

## **Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup> 2022:** Third Sunday of Easter

*For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or other suitable time.*



### **Hymn StF 305 H&P 202**

Low in the grave he lay / Jesus, my Saviour,  
waiting the coming day / Jesus, my Lord:

*Up from the grave he arose / with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;*

*He arose a victor from the dark domain / and he lives for ever with his saints to reign:*

*He arose! He arose! Alleluia! Christ arose!*

Vainly they watch his bed / Jesus, my Saviour,  
vainly they seal the dead / Jesus, my Lord:

Death cannot keep his prey / Jesus, my Saviour,  
he tore the bars away / Jesus, my Lord:

*Robert Lowry (1826 – 1899)*

### **Gospel Reading set for today:** John 21 v 1 – 19

### **Epistle Reading set for today:** Revelation 5 v 11 – 14

### **Hymn StF 293 (sing twice)**

All heaven declares / the glory of the risen Lord;  
who can compare / with the beauty of the Lord?  
For ever he will be / the Lamb upon the throne;  
I gladly bow the knee / and worship him alone.

I will proclaim / the glory of the risen Lord,  
who once was slain / to reconcile us to God.

For ever you will be / the Lamb upon the throne;

I gladly bow the knee / and worship you alone.

*Noel Richards (b 1955) and Tricia Richards (b 1960) CCL no. 5365402*



### **Message from a Circuit friend**

Could you have a moment to think of a time you've failed at something you thought you were good at? That's exactly what happens to Peter in today's Gospel reading. He says to his friends, "I am going fishing", and they go out together in the boat, but catch nothing. In the midst of his grief, Peter returns to something familiar, something he's supposed to be good at, and yet it turns out even his old skills are letting him down. Peter must have been feeling sad, confused, ashamed and exposed. Jesus, the person he has loved and followed, is dead – or is he? Jesus has appeared to the disciples already, but perhaps these appearances left them baffled, as well as jubilant. And maybe for Peter, ashamed that he denied Jesus, the notion that Jesus is alive and likely knows about his denial is not altogether comforting. Maybe he feels like a fraud amongst the other disciples, underserving of his place in their community. Well, if he doesn't have what it takes to be a disciple, at least – he thinks – he can always go back to his fishing. When Peter says "I am going fishing" he is returning to his old and familiar way of life. He is going back to business-as-usual, to a life before he first encountered Jesus. But he is forgetting that his journey with Jesus has already changed things for him – and will continue to change things for him. So when he glimpses Jesus on the shore, he has a choice. Does he stay in the boat and choose disappointment, shame, despair - the old ways – or does he move towards Jesus and choose redemption, forgiveness and a new way?

When we are feeling sad, confused, ashamed or exposed how often do we fall into old familiar patterns that enforce our sense of failure, that compound our loneliness, that solidify our shame? Like Peter, we have a choice – and it's the choice of new over old, life over death, light over darkness. Peter learns that he cannot simply go back to the way things were. When Peter feels caught out by his own denial, he returns to what he knows best. But it turns out in fact that what he knows best is not how to fish, but how much

he loves Jesus. Even fishing, his trade and craft, cannot save him from his shame – he cannot stake his life on it, instead, he must stake his life on the only one worthy of such a stake. Peter's vocation is not to be found in the night time of his old life, but in the new dawn of taking up Jesus' call to follow him. In choosing the way of Jesus, the way of love and forgiveness, things will change for him. His encounter with Jesus demands it. The love that he professes three times to Jesus on the beach is the kind of love that is life-changing. It's a risky kind of loving that takes courage, that disrupts the way things were, that defies business-as-usual, and that is more powerful than shame or regret or fear.

Like Peter, we are called forwards, faithfully into God's future, away from our familiar ways – ways which allow us to wallow in our own shame or failure, ways which feel like safety but ultimately are destroying us. We are called forwards into fullness of light, life, and love.

**Cliff Shanganya (Minister in the Central Norfolk Circuit)**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

In the power of the resurrection we offer our prayers to God.

Remember, O Lord, in your love, the Church throughout the world...

May your whole Church know your power and be a sign that Christ is risen.

Lord of life, **hear us in your love.**

Remember in your love the world you have made... those who seek a fair and proper use of the world's resources... and those who strive for justice and peace among the nations.

May the whole earth be transformed by mercy and rejoice in hope.

Lord of life, **hear us in your love.**

Remember in your love those who suffer... the victims of violence and injustice... those who mourn  
May all in need find comfort, strength and freedom in the living Christ.

Lord of life, **hear us in your love.**

Gracious God, we ask these prayers through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Saviour. Amen.

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### **Offer to God your offertory for the week, and say the Lord's Prayer...**

#### **Hymn StF 664**

Lord, you call us to your service, each in our own way.

Some to caring, loving, healing; some to preach, or pray;  
some to work with quiet learning, truth discerning, day by day.

Life for us is always changing / in the work we share.

Christian love adds new dimensions / to the way we care.

For we know that you could lead us, as you need us, anywhere.

Seeing life from your perspective / makes your challenge plain,  
as your heart is grieving over / those who live in pain.

Teach us how, by our compassion, you may fashion, hope again.

Lord, we set our human limits / on the work we do.

Send us your directing Spirit / pour your power through,  
that we may be free in living, and in giving, all for you.

© Marjorie Dobson (b 1940) CCL no. 5365402

**May the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us, and all those we love, this day and always, Amen.**

**Circuit News:** Please pray for Rev Anne Richardson as she begins a 3-month Sabbatical. A 7-yearly sabbatical for ministers is compulsory nowadays and must include elements of study and reflection as well as relaxation and rest. And, of course, time for some holiday and catching up with friends or relatives not normally seen. In Anne's absence, any request for a minister in the Dereham section should be directed to Rev Jacqui in the first instance.