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

Sunday 4th May 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.****



*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!**

The Lord hears our cries.
He has restored us to life
and turned our mourning into dancing.
So let us come,
sing praises to the Lord
and give thanks to his holy name.

Lord God, you met Saul on the way to Damascus,
totally out of the blue!
He had no thought of you in his head –
but it was your time for him –
and things were never the same again!
We pray that today it will be our time to meet with you,
to experience your blinding light,
to have our eyes opened to your glory.
Please, Lord, meet us where we need to be met.
**Amen.**

**A prayer of confession**

 Lord God,
 we ask your forgiveness for the times
 when we have hurt or denied you
 by hurting or denying one of your children.
 We pray that whether you come to us
 in a loud, clear voice, or as a tiny whisper,
 we will hear and gladly obey.
 Bless us with your forgiveness and love.
 **Amen.**

**Assurance of forgiveness**

 You alone, mighty Lord, have the power to forgive
 and to help us see the error of our ways.
 Thank you for the new perspective we have
 when we realise we are truly forgiven.
 **Amen.**

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.**

 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.**

First reading Acts 9: 1-6

**9**Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest **2**and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. **3**As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. **4**He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

**5**“Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. **6**“Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 30**

 **1**I will exalt you, Lord,
   for you lifted me out of the depths
  and did not let my enemies gloat over me.
 **2**Lord my God, I called to you for help,
     and you healed me.
 **3**You, Lord, brought me up from the realm of the dead;
      you spared me from going down to the pit.

 **4**Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people;
      praise his holy name.
 **5**For his anger lasts only a moment,
      but his favour lasts a lifetime;
 weeping may stay for the night,
      but rejoicing comes in the morning.

 **6**When I felt secure, I said,
      “I will never be shaken.”
 **7**Lord, when you favoured me,
     you made my royal mountain[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm%2030&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14327c)] stand firm;
 but when you hid your face,
     I was dismayed.

 **8**To you, Lord, I called;
     to the Lord I cried for mercy:
 **9**“What is gained if I am silenced,
     if I go down to the pit?
 Will the dust praise you?
     Will it proclaim your faithfulness?
 **10**Hear, Lord, and be merciful to me;
     Lord, be my help.”

 **11**You turned my wailing into dancing;
     you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
 **12**that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.
     Lord my God, I will praise you forever.

 **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**

Second reading John 21: 1-19

**21**Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john%2021&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26900a)] It happened this way: **2**Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john%2021&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26901b)]), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. **3**“I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

**4**Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

**5**He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

“No,” they answered.

**6**He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

**7**Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. **8**The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john%2021&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26907c)] **9**When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

**10**Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” **11**So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. **12**Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. **13**Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. **14**This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

**15**When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

**16**Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

**17**The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. **18**Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” **19**Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

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

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Prayers of Intercession

Almighty God, we recognise that you are the fire, the spark, the vision, the calling, that brings us to our knees to pray for those near and far and so we pray this day for those people and situations that are on our minds and in our hearts.
Almighty God, **hear our prayer**

For those who lead the nations, the good ones and the bad ones, those prepared to apologise for mistakes made and those who plough on regardless of the chaos and mess they cause. For those who are prepared to change their minds for the greater good of humanity and creation.
Almighty God, **hear our prayer**

Fort the peoples of the nations, those who support their leaders and those who despair of decisions made, supposedly in their name. For those who decide, whatever the risk to themselves, to speak out against injustice and unfairness. For those who risk their lives for the well being and the good of neighbours near and far.
Almighty God, **hear our prayer**

For those countries at war, those whose countries want the war and the countries who don’t but who are unceremoniously dragged into violence and revenge trying to protect peoples and lands, heritage and borders.
Almighty God, **hear our prayer**

For the homeless, the hungry, the dispossessed, for those who face discrimination and injustice, those who feel isolated, lonely and alone, unloved, unwanted and fearful.
Almighty God, **hear our prayer**

For the ill and those who treat them, who bind their wounds and care for body, mind and soul. For those who are nearing the end of earthly life that they may find comfort, strength and peace. For those who mourn the loss of loved ones, who feel the emptiness and loss, who live with guilt and regret of things not said and deeds not done. We remember especially ……. (prayer list)
Almighty God, **hear our prayer**

And finally we pray for ourselves, that we may follow in the steps of Christ and in so doing find peace, love and contentment, healing, hope and joy.
Almighty God, **hear our prayer**

And hear all the prayers of our hearts, spoken and unspoken.
In the name of the risen Christ, we pray.
**Amen**

The Collect for the Third Sunday of Easter

Almighty Father,

who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples

with the sight of the risen Lord:

give us such knowledge of his presence with us,

that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life

and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;

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

God the Father,

by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,

open to us 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 us and fill us with Christ’s peace.

*All* **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

be amongst us and remain

with us this day and always.

*All* **Amen.**

A sending out prayer

We go from this place with perspectives changed.
May we have eyes to see you at work
in our lives and community.
May we have words of love to offer to people
society often shuns.
May we trust and obey your call on our lives.
**Amen.**

**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.

**Bible Study**

The next Bible Study is on Tuesday May 6th at Myrtle Cottage Oakford 2.30pm with Tim Gorringe.

**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.

**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

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