

# **The Benefice of Chew Valley East**

## **Morning Prayer for Sunday 15 May 2022, The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

*If you wish to join in the service, then the words in **bold** are to be said together. Please join in with the Psalms and Canticles – either by reciting each one in its entirety, or in response to the worship leader by reciting the even numbered verses.*

### **Preparation**

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

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

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.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

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 Word of God**

### **Psalm 148**

<sup>1</sup>Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens; ♦  
praise him in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>Praise him, all you his angels; ♦  
praise him, all his host.

<sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon; ♦  
praise him, all you stars of light.

<sup>4</sup>Praise him, heaven of heavens, ♦  
and you waters above the heavens.

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the Lord; ♦  
for he commanded and they were created.

<sup>6</sup>He made them fast for ever and ever; ♦  
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

<sup>7</sup>Praise the Lord from the earth, ♦  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup>Fire and hail, snow and mist, ♦  
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;

<sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills, ♦  
fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup>Wild beasts and all cattle, ♦  
creeping things and birds on the wing;

<sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples, ♦  
princes and all rulers of the world;

<sup>12</sup>Young men and women, old and young together; ♦  
let them praise the name of the Lord.

<sup>13</sup>For his name only is exalted, ♦  
his splendour above earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>He has raised up the horn of his people  
and praise for all his faithful servants, ♦  
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia.

**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.**

## **First Reading: Acts 11:1-18**

<sup>1</sup>The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, ‘Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?’ <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>‘I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat.” <sup>8</sup>But I replied, “By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.” <sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, “What God has made clean, you must not call profane.” <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, “Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.” <sup>15</sup>And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, “John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>17</sup>If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?’ <sup>18</sup>When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, ‘Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.’

## **Canticle**

**In your unfailing love, O Lord,  
you lead the people whom you have redeemed. Alleluia.**

<sup>1</sup>I will sing to the Lord, who has triumphed gloriously, ♦  
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

<sup>2</sup>The Lord is my strength and my song ♦  
and has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>This is my God whom I will praise, ♦  
the God of my forebears whom I will exalt.

<sup>4</sup>The Lord is a warrior, ♦  
the Lord is his name.

<sup>5</sup>Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power: ♦  
your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.

<sup>6</sup>At the blast of your nostrils, the sea covered them; ♦  
they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

<sup>7</sup>In your unfailing love, O Lord, ♦  
you lead the people whom you have redeemed.

<sup>8</sup>And by your invincible strength ♦  
you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

<sup>9</sup>You will bring them in and plant them, O Lord, ♦  
in the sanctuary which your hands have established. *Exodus 15.1b-3, 6, 10, 13, 17*

**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.**

**In your unfailing love, O Lord,  
you lead the people whom you have redeemed. Alleluia.**

### **Second Reading: John 13:31-35**

<sup>31</sup>During the supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

### **Responsory**

Death is swallowed up in victory.

**Where, O death, is your sting?**

Christ is risen from the dead,  
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

**Death is swallowed up in victory.**

The trumpet will sound and the dead shall be raised.

**Where, O death, is your sting?**

We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed.

**Death is swallowed up in victory.**

**Where, O death, is your sting?**

*from 1 Corinthians 15*

## **Gospel Canticle: Benedictus**

**The Lord is risen from the tomb  
who for our sakes hung upon the tree. Alleluia.**

<sup>1</sup>Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦  
who has come to his people and set them free.

<sup>2</sup>He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦  
born of the house of his servant David.

<sup>3</sup>Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦  
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

<sup>4</sup>To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦  
and to remember his holy covenant.

<sup>5</sup>This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

<sup>6</sup>Free to worship him without fear, ♦  
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

<sup>7</sup>And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

<sup>8</sup>To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

<sup>9</sup>In the tender compassion of our God ♦  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

<sup>10</sup>To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Luke 1.68-79*

**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 Lord is risen from the tomb  
who for our sakes hung upon the tree. Alleluia.**

## Intercessions

*To the words:*

Lord, you show us:

*Please respond:*

**what loving really means.**

Let us pray to the living God, who has drawn us together through love.

Father, whenever Christians are fussing and arguing, living outside your will or without the responsible love you teach, bring about heartfelt cleansing, healing and renewal, that we may really be your body in the world.

Lord, you show us:

**what loving really means.**

Father, whenever injustice stifles human growth, and selfish ambition distorts leadership, bring about right and good government throughout the world, born of your wisdom and humility.

Lord, you show us:

**what loving really means.**

Father, as we see the conflict in Ukraine escalating, a fertile country destroyed, its people maimed and killed and the peace we have been so blessed with shattered, we pray that your self-giving love may prevail, that guns may be turned into ploughshares and the aggressors seek forgiveness.

Lord, you show us:

**what loving really means.**

Father, as we watch children grow, remind us of our own calling to grow more loving in the ways we deal with conflict, approach difficulties and address the needs of those we meet.

Lord, you show us:

**what loving really means.**

Father, in the places of long-term pain and sudden shock, of weariness, disappointment and fear, bring about the peace which only you can give and the comfort which speaks of hope.

Lord, you show us:

**what loving really means.**

Father, may the physical death of those we recall be nothing less than the gateway to a new and lasting life in your love and your protection.

Lord, you show us:

**what loving really means.**

Heavenly Father, we offer you our hearts with all the love you find inside and we thank you for putting it there.

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **Collect**

Risen Christ,  
your wounds declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
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.**

## **Conclusion**

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of  
eternal life. **Amen.**

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

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