

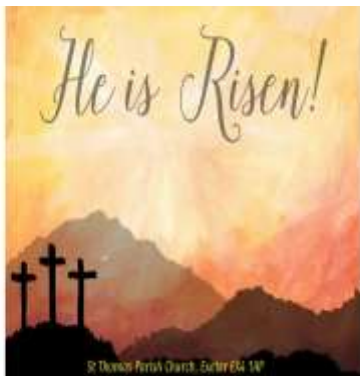
Reflection for Easter 4 John 10: 22-30

Two questions are posed in this passage from John's Gospel. Who is Jesus and who are His sheep? Jesus claimed to be God, but of course to the Jews, this is blasphemy.

We accept that Jesus' claim is true, yet why didn't they stand back and accept the evidence of Jesus' teaching and the miracles of Jesus that were consistent with the character of God. Blasphemy was thought of as someone claiming to be God.

To answer the first question, Jesus is God, who made Himself a man. You can't get more mind-blowing news than that. That simply answers the second question "who are the sheep? WE ARE! and this demands a response from us that we should tell the people this mind-blowing news, because it is Good News in the midst of so much bad news we hear each day

Fr Terry



NEXT SUNDAY 18.05.25 Fifth Sunday of Easter
10.30am in the Church

READINGS: OT Acts 11: 1-18
NT Revelation 21: 1-6
GOSPEL John 13: 31-35



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St Thomas, Exeter

11th May 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter

10.30am in the Church

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

231 I heard the voice of Jesus say

484 The King of love my shepherd is

351 Now is eternal life

Wednesday 14th May

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

1.30pm Margaret Gribble's Funeral at St Peter's
Chapel, Exeter Crematorium.

Thursday 15th May

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12noon Knit & Natter. 19 Maple Rd
Details from Jenny. 01392 498725

Friday 16th May

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting



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. **Amen**

Acts 9: 36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Revelation 7: 9-17

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and

they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.' Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

John 10: 22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

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.

Amen

Notices

We are revising the **Year's Mind list** as it has become rather lengthy. We recognize that it is a sensitive matter and all those currently on this list from the year 2000 will be retained automatically. If you would like an older St Thomas name kept on this list please contact Ian or Fr David. Please note that if your relative or friend was a worshipper at Emmanuel or St Andrews, there are no dates with these names. So please speak to Ian or Fr David even if the date is 2000 onwards.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting takes place on Sunday 25th May after the service. There are vacancies for 1 Churchwarden and 3 PCC members. It is most important that we have 2 Churchwardens and a full PCC especially during the Interregnum as there are decisions to be made relating to the building and financial matters. For information and nomination forms please see Ian.

Cleaning the Church Volunteers are needed. Areas can be cleaned whenever it suits as long as there are to least two people. Speak to Ian.

The House Group meets fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month at Helen's house. For details see Mic or Ian.

Hospiscare 100 Miles in May: our churchwarden, Ian Totterdell, is taking part in Hospiscare's fundraising event '100 Miles in May'. This will involve running, cycling (and swimming) a total of 100 miles during this month. If you would like to support him, please visit <https://justgiving.com/page/ian-totterdell-3> or speak to Ian at a Sunday service.

