

# A Service of the Word, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter

*We say together the words printed in bold.*

## *The Greeting*

*The minister greets the people and says*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All He has given us new life and hope.**

**He has raised Jesus from the dead.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

## *Opening Prayer*

**All Faithful one, whose word is life:**

**come with saving power**

**to free our praise,**

**inspire our prayer**

**and shape our lives**

**for the kingdom of your Son,**

**Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## *Prayers of Penitence*

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,

we come to you in sorrow for our sins,

and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,

and not by the power of your resurrection.

In your mercy, forgive us.

**All Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,

as faithless and not believing.

In your mercy, forgive us.

**All Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world alone,  
and doubted our home in heaven.

In your mercy, forgive us.

**All Lord, hear us and help us.**

May the God of love and power  
forgive *you* and free *you* from *your* sins,  
heal and strengthen *you* by his Spirit,  
and raise *you* to new life in Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

### ***The Collect***

Risen Christ,  
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:  
teach us to hear your voice  
and to follow your command,  
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

### ***Reading(s)***

#### ***Psalm 23***

##### **A Psalm of David.**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.<sup>[b]</sup>

He leads me in right paths<sup>[c]</sup>  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley,<sup>[d]</sup>  
I fear no evil;

for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.

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

<sup>6</sup>Surely<sup>[9]</sup> goodness and mercy<sup>[1]</sup> shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.<sup>[9]</sup>

**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**

*1st reading Acts 2:42-end*

*Pause*

*2<sup>nd</sup> reading John 10:1-10*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Talk*

*Affirmation of Faith*

Let us declare our faith  
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:**

**this we have received,  
and this we believe.**

**Amen.**

### *Prayers of Intercession*

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, light of the world,

bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations. Give wisdom and  
courage to the leaders of the nations in these difficult times.

Jesus, Lord of life,

**in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, bread of life,

give food to the hungry especially in these difficult times...  
and nourish us all with your word.

Jesus, Lord of life,

**in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,

be with us and all who follow you in the way ...

Deepen our appreciation of your truth  
and fill us with your life.

Jesus, Lord of life,

**in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,

recover the straggler,

bind up the injured,

strengthen the sick

and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures. In these difficult times  
we pray for frontline staff in the NHS and all who work in care and support  
services.

Jesus, Lord of life,

**in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,

we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you ...

Raise us with them to eternal life.

Jesus, Lord of life,

**in your mercy, hear us,**

**accept our prayers, and be with us always.**

**Amen.**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

Gathering our prayers and praise into one, let us pray as our Saviour  
taught us

**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.**

### *Praise*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All He has given us new life and hope.**

**He has raised Jesus from the dead.**

God has claimed us as his own.

**All** He has brought us out of darkness.

**He has made us light to the world.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

*The Peace & Conclusion*

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples  
and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All** and also with you.

*You may join to exchange a sign of peace.*

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