

Reflection for Easter 2

Our readings this week focus on two very challenging and uncomfortable meetings with Jesus after he was raised from the dead. The disciple Peter will find that his joy in seeing Jesus is followed by excruciating embarrassment. He will be required to match his three denials of Jesus with three assertions of his love. Paul (known here by his previous name, Saul) must also face up to his previous actions. Saul had persecuted the early church, even encouraging those who killed Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Saul experiences Jesus as a blinding light and a voice demanding: "Why do you persecute me?" When Saul asks who is speaking, he hears, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting!" Ouch!

Surprisingly, Peter and Paul will both be given huge responsibility for sharing the story of Jesus's resurrection, and the hope and joy which it brings. What might this say to us?

Sometimes being a Christian is seen as a respectable choice for people who are busy being nice: people who set themselves apart and then look down on others. Instead, these readings suggest that following Jesus will lead us into bringing our shame, regrets and our failings into the light of his love. Only then can we be free from the weight which we carry. Only then will we be ready to share the love of Jesus with others. Amen

Revd Sarah



Codes for Zoom No further Zoom services planned at the moment.

Meeting ID: :
Passcode:

Telephone numbers: 0203 481 5237,
0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 08.05.2022 Easter 4

SERVICES: 10.30am in Church

READINGS: OT Acts 9: 36-43
NT Revelation 7: 9-17
GOSPEL John 10: 22-30



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St Thomas, Exeter

1st May 2022

Easter 3

10.30am in Church

Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist with Baptism
(please pray for Willow Rae and her family)

Wednesday 4th May

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 5th May

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots, Breast
Feeding Support

10.30am Knit & Natter at 19 Maple Road

Friday 6th May

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting



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. **Amen**

Acts 9.1–6

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.'

Revelation 5.11–14

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!' Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, 'To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever!' And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' And the elders fell down and worshipped.

John 21.1–19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the

beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

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. **Amen**

NOTICES

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is not now compulsory but we would still advise it while infection numbers remain high. If you are coming to coffee, we also recommend wearing a mask until you are seated in the Hall.

Knit and Natter April 2022 We shall be meeting every Thursday from 10.30 to midday at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

Community Larder is receiving donations on Tuesdays from 10am-12noon.

St Andrew's, Exwick. Please note that Fr David and Rev Sarah are covering some of the Sunday morning services at Exwick after the retirement of Jerry Bird.

Electoral Roll The electoral roll is currently being updated ahead of our APCM. If you are not already registered and would like to be added to the 2022 electoral roll, please speak to Carolyn Bryant or a member of staff. Application forms will be available in Church for the next few weeks. Please return any completed forms to Carolyn Bryant (contact number 07780707183) asap. Thank you.

There is a vacancy on the PCC. Decisions affecting the life of our Church are made by the PCC. It is important that we have a full complement of PCC members. If you are interested in joining the PCC and would like more information, please contact Jenny Thomas on 01392 213207, Ian Totterdell or one of the clergy team. Nomination forms will be in Church until the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on Sunday 8th May.

