

Sunday 9th May

O Lord open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise

In your resurrection, O Christ,
let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

Let us be still as we come into the presence of
God.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

The Lord is my light and my salvation:
my God shall make my darkness to be bright.

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with
you: **and also with you.**

The candle is lit,

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,
to you be praise and glory for ever. As once
you ransomed your people from Egypt and led
them to freedom in the promised land, so now
you have delivered us from the dominion of
darkness and brought us into the kingdom of
your risen Son. May we, the first fruits of your
new creation, rejoice in this new day you have
made, and praise you for your mighty acts.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

God of our days and years, we set this time
apart for you. Form us in the likeness of Christ
so that our lives may glorify you. Amen.

HYMN

Praise, my soul, the king of heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like thee His praise should sing?
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him, still the same forever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like, He tends and spares us;

Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Widely as His mercy flows.

Angels in the height, adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Love one another, for love is of God, and
whoever loves is born of God and knows God.
Spirit of God, search our hearts.

A moment of silence

We are often slow to follow the example of
Christ.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We often fail to be known as Christ's disciples.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We often fail to walk the way of the cross.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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

THE PRAYER FOR TODAY

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from
the power of darkness and brought us into the
kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his
death he has recalled us to life, so by his
continual presence in us he may raise us
to eternal joy; 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. Amen.

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PSALM 98

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.

His own right hand and his holy arm
have won for him the victory.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
his deliverance has he openly shown in the
sight of the nations.

He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness
towards the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the
salvation of our God.

Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth;
break into singing and make music.

Make music to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the voice of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn
sound praises before the Lord, the King.

Let the sea thunder and all that fills it,
the world and all that dwell upon it.

Let the rivers clap their hands
and let the hills ring out together before the
Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.

In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.

**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.**

READING

The reader says; The reading is from
I John 5:1-12

After the reading, the reader says
This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Silence is kept.

REFLECTION

In the 1980s, David Watson, an Anglican minister with a national and international ministry was diagnosed with liver cancer. He was a well-known author, his final book was probably the most influential. It was called, 'Fear no evil'. In it he describes the assurance of faith that we as Christians have in the face of death. It's the greatest adventure we can have. A few years earlier another Christian teacher entitled her autobiography, 'Heaven here I come.'

'Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.' This is the final adventure. The final unknown. Why fear the unknown when Christ has gone before us? He has experienced death and resurrection. On Easter Day, we rejoice and proclaim Christ is risen. That is not the cry for Easter day alone. We are the Easter people and resurrection is our theme for all days. As Christian, we face the dark valley of death with the assurance that the sting has been taken out of the ordeal because the shepherd is with us and this is the right path. His presence will overcome the worst because Jesus has gone before.

What is death? Is it the end? No. If in doubt read 1 Corinthians 15. They are confident words of assurance, that God is with us and those who trust in Christ will be raised to new life in him.

I have sat with Christians who have had a firm assurance of faith that death is not the end, and with others for whom, there is no sense of assurance. Is one arrogance and one humility? We can have a false humility which is less to do with spiritual humility and more to do with not taking God at his word. John writes in 1 John 5:11-12 – 'And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.'

It is as simple as that.

One of the reasons I read Psalm 23 at the bedside of someone who is dying is because of this verse of assurance of God's presence in time of need, which then concludes with the

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hope of dwelling in the presence of God. But that is for next week.

HYMN

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;

He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forever more
My dwelling place shall be.

PRAYERS

Lord God, through your grace we are your people: through your Son you have redeemed us; in your Spirit you have made us as your own.

We pray for your church throughout the world as it continually adapts to new situations. Grant to those called to lead your church, wisdom, grace and humility to listen to the Holy Spirit and to your people that they may discern your will. When it feels like they are walking through a dark valley may they know that you are with them. May our hearts continually respond to your love.
Shepherd of the sheep; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for politicians who have been elected this week, that as they assume responsibility of their new roles that they will work for the common good. At this time of Covid pandemic we pray for the leaders of nations that they may have wisdom to lead their countries in

recovery and to support those nations where the crisis continues to affect their people. We give thanks for those who have developed vaccines and pray for an equitable distribution to secure the lives of many.
Shepherd of the sheep; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are walking through a dark valley at this time. That whatever befalls them they may know that you are with them, walking beside and protecting them. We bring to you those who are ill.....
May your peace which passes all understanding be their experience at this time.
Shepherd of the sheep; **hear our prayer.**

The psalmist wrote, 'Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for you are with me.' We pray for all who are drawing close to death that they may experience your love and grace. As we face our own mortality assure us of your love that as we walk the path you have trod we will fear no evil.
Shepherd of the sheep; **hear our prayer.**

Lord of life, **hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
**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.**

HYMN

Praise him! praise him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!

Sing, O earth his wonderful love proclaim!
Hail him! hail him! highest archangels in glory,
Strength and honor give to his holy name!

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Like a shepherd Jesus will guard his children --
In his arms he carries them all day long:

Refrain:

Praise him! praise him! tell of his excellent
greatness!
Praise him! praise him! ever in joyful song!

Praise him! praise him! Jesus, our blessed
Redeemer!
For our sins he suffered and bled and died;
He our Rock, our hope of eternal salvation,
Hail him! hail him! Jesus the Crucified.
Sound his praises -- Jesus who bore our
sorrows --
Love unbounded, wonderful, deep and strong:

[Refrain]

Praise him! praise him! Jesus, our blessed
Redeemer!
Heav'nly portals loud with hosannas ring!
Jesus, Saviour, reigneth for ever and ever,
Crown him! crown him! Prophet and Priest and
King!
Christ is coming, over the world victorious --
Pow'r and glory unto the Lord belong:

[Refrain]

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

Lord Jesus, you are the great shepherd and
guardian of our souls. May we learn to hear
your voice above the distractions of this life and
know your guiding through the many things
which beset us, so that at the last we may
share the great banquet with all those who call
you Lord. Amen

Our Orebeck Benefice Pilgrim's Prayer

is a sign of our unity in Christ and our
pilgrimage together as individuals and
churches.

Open our hearts to your love, Father God, as
we journey with you;

Renew us each day, as we dwell in your
presence.

Encourage us when we feel downtrodden,
Bring us comfort when we are sad.

Enlive us so that we may always be ready to
serve You, and

Care for others in the strength of God's love.

Kindle, we pray, all that works towards the
coming of your kingdom. Amen

BLESSING

God of our salvation, you have restored us to
life, you have brought us back again into your
love by the triumphant death and resurrection
of Christ. Continue to heal us, as we go to live
and work in the power of your Spirit, to your
praise and glory. And the blessing of God
Almighty, the Father, and the Son and the Holy
Spirit be among you and remain with now and
evermore. Amen.

SENDING OUT

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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