**Morning Prayer 26th April 2020 Third Sunday of Easter**

**Preparation:**

Grace, mercy and peace

from God our Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ

be with you

**and also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

We have come together in the name of Christ

to offer our praise and thanksgiving,

to hear and receive God’s holy word,

to pray for the needs of the world,

and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,

that by the power of the Holy Spirit

we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart:

**Lord God,**

**we have sinned against you;**

**we have done evil in your sight.**

**We are sorry and repent.**

**Have mercy on us according to your love.**

**Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.**

**Renew a right spirit within us**

**and restore us to the joy of your salvation;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies

cleanse you from your sins,

and restore you in his image

to the praise and glory of his name,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Blessed is the Lord,

**for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**

therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

**and in our song will we praise our God.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God,

creator and redeemer of all;

to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the waters of chaos you drew forth the world

and in your great love fashioned us in your image.

Now, through the deep waters of death,

you have brought your people to new birth

by raising your Son to life in triumph.

May Christ your light ever dawn in our hearts

as we offer you our sacrifice of thanks and praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**Blessed be God for ever.**

**The Word of God:**

**Psalm:** *Psalm 116*

I love the Lord, because he has heard

my voice and my supplications.

**2 Because he inclined his ear to me,**

**therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

3 The snares of death encompassed me;

the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

I suffered distress and anguish.

**4 Then I called on the name of the Lord:**

**‘O Lord, I pray, save my life!’**

5 Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;

our God is merciful.

**6 The Lord protects the simple;**

**when I was brought low, he saved me.**

7 Return, O my soul, to your rest,

for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

**Glory to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit**

**As it was in the beginning is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Epistle:** *Acts 2:14a, 36-41*

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them:

Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.’

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’ Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.’ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

**The Easter Anthems:**

*1 Corinthians 5.7b, 8; Romans 6.9-11 & 1 Corinthians 15.20-22*

**Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:**

**so let us celebrate the feast,**

**not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:**

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

**Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:**

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

**In dying he died to sin once for all:**

**in living he lives to God.**

**See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:**

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

**Christ has been raised from the dead:**

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

**For as by man came death:**

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

**for as in Adam all die:**

**even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**

**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.**

**Gospel:** *Luke 24:13-35*

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?’ He asked them, ‘What things?’ They replied, ‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’ Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**Sermon:** *Rt. Rev. Philip Mounstephen, Bishop of Truro*

**The Creed:**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Amen.

**Prayers:**

Lord Jesus, you are the resurrection,

**Lord Jesus, you are our life**

Lord Jesus we pray for all who bear particular responsibility for the rest of us in this crisis. We pray for local and national government, the emergency services and everyone who works to care for the most vulnerable in our society. We pray too for those working hard to ensure that our foodbanks remain stocked and staffed. And however we can, help us all to be truly good neighbours to one another.

And we pray for our Churches, in this strange time. Even though we cannot meet, strengthen us as your body and give us the inspiration and creativity of your Holy Spirit that we may know just how best we might love and care for those in our communities within the constraints that are placed upon us.

And help us to be ready to be the kind of Church you would have us be as we emerge from this crisis: a Church above all that reflects and reveals your risen nature and your healing love.

Lord Jesus, you are the resurrection,

**Lord Jesus, you are our life**

Lord Jesus, we pray for all those who are lonely and fearful of what the future holds. Turn fear into hope by your presence; turn doubt into confidence through your gift of faith.

And we pray that you will lift this shadow from us: that the spread of this virus be slowed and reversed. Give us hope for the future, and protection here in the present.

We pray for all those who care for us in this time of trial. We pray especially for all those working in the NHS. We thank you for them and we pray that you will bless, strengthen and encourage them.

We pray especially for those who are sick and suffering. We pray that your caring hand will rest upon them to give them comfort and peace.

And we pray for all those who are bereaved, and for those who care for them: may they know that as they weep so you weep with them. Give them confidence in the resurrection of the dead.

Lord Jesus, you are the resurrection,

**Lord Jesus, you are our life**

Lord Jesus, in this troubled time we pray that you will help us to be people of hope, people who have hopes for a better future beyond all this. And may we be people who see those hopes come to fruition. Help us together to work for a better, a more compassionate, a less acquisitive and a more sustainable and loving world.

And Lord whatever trials and troubles we may currently face, keep us strong in hope knowing that you are indeed the resurrection and the life; and help us so to tell the story of all you have done for us that many others too come to know you as their Saviour, their Lord, and their God

Lord Jesus you are the resurrection,

**Lord Jesus, you are our life. Amen**

**Hymn:**

Light of the minds that know him,

may Christ be light to mine!

My sun in risen splendour,

my light of truth divine;

my guide in doubt and darkness,

my true and living way,

my clear light ever shining,

my dawn of heaven's day.

Life of the souls that love him,

may Christ be ours indeed!

The living Bread from heaven

on whom our spirits feed;

who died for love of sinners

to bear our guilty load,

and make of life's journey

a new Emmaus road.

Strength of the wills that serve him,

may Christ be strength to me,

who stilled the storm and tempest,

who calmed the tossing sea;

his Spirit's power to move me,

his will to master mine,

his cross to carry daily

and conquer in his sign.

May it be ours to know him

that we may truly love,

and loving, fully serve him

as serve the saints above;

till in that home of glory

with fadeless splendour bright,

we serve in perfect freedom

our strength, our life, our light.

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926) after Augustine*

**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.

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,

let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done;**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**the power, and the glory**

**for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

**The Conclusion**

**The Blessing:**

The God of peace

who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,

that great shepherd of the sheep,

through the blood of the eternal covenant,

make you perfect in every good work to do his will,

working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight;

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

be amongst you and remain with you both now and evermore. Amen

**The Grace:**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ**

**And the love of God**

**And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit**

**Be with us all evermore.**

**Amen**