

Third Sunday of Easter

Sunday May 4th 2025

Hymn

(Tune Nicaea)

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky,
and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

Prayer for the Day

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 9.1-20

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so

that he might regain his sight.’ But Ananias answered, ‘Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.’ But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.’ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, ‘He is the Son of God.’

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Second Reading Revelation 5.11-end

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I, John, 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.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn

**O God, you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
ever the maker and keeper of my days.**

**You know my resting and my rising.
You discern my purpose from afar,
and with love everlasting you besiege me:
in every moment of life or death, you are.**

**Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
you have known its meaning through and through.
You are with me beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past, and future, too.**

**Although your Spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.**

**For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.**

Gospel Reading

John 21.1-19

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

Hymn

Tune Kelvingrove

**Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare,
will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?**

**Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.**

Post-Communion Prayer

**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.**

Hymn

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone! who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the love of God was recognised -
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine -
bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.**

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### **Chalice Assistants**

**As was usual pre-Covid, we'd like to re-build our team of non-robed, lay chalice assistants to help distribute communion on Sunday mornings. If you would like to find out more about this, then please speak to Claire on 939467 or [vicar@stthomaswells.co.uk](mailto:vicar@stthomaswells.co.uk)**

### **Christians Together in the Wells Area (CTWA)**

**St Thomas' Church needs a representative for CTWA. This involves just 3-4 meetings per year. If you are interested, or would like to find out more, then please speak to Claire on 939467 or [vicar@stthomaswells.co.uk](mailto:vicar@stthomaswells.co.uk)**

### **Could you be a "15 minute volunteer"?**

**ABC2 are looking for setting up or packing away (15 minute) volunteers at 9am or 10.45 on a Wednesday morning. The team would love to hear from you, Michaela, Lydia, Kathy or Claire.**

**Prayers for the Parish:** Hooper Avenue; Foster Close

**Prayers for our link churches in Zambia:** Please pray for St Augustine's Church & St Monica's Church, Livingstone East.

**Prayers for those who are ill:**

Audrey Parkes; Jean; Robert: Eva & family; Sheila Stocker;  
Dorothy Dennis; Graham; Tony Birbeck; Roy Mackenzie

**R.I.P.** Tony Roberts

**Those whose year's mind occurs at this time:**

Bella Burton (05-05-1995)  
Geoffrey Lewis (06-05-2003)  
Peter Thorburn (06-05-2015)  
Julie Halton (08-05-2003)  
Tara Knight (09-05-2018)



**This week:**

Mon 11am **Trio Paradis Café Concert** in church  
Tues 10 – 12 **Coffee Stop** in church  
10am **Homegroup** meet in community room  
2-4pm *Choir Rehearsals in church*  
Wed 9.30-11am **ABC2** parents/carers & tots in the hall  
Thurs 9.30am **A Time to Meditate** in church  
10 – 11am **Keep Fit** in the church hall  
2-4pm **Snack & Chat** in community room  
Fri *Note: Church will be closed as both wardens are away*  
Sun 10am **Parish Eucharist** (Fourth Sunday of Easter)



***Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> at 3pm Celebrate VE Day  
with Wells Good Afternoon Choir  
in St Thomas Church  
Free admission***

## **Christian Aid Evensong**

**Sunday 11th May at 3pm, Wells Cathedral.**

This year marks the 80th Anniversary of Christian Aid founded in 1945. A special Evensong has been arranged to mark this when we shall be joined by members from all the other churches in Wells.

The preacher will be Dr Frances Clemson the Faith Communications Officer for Christian Aid, previously an Assistant Professor at Durham University and teacher at Cambridge University. There will be a collection for the Christian Aid Myanmar Appeal. Afterwards refreshments will be served.

There will also be an exhibition of Christian Aid posters to mark the organisation's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Alongside the posters is information telling the story of Christian Aid's work from its origins to today. The poster exhibition will be in the Cathedral from the afternoon of Sat 11 May to the evening of Wed 14 May.

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Trio Paradis Café Concert

Monday 5th May 11am

(café open at 10.30am)

Northern Lights

Northern Lights is a programme of music by Scandinavian composers, including Andante con Moto in C minor by Edvard Grieg, May Night by Selim Palmgren, Inga Lartum-Liebig: June Night, Laura Netzel: Serenade, and works by Elfrida Andrée, Jan Sibelius and Niels Gade.

The concert last about 45mins and entrance is free with pay-what-you-feel donation invited.

Refreshments available in the café half an hour before the concert.

No need to book, just turn up.