

## Reflection, John 5.1-9, Easter 6

A Eucharist is when we say thank you, thank you to God for everything God has done for us and with us, and especially thank you for the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That is why in the central prayer there is always a reference to this salvation history. In the season of Easter (which lasts up to Pentecost) it is towards the resurrection of Jesus that our thoughts are particularly directed.

Being grateful, individually and communally, is an attractive quality – but more than that, it can be an antidote to prevailing feelings of gloom and despondency. It's like a ray of sunshine cutting through all that dismalness. And we do have some fairly good reasons, nationally and internationally, to feel dismal.

One way of reacting to this gloom is to focus on one small thing for which I am grateful, and to allow a chain of gratitude to develop out of this, and to practise this exercise regularly; then building on this, to check out that I do say 'thank you' actively to others, rather than just letting it go.

Gratitude is also contagious – it can spread and infect others, and it might just produce joy!

*Fr David*



**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 29.05.2022 Easter 7**

**SERVICES:** 10.30am in Church

**READINGS:** OT Acts 16: 16-34  
NT Revelation 21: 12-14,16,17,20,21  
GOSPEL John 17: 20-26



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# St Thomas, Exeter

**22nd May 2022**

**Easter 6**

**10.30am in Church**

### **Today**

**10.30am** Sung Eucharist

### **Tuesday 24th May**

**7.30pm** House Group by Zoom. See Ian

### **Wednesday 25th May**

**10am** Holy Communion BCP

**2-4pm** Young at Hearts

**7.30pm** PCC Meeting

### **Thursday 26th May**

**9.30-11am** St Thomas Tots, Breast Feeding Support. Charity Cake Sale

**10.30am** Knit & Natter at 19 Maple Road  
**7pm** Ascension Day, Mass in Church

### **Friday 27th May**

**9.30am** Morning Prayer

**10am** Staff Meeting



## Collect

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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 16.9–15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

## Revelation 21:10,22 – 22: 5

And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the

earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

## John 5.1–9

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Bethzatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?' The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.' Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

## Post Communion

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him 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 May 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.

**Volunteers** are needed to help with weeding the flower borders in the Churchyard. See Pat Mounce

## \*HMQ Platinum Jubilee Events\*

**Thursday 2nd June.** St Thomas Tots Jubilee Treasure Hunt.

**Friday 3rd June.** There will be a **Jubilee Tea Party** in the Church grounds from **12-3pm**. We have been asked to provide a cake/produce stall. If you would like to volunteer to bake a cake please tell Ian, Judith or one of the clergy.

**Saturday 4th June. Peal of Bells** here at 10-3pm. **Evensong in the Cathedral**, 4pm (free tickets)

**Sunday 5th June. Bring & Share lunch** after the Eucharist.

There will be a Tree planting later in the year.

