

The Benefice of Chew Valley East

Morning Prayer for Sunday 5 April 2026, Easter Sunday

*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 118:1-2, 14-24

¹O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; ♦
his mercy endures for ever.

²Let Israel now proclaim, ♦
'His mercy endures for ever.'

¹⁴The Lord is my strength and my song, ♦
and he has become my salvation.

¹⁵Joyful shouts of salvation ♦
sound from the tents of the righteous:

¹⁶'The right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds;
the right hand of the Lord raises up; ♦
the right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds.'

¹⁷I shall not die, but live ♦
and declare the works of the Lord.

¹⁸The Lord has punished me sorely, ♦
but he has not given me over to death.

¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness, ♦
that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.

²⁰This is the gate of the Lord; ♦
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me ♦
and have become my salvation.

²²The stone which the builders rejected ♦
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³This is the Lord's doing, ♦
and it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the Lord has made; ♦
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

**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 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all.

³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and

drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

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 20:1-18

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other

disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' ¹⁶Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' which means Teacher. ¹⁷Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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: God of Life and Love:

Please respond: **Raise us to new life with Christ.**

When hope lies dead in the tomb with Jesus
and we cannot see that things can improve
for our world, our country, our church,
for our loved ones, for ourselves:

God of Life and Love: **Raise us to new life with Christ.**

When joy lies dead in the tomb with Jesus
and life seems a dreary, uphill struggle for
the needy, the sick, the depressed,
for our loved ones, for ourselves:
God of Life and Love: **Raise us to new life with Christ.**

When peace lies dead in the tomb with Jesus
and intolerance, conflict and warfare abound
between nations, races and religions,
between loved ones and within ourselves:
God of Life and Love: **Raise us to new life with Christ.**

When love lies dead in the tomb with Jesus
and the world is a harsh, uncaring place
for the hungry, the homeless, the needy,
for our loved ones, for ourselves:
God of Life and Love: **Raise us to new life with Christ.**

When faith lies dead in the tomb with Jesus
and suffering challenges belief and trust in you
for the bereaved, the fearful, the doubters,
for our loved ones, for ourselves:
God of Life and Love: **Raise us to new life with Christ.**

Eternal God, give us the grace to die with Christ – to put behind us the things
that come between you and us, and to offer ourselves wholeheartedly in the
service of your love.

God of Life and Love: **Raise us to new life with Christ.**

In the name of Christ the Victorious. **Amen.**

Collect

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **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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