

Morning Prayer 25th April 2021 The 4th Sunday of Easter



I am the Good Shepherd

Opening Responses

We gather together to worship God,
All the Shepherd of our souls.

The one who has created us,
who sustains us and redeems us,
who walks beside us in good times and
bad, and who calls us to follow.

This is our God!

All Let us worship Him together!

Opening prayer

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. **All: Amen.**

Confession

Our Good shepherd will seek the lost and
bring back the strays.

So let us turn away from our sin and follow
Him, confessing our sins in penitence and
faith by saying together:

All: Great Shepherd, we come to you
today recognizing that,
like lost sheep, we have gone astray.
You have given us your word and
called us to live by your
commandments. Yet, seeking greener
pastures, we have squandered the
riches you have given us and lived
lives focused on ourselves. We have
failed to see the needs of others and
refused to offer forgiveness to those
who have wronged us. Remind us, O
God, of the gift of your Son. Empower
us with your grace, and call us to
rejoice as sheep who have been
returned to your fold. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness (Minister)

HYMN

Loving shepherd of thy Sheep

Loving shepherd of thy sheep,
Keep me, lord, in safety keep;
Nothing can thy power withstand,
None can pluck me from thy hand.

Loving shepherd, thou didst give
Thine own life that I might live;
May I love thee day by day,
Gladly thy sweet will obey.

Loving shepherd ever near,
Teach me still thy voice to hear;
Suffer not my step to stray
From the straight and narrow way.

Where thou ledest may I go,
Walking in thy steps below;
Then before thy father's throne,
Jesu, claim me for thine own.

Reading: John 10:10-14

At end of reading:

This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

All Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every
name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Prayers

Intercessions

The response to:

'Shepherd of the sheep'

Is; '**We bring our prayers to you**'

Intercessions conclude with:

**Merciful father, Accept these prayers for
the sake of your son, Our Saviour, Jesus
Christ, Amen.**

The Collect

Risen Christ, Faithful shepherd
of your Father's sheep,
Teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
That all your people may be gathered into
one flock, To the glory of God the Father,
Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven...

Hymn

The Lord's my Shepherd
sung by St Martin's Voices

**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
through death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none 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 for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.**

Blessing & Dismissal

Now may the God of peace, who brought
back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the
great shepherd of the sheep, by the
blood of the eternal covenant, make you
complete in everything good so that you
may do his will, working among us that
which is pleasing in his sight, through
Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory
forever and ever. And the blessing of
God, the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit
be with you. **Amen.**

With the risen life of Christ within you,
go in the peace of Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia.