



# Welcome to St Alban's Church

## Easter 4

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**THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD** *Stuart Townend* © Copyright 1996  
*Thankyou Music*

1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not  
want;  
He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still  
waters,  
His goodness restores my soul.

**Chorus**  
*And I will trust in You alone,  
And I will trust in You alone,  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.*

2. He guides my ways in  
righteousness,  
And He anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights.

3. And though I walk the darkest  
path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
For You are with me, and Your rod  
and staff  
Are the comfort I need to know.

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Alleluia, Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice  
by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a  
sincere and true heart.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom:  
Lord have mercy **Lord have mercy**

Lord Jesus, you come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:  
Christ have mercy **Christ have mercy**

Lord Jesus, you will come in glory with salvation for your people:  
Lord have mercy **Lord have mercy**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you † pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

#### GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.**

## THE COLLECT (The special prayer of the day)

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**

### FIRST READING: **Acts 2.42-end**

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

### THE GOSPEL – **John 10.1-10**

Alelluia, Alelluia, Alelluia

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>10</sup>'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from

him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’<sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

7 So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

The REFLECTION

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten not made,  
of one Being with the Father, through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;  
he was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand  
of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

#### THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

*At the end of the prayers we say together:* **Merciful Father, accept  
these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

#### THE PEACE

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said,  
'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

Alleluia. The peace of the risen Lord be always with you.  
**And also, with you.**

#### THE EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you.  
**And also, with you**

Lift up your hearts  
**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
**It is right to give thanks and praise**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give  
you thanks, almighty and eternal Father,  
and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory  
of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died, he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended, he took the cup of wine.

Again, he praised you, gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,

we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith

**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Alban, and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Saviour taught us so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name;  
Your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. AMEN**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father**

*The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making*

*our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'*

#### An Act of Spiritual Communion

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and for ever, Amen.**

#### PRAYERS AFTER 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. **Amen**

#### THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,  
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing ...

With the risen life of Christ within you,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia  
**In the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.**

#### Closing Hymn

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***Walk with me, oh my Lord,  
Through the darkest night and brightest day.  
Be at my side, oh Lord,  
Hold my hand and guide me on my way.***

Sometimes the road seems long,  
My energy is spent.  
Then, Lord, I think of you  
And I am given strength. *Walk with me, oh my Lord,....*

Stones often bar my path  
And there are times I fall,  
But you are always there  
To help me when I call. *Walk with me, oh my Lord,....*

Just as you calmed the wind  
And walked upon the sea,  
Conquer, my living Lord,  
The storms that threaten me. *Walk with me, oh my Lord,...*

Help me to pierce the mists  
That cloud my heart and mind,  
So that I shall not fear  
The steepest mountain-side. *Walk with me, oh my Lord,...*

As once you helped the lame  
And gave sight to the blind,  
Help me when I'm downcast  
To hold my head high. *Walk with me, oh my Lord,...*

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