayer list) We pray to you, our God, for your love and comfort to surround them as a good parent protects their children. We pray that they would know the power of your Spirit in bringing healing, and the warmth of your love in bringing comfort. We pray to you that you would help with the decisions that people have to make, the hardships they face, and the mourning they endure.

We remember ourselves, as we reflect on the Easter story and look back a week to the joyous resurrection of Jesus. Now, as we read of how the disciples and others met Jesus afresh and believed in him, we pray to you that we would meet Jesus in a new way. May we all be filled with the Holy Spirit to live and serve others.

**May we be your witnesses,
May we unlock your love.**

Merciful Father,

*All* **Accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

The Collect for the Second Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,

for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:

open the doors of our hearts,

that we may seek the good of others

and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,

to the praise of God the Father.

The Lord’s Prayer

*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.**

**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 amongst us and remain with us always.

*All*  **Amen.**

Let us go out with laughter
to spread God’s joy.
Let us go out with passion
to spread God’s truth.
Let us go out with compassion
to spread God’s healing.
Let us go out with love
to spread God’s peace.

**In the name of Christ.**

*All*  **Amen.**

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**What’s on ….**

**Exe Valley Community Lunches**

The next lunch is a trip to Fursdon House, a walk around the garden followed by a cream tea on Thursday 8 May at 2.00pm. Please let the church office if you will be joining us and if you need transport.

**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 9 May 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.

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 Tel: 01884 250417 or 07733949295

**Giving**

**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'