

St John's Malone. Easter IV

Sunday 3rd May 2020 ~ Worship Sheet



Shepherd: Millet, Jean François, 1814-1875

Morning Prayer (3):-This is a new service produced by the Church of Ireland and the first time it has been used for St John's.

AN ORDER FOR MORNING PRAYER FOR USE ON SUNDAY ---EASTER SEASON

The Gathering of God's People

The Greeting

Stand

The minister greets the people

Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The minister introduces the service with these or other suitable words

We have come together in the name of Christ

to offer our praise and thanksgiving,

to hear and receive God's holy word,

to seek the forgiveness of our sins,

and to pray for the needs of the world,

that by the power of the Holy Spirit

we may give ourselves to the service of God.

O Lord, open our lips,
and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

Let us worship the Lord.

All praise to his name.

The minister continues

Morning

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.

Penitence

Penitential Kyries are provided on page 229 of the Book of Common Prayer.

The Confession is introduced with these words

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God. Romans 6: 10

Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**O God, our loving Father in heaven,
we confess that we have sinned against you;
we have broken your commandments;
we have often been selfish,**

**and we have not loved you as we should.
For these, and all our sins, forgive us, we pray:
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The priest pronounces the absolution

May the Father of all mercies
cleansing you from your sins,
and restore you in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The minister says

Your word is a lantern to my feet
and a light upon our path. c.f. Psalm 119:105
O Lord, your word is everlasting:
it stands firm for ever in the heavens. c.f. Psalm 119:89
Let us then receive the word of the Lord.
so may the light of your presence shine into our hearts.

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

The First Reading

The reader says

A **OLD TESTAMENT** reading from **Nehemiah** chapter **9** beginning at
verse 6

6 And Ezra said:^{*} ‘You are the Lord, you alone; you have made heaven,
the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the
seas and all that is in them. To all of them you give life, and the host of
heaven worships you. ⁷You are the Lord, the God who chose Abram and

brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and gave him the name Abraham; ⁸and you found his heart faithful before you, and made with him a covenant to give to his descendants the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite, and the Girgashite; and you have fulfilled your promise, for you are righteous.

9 ‘And you saw the distress of our ancestors in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea.* ¹⁰You performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants and all the people of his land, for you knew that they acted insolently against our ancestors. You made a name for yourself, which remains to this day. ¹¹And you divided the sea before them, so that they passed through the sea on dry land, but you threw their pursuers into the depths, like a stone into mighty waters. ¹²Moreover, you led them by day with a pillar of cloud, and by night with a pillar of fire, to give them light on the way in which they should go. ¹³You came down also upon Mount Sinai, and spoke with them from heaven, and gave them right ordinances and true laws, good statutes and commandments, ¹⁴and you made known your holy sabbath to them and gave them commandments and statutes and a law through your servant Moses. ¹⁵For their hunger you gave them bread from heaven, and for their thirst you brought water for them out of the rock, and you told them to go in to possess the land that you swore to give them.

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; ♦□
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures ♦□
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He shall refresh my soul ♦□
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; ♦□
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me; ♦□

you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.

6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, ◆□
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Glory to the Father, and | to the | Son,
and | to the | Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be|ginning, is | now
and shall be for | ever. | A|men.

A Canticle

NEW TESTAMENT Reading: **John 10: 1-10**

The reader says

A reading from ... chapter ... beginning at verse ...

10‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

7 So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A Collect of the Word

may be said here or following the Sermon.

God of all power,

You called from death our Lord Jesus,

The great shepherd of the sheep;

Send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured,

And to feed one another with understanding;

Through your son Jesus Christ our Lord,

Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Sermon

A hymn may be sung.

The Response to God's Word

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 again 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.

This affirmation or a scriptural affirmation of faith may be used instead of the Apostles' Creed.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
who made the world?

I believe and trust in him

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,
who redeemed mankind?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit
who gives life to the people of God?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**we believe and trust in One God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

The Prayers of the People

Either of the following, or other seasonally appropriate prayers and intercessions, may be used.

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.

That our risen Saviour may fill us [and ...]

with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection ...

we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches

may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter ...

we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That God may grant us humility

to be subject to one another in Christian love ...

we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That he may help us provide for those

who lack food, work or shelter ...

we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That, by his power, war and famine may cease

through all the world ...

we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That he may reveal the light of his presence

to the sick, the weak and the dying,

to comfort and strengthen them ...

we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That, according to his promises,
all who have died in the faith of the resurrection
may be raised on the last day ...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit
upon his people,
so that we may bear faithful witness
to his resurrection,
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant that, as his death has recalled us to life,
so his continual presence in us
may raise us to eternal joy;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

or

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 ...
Jesus, Lord of life,

in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life,
help us to give food to the hungry ...
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.

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 ...

8 Morning and Evening Prayer for Use on Sunday
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 Collect of the Day

COLLECT TWO

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
Raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of
righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, 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.

or

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, we are bold to pray:

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.

Going Out as God's People

A Thanksgiving

The minister says

Let us give thanks to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

For the love of our Father,

the maker of all, the giver of all good things,

let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

For Jesus Christ our Saviour,

who lived and worked among us,

let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

For his suffering and death on the cross

and his resurrection to new life,

let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

For his rule over all things

and his presence in the world,

let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

For the Holy Spirit, the giver of life,

who teaches us and guides us,

let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

For the grace of the Spirit in the work of the Church

and the life of the world,

let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

or

The minister says

Blessed are you, Holy God,
creator, redeemer and life-giver;
you have spoken the world into being
and filled it with wonder and beauty.

For every blessing we have received
we give you thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Holy God,
for people of every language and culture
and for the rich variety you give to life.

For every blessing we have received
we give you thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Holy God,
for Jesus Christ our Saviour,
truly divine and truly human,
living and dying for us,
and going before us into heaven.

For every blessing we have received
we give you thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Holy God,
for your Spirit, the fire of love burning in our hearts,
bringing us to faith, and calling us to holiness
in the Church and in the world.

For every blessing we have received
we give you thanks and praise.

The Dismissal

Let us say together:

**Be with us Lord,
in the world you have made;
May the lips that have sung your praise
always speak the truth;
may the ears which have heard your Word
listen only to what is good
and may our lives as well as our worship
be always pleasing in your sight,
for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

or

**We go into the world
to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect God's glory.**

The Blessing A priest blesses the people with these or other suitable words

God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
raise you up to walk with him in the newness of his risen life:
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always.
Amen.

We go in the Peace of the Risen Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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READINGS:

Nehemiah 9:6-15

Psalm 23: David's Psalm of praise for the God who cares for him like a shepherd, providing nurture, peace, care, protection and an eternal place of belonging.

John 9:1-41: Jesus heals a man who was born blind, and, because his was done on the Sabbath, the religious leaders start an investigation, calling in the man's parents and ultimately throwing the man out of the synagogue. Then, Jesus teaches that he came to bring sight to the blind and to reveal the blindness of those who think they see.

REFLECTIONS ON A THEME: This week the Lectionary offers a wonderful and rich connection of ideas. In this season of the resurrection, the life of Christ is still uppermost in our minds, and Jesus' promise that he has come to give life is at the heart of our reflections. The rest of the Gospel, though, and the other readings, all reflect on how life is lived when the care and compassion of God direct us.

In Psalm 23 we are reminded of God's care and attention toward God's people.

Finally, Jesus, in speaking about his life, warns about those who pretend to care for 'the sheep' but don't. In a confusing contrast he is both the Shepherd who does care, and the gate through which the true Shepherd enters to call the sheep, and through which the sheep pass in order to find pasture and life. While it is not the purpose of this short reflection to unravel all of these metaphors, the essential message is clear – the life of Jesus is given and received by mutual care, compassion and protection. The resurrection does not offer some individualised, blissful life. Rather, it calls us into a life that is shared with others who follow Christ, to whom we belong and for whom we are responsible, even as they are called to care for us. It is only together – in community – that Christ's life can be known and enjoyed.
