

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP

Registered Charity Number: 1133977

www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

## 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

28<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### TODAY

- 9:00 am Said Eucharist  
10:30 am Parish Eucharist  
*Hymns: 201; 207; 453; 430; 454*  
**4:00 pm Songs of Praise, followed by Tea**  
6:00 pm *Sung Evening Prayer at St Mary Magdalene*

### THIS WEEK

#### MONDAY

- 8:45 am Morning Prayer  
10:00 am Church open

#### TUESDAY

- 8:45 am Morning Prayer  
10:00 am Church open

#### WEDNESDAY

- 8:45 am Morning Prayer  
9:30 am Said Eucharist  
10:00 am Church open

#### THURSDAY

- 8:45 am Morning Prayer



9.30am-11.30am - ST. NICK'S NIPPERS  
Play, Worship, Coffee & Friendship for young  
children and those who have care of them.

- 10:00 am Church open

#### FRIDAY

- 10:00 am Church open

#### SATURDAY

- 10:00 am Church open  
All day Lincoln Choral Society – Come & Sing Fauré

### NEXT SUNDAY – 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

### READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

#### SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY

Acts 10:44-end  
Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-6  
John 15:9-17

#### WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY

1 Kings 19:9-13a  
Psalm 27:1, 3-6  
1 Corinthians 13:8-13  
John 20:11-18

### PARISH INFORMATION

#### Parish Office

☎ 01522 540614; stnicholaslincoln@gmail.com

Notices for next week's sheet by Wednesday please.

#### Online & Social Media

🐦 @StNicksLincoln 📘 @stnicholaslincoln

www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

### FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PRIEST

Dear Friends,

“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God”. The opening words of Sunday’s epistle from the First Letter of John, were a recurring part of my worshipping life when we lived in Scotland, because they introduce the greeting of peace in the Scottish Liturgy. They echo Jesus’ new commandment given after he washed the disciples’ feet at the Last Supper: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

These words are not just an exhortation to try harder and do better, although it is clear that John is writing for a Christian community which has been divided over issues of doctrine; which has found that loving one another can be no easy matter. This is a recurring problem in Church life down the ages. The issue which seems to have divided John’s church community was over knowledge of God. There were those who thought of this in terms of ideas rather than action. It is important to understand God properly, but the God who is revealed to us supremely in Jesus Christ is not an abstract idea but one who acts in love. Knowledge of God, therefore, can only be achieved by acting and living in love. John tells us very firmly that we cannot claim to love the God we have not seen if we do not love the brothers and sisters we can see. Nor are those brothers and sisters just people like us. It is easy to love humanity in general but loving particular human beings, the difficult and demanding, the awkward and prickly, the unlikable, can be much more challenging.

That is why it is important that we listen to John’s recurring theme of the divine initiative: “In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us.... We love because he first loved us”. The proof of this is found in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit we are enabled to abide, to dwell, to live in that perfect love which casts out fear.

One of the forms which fear takes is of difference. In the reading from Acts we see God taking the initiative to overcome difference, to break down barriers. The Ethiopian eunuch was someone who both race and physical state barred from the Temple. In spite of these barriers he had been drawn to the God of the Jews. The Spirit instructs Philip to approach him and help him understand the scripture he is reading as being fulfilled in Jesus. The encounter leads to his request for baptism and his incorporation in the people of God.

In the Gospel Jesus speaks to the disciples at the Last Supper of the deep relationship, the mutual abiding, between himself and believers. He is the vine and they are the branches. Love which is true does not leave us unchanged. If we refuse that change love will not grow and may well die. Jesus speaks of the Father as the vine-grower who prunes the branches of the vine so that they may bear more fruit. He also clears away the dead wood. When the branch is ourselves, the experience of being pruned can be a painful one, and its benefits may not be recognisable for some time. A pruned vineyard looks pretty barren before new

growth bears fruit. Self-examination, both individual and communal, is a demanding exercise. It is then that we need to remember that priority of God's love and not despair of it but trust in the God whose "nature is always to have mercy", and who makes possible our abiding in the love of Christ.

For me, one of the best reminders of this is in George Herbert's poem;

**Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back  
Guilty of dust and sin.  
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack  
From my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,  
If I lacked any thing.**

**A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:  
Love said, You shall be he.  
I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,  
I cannot look on thee.  
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,  
Who made the eyes but I?**

**Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame  
Go where it doth deserve.  
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?  
My dear, then I will serve.  
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:  
So I did sit and eat.**

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alan

## NOTICES

### SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - EPISCOPAL VISIT

Bishop David, Bishop of Grimsby, joins us today to preside and preach. A good opportunity to talk to him!

### SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – 4 PM EASTER SONGS OF PRAISE

Do join us for a celebration of Easter Hymns, followed by tea. Please bring your friends – and cakes!

### PHOENIX GROUP ACTIVITIES

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays, 2:00 to 4:00 pm**

**1<sup>st</sup> Mondays:** Board Games and refreshments

**3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays:** Speakers and refreshments

### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

**TUESDAY May 7<sup>th</sup>:** Games Afternoon (moved from Bank Holiday Monday)

**May 20<sup>th</sup>:** The Revd Pauline Makin - 'Speaking in a World of Silence'.

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Games Afternoon

**June 17<sup>th</sup>:** Strawberry Tea

**July 1<sup>st</sup>:** Games Afternoon

**July 15<sup>th</sup>:** Harriet Winspear, Natural Environmental Project Officer for Trees and Woodland Creation – talking about her new post

**August 5<sup>th</sup>:** Games Afternoon

**August 19<sup>th</sup>:** Su and Carolyn Jones – A Summer Medley

**Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Games Afternoon

**Sept 16<sup>th</sup>:** Annette Mackenzie – "Owlin' Mad"

**October 7<sup>th</sup>:** Games Afternoon

**October 21<sup>st</sup>:** Louth Carpet Factory – a talk by Betty Brown

**For further information, please contact Betty Brown  
email address: [bettybkbrown@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bettybkbrown@yahoo.co.uk)**

### WANTED – CARDIGANS & WAISTCOATS!

Members of our family will be leading workshops for children and adults at the Greenbelt Festival this coming August. Greenbelt is a Christian Festival exploring the links between Art, Faith and Justice. The 2024 theme is DREAM ON and the workshops will re-purpose cardigans and waistcoats into amazing technicolour dreamcoats. So if you have any items, of any size, please bring them along to the designated box at the back of church. We shall be very grateful.

*David & Diana Mowbray, 01522 546753*

### ST MARY MAGDALENE SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES

Evening services at St Mary Magdalene are on second and fourth Sundays, starting at **6:00 pm**.

#### **APRIL**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>:** Sung Evening Prayer (CW)

#### **MAY**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>:** Choral Evensong (BCP)

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>:** Sung Evening Prayer (CW)

### ST MARY MAGDALENE SUMMER CONCERT SEASON

**Concerts start at 7:30 pm**

**Weds 8<sup>th</sup> May** Lincoln Renaissance Band and Friends  
*Renaissance Music*

**Weds 15<sup>th</sup> May** Gone to the Dogs  
*Acoustic roots music*

**Weds 29<sup>th</sup> May** The Cerulean Trio  
*Classical Guitar Trio*

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June** St Andrew's Uni. Madrigal Group  
*A Capella Choral Music*

**And more, through June and July....**

### READINGS

#### **PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE**

**Lord God, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared for us a place in the new Jerusalem: grant that we, who this day give thanks for his resurrection, may praise you in the City of which he is the light, and where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### ***Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April***

#### **COLLECT**

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## FIRST READING

ACTS 8:26-END

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

## PSALM

PSALM 22:25-END

*Refrain: All the ends of the earth shall turn to you, O Lord.*

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

I will perform my vows

in the presence of those that fear you.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek the Lord shall praise him;

their hearts shall live for ever. **R**

All the ends of the earth

shall remember and turn to the Lord,

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For the kingdom is the Lord's

and he rules over the nations. **R**

How can those who sleep in the earth

bow down in worship,

or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?

He has saved my life for himself;

my descendants shall serve him;

this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.

They shall come and make known his salvation,

to a people yet unborn,

declaring that he, the Lord, has done it. **R**

## SECOND READING

1 JOHN 4:7-END

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

## GOSPEL READING

JOHN 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

## POST COMMUNION

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May**  
**Philip & James, Apostles**

**COLLECT**

Almighty Father, whom truly to know is eternal life:  
teach us to know your Son Jesus Christ as the way, the  
truth, and the life; that we may follow the steps of your  
holy apostles Philip and James, and walk steadfastly in  
the way that leads to your glory; through Jesus Christ  
your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in  
the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

**FIRST READING**

ISAIAH 30:15-21

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel:  
In returning and rest you shall be saved;

in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.

But you refused and said,

'No! We will flee upon horses'—

therefore you shall flee!

and, 'We will ride upon swift steeds'—

therefore your pursuers shall be swift!

A thousand shall flee at the threat of one,

at the threat of five you shall flee,

until you are left

like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain,

like a signal on a hill.

Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you;

therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you.

For the Lord is a God of justice;

blessed are all those who wait for him.

Truly, O people in Zion, inhabitants of Jerusalem, you  
shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at  
the sound of your cry; when he hears it, he will answer  
you. Though the Lord may give you the bread of  
adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher  
will not hide himself any more, but your eyes shall see  
your Teacher. And when you turn to the right or when  
you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind  
you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'

**PSALM**

PSALM 119:1-8

**Refrain: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes.**

Blessed are those whose way is pure,  
who walk in the law of the Lord.

Blessed are those who keep his testimonies  
and seek him with their whole heart,

Those who do no wickedness,  
but walk in his ways.

You, O Lord, have charged

that we should diligently keep your commandments.

**R**

O that my ways were made so direct  
that I might keep your statutes.

Then should I not be put to shame,

because I have regard for all your commandments.

I will thank you with an unfeigned heart,

when I have learned your righteous judgements.

I will keep your statutes;

O forsake me not utterly. **R**

**SECOND READING**

EPHESIANS 1:3-10

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual  
blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in  
Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy  
and blameless before him in love. He destined us for  
adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according  
to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his  
glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the  
Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood,  
the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the  
riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all  
wisdom and insight he has made known to us the  
mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that  
he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time,  
to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and  
things on earth.

**GOSPEL READING**

JOHN 14:1-14

Jesus said, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe  
in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there  
are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I  
have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And  
if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and  
will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you  
may be also. And you know the way to the place where  
I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know  
where you are going. How can we know the way?'  
Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the  
life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If  
you know me, you will know my Father also. From now  
on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we  
will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with  
you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me?  
Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can  
you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that  
I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words  
that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the  
Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me  
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if  
you do not, then believe me because of the works  
themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes  
in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will  
do greater works than these, because I am going to the  
Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that  
the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name  
you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

**POST COMMUNION**

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your  
Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven  
and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and  
boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the  
same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and  
to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord. **Amen**