

## Evening Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**  
In your resurrection, O Christ,  
**Let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.**

Spirit of the Risen Christ, as lamps light up the evening, shine into our hearts and kindle in us the fire of your love.

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to you be glory and praise for ever. From the deep waters of death you brought your people to new birth by raising your Son to life in triumph. Through him dark death has been destroyed and radiant life is everywhere restored. As you call us out of darkness into his marvellous light may our lives reflect his glory and our lips repeat the endless song.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

*Silence is kept.*

PSALM: Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.  
2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**  
3 He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
4 **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.**  
5 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.  
6 **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.**

READING: ACTS 4. 5–12 The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone." There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

## SERMON

## MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

*The Magnificat (Luke 1.46-55)*

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.**
  - 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.**
  - 3 He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation.**
  - 4 He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit,**
  - 5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**
  - 6 He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.**
  - 7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy,**
  - 8 The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children 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.**

PRAYERS using the response .....

*let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, in your mercy, hear us***

## 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.**

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 it is 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 forever. Amen.**

## CONCLUSION

Gathered and scattered - **God is with us**  
In suffering and hope - **God is with us**  
Now and always - **God is with us.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**