

Service for the Fourth Sunday of Easter



St Laurence Church, Downton

25 April 2021

Preparation

Call to Worship

Those who obey God's commandments abide in him,
and he abides in them.

By this we know that he abides in us,
by the Spirit that he has given us.

1 John 3:24

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Team Rector introduces the service

Hymn: The King of love my shepherd is
(St Martin's Voices)

The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)

Gathering:

Day by day, God leads us:
**to the deep, deep pools of peace,
to the green, lush lawns of grace.**

Day by day, Jesus calls us:
**to pour out ourselves in service,
to anoint the stranger with hope.**

Day by day, the Holy Spirit shows us:
**the community we could be,
the family we are called to become.**

Thom Shuman - Lectionary Liturgies

Psalm 23:

The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

He shall refresh my soul
**and guide me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.**

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.

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.

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 beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings:

Acts 4:5-12

John 10:11-18

After each reading:

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Music: The Lord my pasture will prepare - Joseph Addison
(*Oxford Choir*)

Prayers

We are led in a time of prayer

This response is used:

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer is said:

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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.**

Conclusion

The Collect

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
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Blessing:

Christ the good shepherd,
who laid down his life for the sheep,
draw you and all who hear his voice,
to be one flock within one fold;
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you,
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Let us love, not in word or speech,
but in truth and action.

By this we will know that we are from the truth
and will reassure our hearts before him.

1 John 3:18-19

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.