

The Benefice of Chew Valley East

Morning Prayer for Sunday 26 April 2026, The Fourth 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 – by reciting each one in its entirety.*

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 23

¹The Lord is my shepherd; ♦
therefore can I lack nothing.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures ♦
and leads me beside still waters.

³He shall refresh my soul ♦
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴Though 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.

⁵You 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.

⁶Surely 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.**

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Many were baptized and were added to the community. ⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Canticle

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

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

²The Lord is my strength and my song ♦
and has become my salvation.

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

⁴The Lord is a warrior, ♦
the Lord is his name.

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

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

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

⁸And by your invincible strength ♦
you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

⁹You 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 10:1-10

Jesus said to the Pharisees: ¹‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.

²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.’

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.**

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

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

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

⁴To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦
and to remember his holy covenant.

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁰To 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: In your love and mercy:

Please respond: **Hear our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, your sheep need protection.
So much in the world threatens to harm or destroy them.
They are oppressed, exploited, unjustly treated, prey to conflict and violence.
We pray for . . .
We ask that the world may know life in all its fullness.
In your love and mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, your sheep need good pasture.
So many in the world do not have enough to eat.
Their lives are narrowed by need as they struggle to exist.
We pray for . . .
We ask that the needy may know life in all its fullness.
In your love and mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, your sheep need healing.
So many are sick and in pain.
Incapacitated by illness, sorrow, anxiety, their journey through life is hard.
We pray for . . .
We pray that those in trouble may know life in all its fullness.
In your love and mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, your sheep need guidance.
So often they do not know the way they should go
but stumble along blindly, not listening for your voice.
We pray for guidance for the church . . .
We pray that we may know life in all its fullness.
In your love and mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, your sheep need saving.
So often they stray from you and get lost,
needing your costly forgiveness,
needing you to risk all to fetch them back.
We pray for ourselves . . .
We pray that we may know life in all its fullness.
In your love and mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

In the name of the Good Shepherd who lay down his life for the sheep. **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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