

we may with the zeal of Pentecost inhabit our communities and speak of your goodness to an emerging world. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

*We sing or say the hymn*

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won;  
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
for her Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;  
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

### Blessing

The God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep,  
make you perfect in every good work to do his will;  
and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,  
be upon us this day and always. Amen.

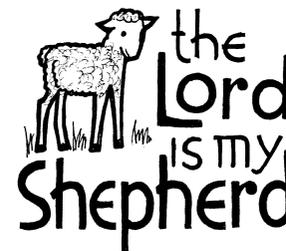
Let us continue to live in Christ's hope and peace. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

[www.swithunandmary.org.uk](http://www.swithunandmary.org.uk)



The Parish of Hemsted with St Mary de Lode  
and St Mary de Crypt, Gloucester  
*in partnership with Gloucester Cathedral*

The Fourth Sunday of Easter  
3 May 2020



### Opening Greeting

*A candle may be lit to symbolise the light of Christ*

The light of Christ. Thanks be to God!

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. In our bible reading God is described as being like a good shepherd who loves us, cares for us and knows each of us by name. Alleluia, Christ is risen!

*We sing or say Psalm 23*

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.  
He makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; He leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
even for His own Name's sake.

## The Prayer for Today

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear none ill;  
for Thou art with me; and Thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished  
in presence of my foes;  
my head Thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me;  
and in God's house forevermore  
my dwelling place shall be.

### We say Sorry to God and we Receive God's Forgiveness

Like Mary at the empty tomb,  
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.  
Lord, have mercy.

Like the disciples behind locked doors,  
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.  
Christ, have mercy.

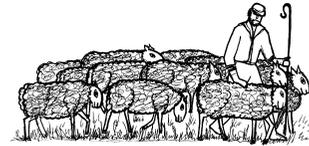
Like Thomas in the upper room,  
we are slow to believe.  
Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love and power, forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by the Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ.  
**Amen.**



Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:  
teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command,  
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**Bible reading: John 10:1-10**



**Reflection (attached)**

**We Declare our Faith**

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:  
this we have received,  
and this we believe. Amen.

*1 Corinthians 15:3-7*

### Intercessions

Jesus, light of the world, fill the world this day with your love,  
your hope and your peace. Let us pray for.....

*We name before God those people and situations we wish to  
pray for ending with **The Lord's Prayer.***

### A Prayer in Lockdown

Ever present God, be with us in our isolation, be close to us in  
our distancing, be healing in our sickness, be joy in our sadness,  
be light in our darkness, be wisdom in our confusion, be all that  
is familiar when all is unfamiliar, that when the doors reopen