

Holsworthy Benefice

April News Sheet

Bridgerule, Hollacombe, Holsworthy, Pyworthy with Pancrasweek

	Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Holsworthy	Pancrasweek	Pyworthy
1st April			10am Said Holy Communion		
2nd April Maundy Thursday		7.30pm Mass and Watch	7.30pm Eucharist, 9pm Compline, and Watch		
3rd April Good Friday		3pm Veneration	10.30am Walk of Witness in the square		2pm – The Last Hour
4th April Easter Eve		8pm Easter Vigil and 1st Mass	4pm Family Easter Story & Egg Hunt 8pm Easter Vigil		
5th April Easter Day	11am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Mass	9.30am Sung Eucharist		3pm Easter Service with Easter Egg Hunt
12th April	11am Morning Prayer	3pm Evensong	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist
19th April	11am Joint Service at Methodist Chapel	9.30am Mass	11am Confirmation Service with Bishop Moira		9.30am Sung Eucharist
26th April	11am All Age Eucharist		11am Cafe Church with refreshments from 10.30am	9.30am All Age Service	9.30am Morning Prayer

WWW.holsworthybenefice.org.uk

Find us on Facebook at Holsworthy Churches

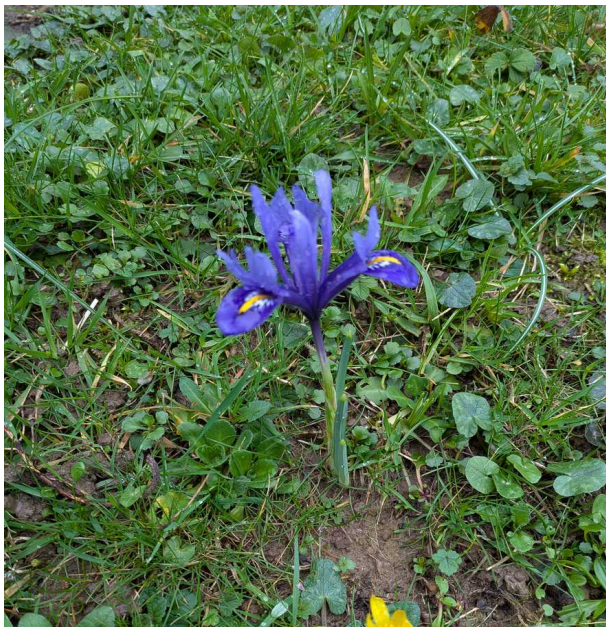
www.achurchnearyou.com

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	Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Holsworthy	Pancrasweek	Pyworthy
3rd May	11am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Mass	9.30am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Family Service
10th May	11am Morning Prayer	3pm Evensong	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist
17th May	11am Joint Service at Methodist Chapel	9.30am Mass	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist
24th May	11am All Age Eucharist		11am Cafe Church with refreshments from 10.30am		9.30am Morning Prayer
31st May	10am Benefice Songs of Praise at Pancrasweek				



Spring is here!...

A photo of one of the crocus planted by pupils from Bridgerule School, now lining each side of the church path.

Dear Friends,



Mothering Sunday saw our churches filled with spring flowers – it was wonderful to see the bright and welcome splash of colour. Thank you to all who picked, gathered and presented flowers on Mothering Sunday. The days following the services cheered us immensely as we saw a turn in the weather for the better. Please remember in prayer our farmers who have faced a very wet spring:

Lord, thank you for your sunshine and showers.

We ask that you dry out the land that livestock may be turned out to graze and machinery used to work on the land once more.

We pray this through the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please also remember in prayer those to be confirmed in April. We are delighted to welcome Bishop Moira, the Bishop of Crediton, to Holsworthy Benefice to take the Confirmation Service on Sunday 19th April. The confirmation candidates are: Kathryn, Kerry & Laura-Jane from Holsworthy, and Emma & Ben from Bradworthy Benefice. We pray for them as they prepare to make their public declaration of faith, that they will know the presence and guidance of God throughout their lives.

I pray that each one of us will also experience the guidance of God during this Eastertide. As we now enter our final days of Lent we prepare to move into Holy Week and the anticipation of the Easter Festival itself. Please see this month's diary entries for full details of services.

With blessings for a very good Holy Week and a Happy Easter.

Yours in Christ,

Alison

Diary Dates

Wednesday 1st April

10am St Peter & Paul, Holy Week Midweek Communion

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

10.30am Exeter Cathedral, Maundy Thursday service of blessing of the oils and Holy Communion

7.30pm St Peter & Paul, Maundy Thursday Eucharist followed by the Watch and 9pm Compline

7.30pm Hollacombe, Maundy Thursday Mass & the Watch

Good Friday 3rd April

10.30am Holsworthy Square Walk of Witness, concluding at St Peter & Paul's with Hot Cross Buns

2pm Pyworthy, Last Hour at the Cross, reflective service

3pm Hollacombe, Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Saturday 4th April

4pm St Peter & Paul, Family Easter Story & Egg Hunt

8pm St Peter & Paul, Easter Fire & First Eucharist of Easter

8pm Hollacombe, Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter

Easter Sunday Services

9.30am at Holsworthy & Hollacombe

11am Bridgerule

3pm Pyworthy

Monday 13th April

7pm The Rectory, Rota Meeting

Saturday 25th April

7pm Holsworthy Town Band Spring Concert, St Peter & Paul

Annual Parochial Church Meetings held in Church Building

23rd April Hollacombe 7.30pm

30th April Pyworthy 7.3pm

20th May Bridgerule 7.30pm

21st May Holsworthy 7pm

The winners of the St. Peter's Monthly Jackpot Draw for March were:

1st Prize £17.50 - ticket number 184, Patrick H

2nd Prize, £3.50 - ticket number 92, Rachel C

The St Peter's Monthly Jackpot Draw will sadly be finishing after the draw in March 2026. The PCC of Holsworthy Parish Church would like to thank everyone that has taken part in the draw over the years. The money raised has been invaluable to the maintenance of the church and, as such, we would like to ask all participants whether past or present, to consider making an annual donation of £12 straight to church funds.

Our bank details are - PCC of Holsworthy Parish Church, acct no. 05007216, sort code 53-50-52. You could also pay by card, using the machine in church or there is a wall safe for cash donations.

Many thanks, The PCC of Holsworthy Parish Church



LIFFY'S TOWER ABSEIL

Some of you by now will know that I intend to abseil down one of the cliffs at Hartland to raise money to help repair our church, St Swithun's. I would be so very grateful if you felt you could sponsor my trip. It is taking place on Wednesday May 6th. I have abseiled before and found it a lot less stressful than I thought it might be; the worst bit is going over the cliff at the top, once that's done it's plain sailing, hopefully not literally! Please help if you feel that you can.

Liffy

liffylowes@gmail.com

DO YOU, OR YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS SHOP ONLINE?

**You can help St. Peter & St. Paul's Church, Holsworthy,
raise much needed funds for upkeep and maintenance**

**We have signed up to the easyfundraising website.
If you shop online using their website or mobile app,
we can benefit from donations without it costing you anything.**

**Over 8,000 retailers will donate to us for FREE
whenever you shop with them.**

**Please help us by joining easyfundraising
using the website or mobile app
[easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
and select Holsworthy Parish Church as your cause**

**When you shop online, go to the easyfundraising site
or app first and search for your retailer**

**There are many major retailers including supermarkets,
insurance, travel, department stores, breakdown cover etc.**

**You can also download a browser extension
so that you get a Donation Reminder if you forget
to go through the easyfundraising site or app**

Readings for April & May

5th April- White/Gold– Easter Day -

Acts 10: 34-43, Psalm 118: 1-2. 14-24 , Colossians 3:1-4, Matthew 28: 1-10.

12th April- White– Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2: 14a 22-32, Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20: 19-end.

19th April- White– Third Sunday of Easter-

Acts 2: 14a 36-41, Psalm 116 : 1-3. 10-end , 1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24: 13-35 .

26th April- White–Fourth Sunday Sunday of Easter -

Acts 2: 42-end, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2: 19-end, John 10: 1-10.

3rd May- White– Fifth Sunday of Easter -

Acts 7: 55-end, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2: 2-10, John 14:1-14.

10th May- White– Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17: 22-31, Psalm 66,: 7-end, 1 Peter 3: 13-end, John 14: 15-21.

17th May- White– Seventh Sunday of Easter-

Acts 1: 6-14, Psalm 68 : 1-10 32-end, 1 Peter 4: 12-14; 5:6-11, John 17: 1-11.

24th May- Red–Pentecost -

Acts 2: 1-21, Psalm 104: 26-36. 37b, 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13, John 20:19 23.

31st May- White–Trinity Sunday -

Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-end, Matthew 28: 16-end.

Contacts

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Bridgerule Safeguarding Lead

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Holsworthy Church Warden

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Holsworthy Deputy Church Warden

Helen Flaherty – 07790 380119

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Libby Cullimore – 07717750198

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Ali Davies - 01409 251281

Pyworthy Safeguarding Lead

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Pancrasweek Church Wardens

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Holsworthy Foodbank

01271 377077

Samaritans

116 123

Age UK -

0808 055 6112

Domesic Abuse – Womens Aid

0808 2000 247

Domesic Abuse – Mens Advice Line

0808 8010 327

Childline

0800 111

COLLECT

Lord of all life and power,
 who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
 overcame the old order of sin and death
 to make all things new in him:
 grant that we, being dead to sin
 and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
 may reign with him in glory;
 to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
 be praise and honour, glory and might,
 now and in all eternity.

FIRST READING

The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading.

Either **Acts 10:34-43**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how 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. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not 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. He 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. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Or **Jeremiah 31:1-6**

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus says the LORD: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God."

PSALM

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (or 118:14-24)

R *I will give thanks to you, for you have become my salvation.*

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures for ever.

Let Israel now proclaim,

"His mercy endures for ever." **R**

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

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

"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." **R**

I shall not die, but live

and declare the works of the Lord.

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

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

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

I will give thanks to you,

for you have answered me

and have become my salvation. **R**

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

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

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

SECOND READING

Either **Colossians 3:1-4**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Or **Acts 10:34-43**

GOSPEL

Either **John 20:1-18**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Early 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. So 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." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also

went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and 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. They 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." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus 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." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" which means Teacher. Jesus 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.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Or **Matthew 28:1-10**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

POST COMMUNION

God of Life,
 who for our redemption gave your only-begotten
 Son
 to the death of the cross,
 and by his glorious resurrection
 have delivered us from the power of our enemy:
 grant us so to die daily to sin,
 that we may evermore live with him
 in the joy of his risen life;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

I will give thanks to you, for you have become my salvation.

Sunday 12 April 2026 Second Sunday of Easter

COLLECT

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice
and wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ
our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading.

Either Acts 2:14a. 22-32

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know – this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

Or Exodus 14:10-end; 15:20-21

PSALM Psalm 16

R The Lord is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge;
I have said to the Lord, "You are my lord,
all my good depends on you."
All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble in heart. R

Though the idols are legion that many run after,
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,
neither make mention of their names upon my lips.
The Lord himself is my portion and my cup;
in your hands alone is my fortune. R

My share has fallen in a fair land;
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel,
and in the night watches he instructs my heart. R

I have set the Lord always before me;
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.
Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices;
my flesh also shall rest secure. R

For you will not abandon my soul to Death,
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
You will show me the path of life;
in your presence is the fullness of joy
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore. R

SECOND READING

Either 1 Peter 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith – being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with

an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Or Acts 2:14a. 22-32

GOSPEL John 20:19-end

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

When it was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

POST COMMUNION

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Sunday 19 April 2026 Third Sunday of Easter

COLLECT

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the
disciples with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence
with us,
that we may be strengthened and
sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness
and truth;
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.

FIRST READING

The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading.

Either **Acts 2:14a. 36-41**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptised, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Or **Zephaniah 3:14-end**

PSALM Psalm 116:1-3. 10-end
(or **116:1-7**)

R *Gracious is the Lord and righteous.*

I love the Lord,
for he has heard the voice of my
supplication;
because he inclined his ear to me
on the day I called to him.
The snares of death encompassed me;
the pains of hell took hold of me;
by grief and sorrow was I held. **R**

Then I called upon the name of the Lord:
"O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul."
How shall I repay the Lord
for all the benefits he has given to me? **R**

I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call upon the name of the Lord.
I will fulfil my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.
Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful servants. **R**

O Lord, I am your servant,
your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the Lord. **R**

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,
In the courts of the house of the Lord,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Alleluia. **R**

SECOND READING

Either **1 Peter 1:17-23**

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile lives inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Or **Acts 2:14a. 36-41**

GOSPEL Luke 24:13-35

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

On that same day, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognising him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only

stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" Jesus asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Jesus." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised Jesus; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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.



Gra-cious is the Lord and righ - teous.

Sunday

26 April 2026 Fourth Sunday of Easter

COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the
resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of
righteousness,
that we may seek those things
which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading.

Either **Acts 2:42-end**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Many were baptised and were added to the community. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day 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, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Or **Genesis 7**

PSALM Psalm 23

R *I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green
pastures
and leads me beside still waters. **R**

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

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.
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. **R**

SECOND READING

Either **1 Peter 2:19-end**

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Brothers and sisters: It is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Or **Acts 2:42-end**

GOSPEL John 10:1-10

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said to the Pharisees: "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. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

POST COMMUNION

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to
be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down
his life and rise again:
keep us always under his
protection,
and give us grace to follow in his
steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

