

## A Short Act of Worship for Sunday 25 April

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

*Sing, all creation, sing to God in gladness; joyously serve him, singing hymns of homage,  
Chanting his praises, come before his presence: Praise the Almighty!*

*Know that our God is Lord of all the ages; he is our maker; we are all his creatures,  
people he fashioned, sheep he leads to pasture: Praise the Almighty!*

*Enter his temple, ringing out his praises; sing in thanksgiving as you come before him;  
Blessing his bounty, glorify his greatness: Praise the Almighty!*

*Great in his goodness is the Lord we worship; steadfast his kindness, love that knows no ending;  
Faithful his word is, changeless, everlasting: Praise the Almighty!*

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.

*A pause for reflection ...*

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

*God's Word:*

Jesus said, 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

*(John 10: 11-18)*

*The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.  
I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.*

*Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth;  
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.*

*Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me;  
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.*

*In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.*

