SUNDAY 17 April 2016

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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.

FIRST READING

(Alternative readings)

The reading from Acts must be used as either the First or Second Reading.

Either Genesis 7:1-5. 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

Or Acts 9:36-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. 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.

PSALM Psalm 23

R I will dwell in your house for

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. R

He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. R

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full. Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. R

SECOND READING

Revelation 7:9-17

A reading from the book of Revelation. After this 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."

Or Acts 9:36-43 (as above)

GOSPEL John 10:22-30

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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.



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The United Churches of Holsworthy Benefice.

People tell me that they don't like to ask me to visit because I am far too busy. I am never too busy to Visit! If you need a visit, or know someone else who does, day or night at home, hospital or hospice please don't hesitate to call - and I will be there! Phone me at any hour, day or night, on 07941735318 (Fr. Christopher)

Notices

17th April 4th Sunday of Easter:

9.00pm Holy Communion, St. Petroc, Hollacombe (CP),

9.30am Morning Prayer, St, Swithun, Pyworthy

10.00am Holy Communion, St. Peter & St. Paul, Holsworthy (CP)

11.15am Holy Communion, St. Bridget, Bridgerule (CP)

Wednesday 20th April 2016:

12.00 Holy Communion, St. Peter and St. Paul, Holsworthy (CP)

24TH April 5rd Sunday of Easter:

8.00am Holy Communion, St. Peter & St. Paul, Holsworthy (CP)

9.30am Holy Communion, St, Swithun, Pyworthy (CP)

10.00am Morning Prayer, St. Peter & St. Paul, Holsworthy (LT)

11.30am Holy Communion & Baptism, St. Pancras, Pancrasweek (CP)

NO SERVICE, St, Bridget, Bridgerule. (VH)

Come and join us for a half an hour of Prayer

8.00am Morning Prayer

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday
At St. Peter and St. Paul, Holsworthy
Monday, & Wednesday
At St. Swithun, Pyworthy.

Matthew 25:34-40

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

NOTICES

27th April 7.30pm Pancrasweek PCC

30th April 7.30pm Celebrity Concert at St. Swithun's Church, Pyworthy

22nd - 23rd of July Bishops in Mission - Bishop Nick is coming to the Deanery for three days to spend time with us and work with us - more details to follow - watch this space!

Please take this sheet home with you