

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER
18th April 2021

NOTES

Please continue to let us know if you plan to attend worship in church. We still need to keep records of those who attend as well as making sure our numbers are within safe limits.

TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Said Eucharist – Episcopal Visitation

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer

TUESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer

WEDNESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
9:30 am Said Eucharist

THURSDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer

NEXT SUNDAY – 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Said Eucharist

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 25TH APRIL

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-end
John 10:11-18

WEDNESDAY 28TH APRIL

Acts 12:24-13:5
Psalm 67
John 12:44-end

FROM THE VICAR

A very warm welcome to Bishop David who joins us to preach and preside at our 10:30 service this morning.

The Easter season continues to invite us and to challenge us to reflect on what the resurrection of Jesus means for us. In some senses, this is the central question of our Christian faith. The belief *that* Jesus rose again stands at the heart of our Creeds; as Saint Paul says, if Christ is not risen our faith is in vain. But Saint James reminds us that faith, real faith, marries thought and word and deed. Faith involves the whole person and impacts the whole of life.

So, once again, we are invited and challenged to ask ourselves what the implications of Christ's resurrection are for how we now must live.

I find it very comforting that the early witnesses to Christ's resurrection did not find any of this easy. For them, as for us, this is *hard*. Recognising the risen

Christ for who he really is; understanding what God has achieved by his death and resurrection; allowing grief and fear to be overcome by joy and confidence: these are among the struggles of those who knew Jesus best. We should not be surprised if they are a struggle for us as well.

The struggles of those first Christians to live as 'resurrection people' offer us more than comfort, though. They give us clues to how we, in our own time and place, can live out our resurrection faith.

Perhaps the single most important of these clues is that news of the resurrection must be shared. It must be told, proclaimed, announced. Mary must tell the disciples that she has seen the Lord. The companions on the road to Emmaus must tell of their encounter with the risen Christ.

As I reflect on this, I find anxieties rising within me that perhaps many of you will recognise. It is easy to fight shy of this aspect of our Christian lives: through natural reserve; through a proper regard for the personal and private nature of religious matters; through a strong consciousness of the risk of making things worse by doing it badly; or perhaps through a notion that 'evangelism' is something best left to a particular sort of religious professional.

These are real and important anxieties. Yet I also find myself having to acknowledge that none of us who have encountered the risen Christ (as we do each and every time we share in the Eucharist) is excused this. We are *all* called to share the good news of Christ's resurrection.

The most helpful way of approaching this, I find, is to realise that we can all tell the truth. We don't have to sign up to someone else's method or endorse someone else's experience. We need only speak openly and honestly about what Christian faith means to us. Sharing is not the same as selling, and the unvarnished truth about our own experience has a power to persuade that nothing else can match.

As this Easter season continues, my prayer is that we may all be given grace to share the good news of Christ's risen life.

May God bless you all,

Hugh

PARISH INFORMATION

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Notices for next week's sheet by Wednesday please.

Online & Social Media

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www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

NOTICES

POST-COVID VOLUNTEERING

We are hopeful that over the next few months things at St Nicholas will return to a more familiar pattern. Much of this depends on things beyond our control – the progress might in fighting the virus, Government policies, national church advice. *But some of it depends on you!* In order to be able to do everything we would like to do, we need volunteers, lots of them. There are opportunities to get involved in church opening, stewarding services, church cleaning, various roles in worship, and many other things. Please get in touch if you are willing to help.

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS

Did you know that you can forward the e-Church bulletins to your families and friends? Just click the 'forward' arrow in your email system. This is a terrific, and very easy, way of sharing the good news. Our materials are already being accessed by people all over the world, but there's plenty of room for lots more. People can also 'like' the videos on YouTube and subscribe to our mailings either by contacting the Parish Office or clicking on the button in the front page of the website. Do get in touch if we can help with any of this.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY – SATURDAY 5th JUNE

ST NICK'S COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

As our contribution to World Environment Day, St Nick's ECO Church Group is organising a community litterpick on the morning of 5th June. Subject to government restrictions, we will begin at St Nick's, spread out in teams around the area and finish back at St Nick's. Weather and safety rules permitting, we would like to end with prayer and possibly a very informal, "Bring Your Own" picnic in the churchyard. Appropriate equipment for the litterpick is kindly being provided by CLEAN, Lincoln. If you would like to take part, please email or phone the Parish Office and we'll add your name to the list of volunteers. *Sue Humphrey*

READINGS

Sunday 18th April

COLLECT

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

FIRST READING

ACTS 3:12-19

Peter addressed the people: 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.'

PSALM

PSALM 4

Refrain: Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness;
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

How long will you nobles dishonour my glory;
how long will you love vain things and seek after
falsehood? **R**

But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous
kindness;

when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

Stand in awe, and sin not;
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and
be still. **R**

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness
and put your trust in the Lord.

There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?'
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us. **R**

You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

R

SECOND READING

1 JOHN 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what

we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 24:36B-48

While the eleven and their companions were talking about what they had heard, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself.

Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

POST COMMUNION

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Wednesday 21st April

COLLECT

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

FIRST READING

ACTS 8:1B-8

That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria. Devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church by entering house after house; dragging off both men and women, he committed them to prison.

Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did, for unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, came out of many who were possessed; and many others who were paralysed or lame were cured. So there was great joy in that city.

PSALM

PSALM 66:1-6

Refrain: All the earth shall worship you, O Lord.

Be joyful in God, all the earth;

 sing the glory of his name;

 sing the glory of his praise.

Say to God, 'How awesome are your deeds!

 Because of your great strength

 your enemies shall bow before you.

'All the earth shall worship you,

 sing to you, sing praise to your name.' **R**

Come now and behold the works of God,

 how wonderful he is in his dealings with humankind.

He turned the sea into dry land;

 the river they passed through on foot;

 there we rejoiced in him.

In his might he rules for ever;

 his eyes keep watch over the nations;

 let no rebel rise up against him. **R**

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 6:35-40

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.

This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

POST COMMUNION

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**