

# twelvebaskets



## EASTER 3C

A complete Sunday service ready to use  
for worship and inspire ideas in your church

Produced by **twelvebaskets**. Subscription available from **theworshipcloud.com**

**Third Sunday of Easter - Year C**  
4th May 2025



## **Order of Service**

Call to worship

**Hymn:**

**310 STF – Sing a song, sing a joyful song OR**

**296 STF – Christ has risen whilst earth slumbers**

Opening Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

**Hymn:**

**313 STF – Thine be the glory OR**

**559 STF – Lord, you have my heart**

Readings: Acts 9:1-6; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

**Hymn:**

**673 STF – Will you come and follow me? OR**

**471 STF – Lord, I come to you**

Reflections on the readings

**Hymn:**

**446 STF – I will offer up my life in spirit and truth OR**

**513 STF – Take this moment, sign and space**

Intercessions

Offering / collection

Blessing the offering

**Hymn:**

**689 STF – Summoned by the God who made us OR**

**407 STF – Hear the call of the Kingdom**

Blessing

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**Many more resources and inspiration for this week's lectionary, leading worship and other church use are available on [www.theworshipcloud.com](http://www.theworshipcloud.com).**

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## Call to worship

Gracious and Holy God,  
We have come into your presence,  
Trusting in the openness of your table, that we may again receive from you,  
And worship you again in the beauty of your holiness.

Amen.<sup>1</sup>

## Hymn:

310 STF – Sing a song, sing a joyful song OR  
296 STF – Christ has risen whilst earth slumbers

## Opening Prayers

Some days we are full of anticipation, other days we feel we have nothing  
Some days we have boat loads of joy, other days just empty nets  
Some days the world feels laden with promise, other days empty with disappointment.

Whatever this day is for us, we bring it, here and now  
Full or empty  
Laden with anticipation or grief  
Here we are, your people God  
Waiting to be with you on the shore of this day.

If at times we have been too sad to share another's joy,  
Or too buoyant to share another's grief.  
If at times we have been too absorbed in domestic politics,  
To recognise the globally disadvantaged.  
Or too busy on a big campaign,  
That we have neglected our neighbour.

If at times we have been too hard on ourselves,  
And overlooked the God given beauty of the world.  
Or too smug with our own successes,  
That we have forgotten to be kind when others struggle.  
Call us to your side again, risen Lord,  
Where your company feeds us with all that truly matters,  
The simplicity of friendship, wisdom, love and understanding,  
For this is how you are with us today and every day.

Amen.<sup>2</sup>

## We say together the Lord's Prayer

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<sup>1</sup> Call to worship written by Tim Baker

<sup>2</sup> Opening prayers written by Barbara Glasson

## All Age Talk

What does grace mean to you? What words do you think of when I say 'grace'?

*[Take some suggestions and encourage people to just say the first things that come into their heads. It might be helpful to give people a minute or two to share with someone sitting near them first, and then feedback to the whole congregation].*

'Grace' has a few meanings, including that prayer we say before meals and it is a nice name (usually for a girl) which appears to be having a resurgence in popularity. But it is also quite a 'churchy' word, it is something we read about in the Bible, we sing about in our hymns, perhaps we hear sermons about it in church.

At its most literal sense, grace simply means 'gift' – that which is freely given. So, when we talk about God's grace, we mean that part of the way we understand God is that God's spirit is always on offer, always feely available, it doesn't have to be earned.

Usually, the things we want, the things we ask for, the things we don't yet have but want to have...usually, they cost us something. If you are in the supermarket, and would really like a bar of chocolate, somebody has to pay for it. Perhaps you are able to persuade someone you are with to pay, or perhaps you have to reach into your own pockets and hope to find a few coins.

If you want to buy a house, get a new car, go on holiday, get a new haircut, join a new gym, buy a new t-shirt, get a few toys, begin a Netflix subscription or upgrade your laptop – if you want to do any of these things, someone has to pay. We have to find the money to pay for them.

Sadly, sometimes this works with other human beings too – people won't help us out unless they think there is something in it for them, people don't always volunteer their time or energy unless they can see the benefit for them too. Of course, this isn't always the case, and we worship a God who embodies a different way of being – a way of living that is about grace. A way of living that stops trying to work out what things cost, and how we benefit from them, and give freely to those in need.

In the Bible, we read the Jesus stories, which are there to show us a way to live by grace. Jesus appears not to have worried about costs and expensive things, but spent his life giving from what he had, and receiving the gifts of others.

Can we do the same?

Today, and in the week ahead, I want us to think about how we can be people of grace. We are going to spend a moment now, sharing with one or two people sitting near you, about how we might be able to do that. Just in small groups, reflect on how you might be able to be a person who gives, rather than always looking to exchange.

Is there something you own that you might like to give away to someone who needs it more?

Could you give up your time to help someone, perhaps with a phone call, arranging to see them, or helping them with a task that needs to get done? Just talk together for a few minutes, then we'll hear some of your ideas – how can we be people who practice grace? *[Give people a minute or two to do this, then see if anybody wants to share with the whole congregation. When the conversation reaches a natural end, announce the next hymn].*<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> All Age Talk written by Tim Baker

**Hymn:**

313 STF – Thine be the glory OR

559 STF – Lord, you have my heart

**Readings:** Acts 9:1-6; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

**Hymn:**

673 STF – Will you come and follow me? OR

471 STF – Lord, I come to you

**Reflections on the readings**

If this reflection has a title, I guess it would be: “From Following to Feeding: A Call to Serve”. Lets take a look at what this journey of discipleship looks like, as we dive into two passages from Scripture today: John 21:1-19 and Revelation 5:11-14.

These readings offer us profound insights into leadership, service, and the majestic worship of Jesus Christ.

Pause for a moment and imagine standing on the shore just as the dawn is breaking.

The air is fresh, and the water laps gently against the sand. You see a figure standing there, calling out to some fishermen. Perhaps you can hear his words, perhaps you are just aware of him communicating with the men in the boat. Can you tell the kind of energy they have?

Are they excited to see him? Relieved? Puzzled? All of the above?!

Into the peace and tranquility of this morning scene from John’s Gospel bursts the risen Christ. And the resurrection demands something from us – how will we react? How will we join in? History tilts on its axis as this man on the shore shouts out to the fishermen.

Will we ask more? Will we follow? Will we be inspired? Will we join in?

And what of you – how do you respond to this beach moment, this pivotal encounter with the risen Christ?

Let’s look again at one short section from the gospel today:

After a fruitless night of fishing, the disciples are greeted by the resurrected Jesus, who directs them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat, resulting in a miraculous catch. On the shore, Jesus has prepared a breakfast of bread and fish for them, and He engages Peter in a deeply moving conversation: “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” Peter replies, “you know that I love you.” Jesus then says, “Feed my lambs.”

In this moment in the story, Jesus not only guides the disciples to a great catch but also renews Peter’s call to lead and serve, transforming his previous denial into a reaffirmation of love and commitment.

This passage invites us to think about our own responses to Jesus’ question, “Do you love me?” How does our love for Jesus propel us into action? How are we feeding his lambs in our own lives?

Turning to Revelation 5:11-14, we hear about thousands of angels surrounding the throne, along with every creature in heaven and on earth, singing praises to the Lamb: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!” This celestial worship scene connects beautifully with our Gospel reading by showing us the scope of Jesus’ lordship and the depth of worship he deserves.

There are lambs in both readings – and perhaps there is a connection we are invited to see there, a connection reminiscent of Jesus’ story in Matthew’s gospel, about the sheep and the goats. On the beach, Jesus invites Peter to move from ‘following’ him to ‘feeding’ his lambs. And then, in the Revelation story, Jesus himself is the Lamb. Is this that same invitation to think about ‘whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me’. Perhaps the easiest, clearest and most effective way we can ‘feed’ the people around us, is to see the Christ in every other human being. No matter how different they are from us, no matter the boundaries and borders that society creates between us – can we see Jesus? And how does that change how we act?

Let’s close our eyes for a moment. Imagine you are among that heavenly host, witnessing every creature in heaven and earth praising Jesus.

What feelings does this stir in you?

How does this vision of universal praise influence your personal commitment to serve and follow Christ?

Peter’s conversation with Jesus moves from a declaration of love to a call to action: Feed my sheep. This isn’t just about literal feeding but nurturing, caring, and leading. In light of the universal praise seen in Revelation, our acts of service are part of a larger tapestry of worship.

How can you participate in this expansive worship through your daily actions? How can your service reflect the grandeur of the worship seen in Revelation?

*[You might like to spend some time discussing these last two questions in small groups or as a whole congregation].*

Today, as we reflect on these Scriptures, let us remember that our call to follow Jesus is also a call to feed, to lead, and to care. Let us be inspired by the heavenly worship to bring our part of earth into alignment with this divine chorus, serving others in a way that honours the Lamb who was slain and now reigns eternally.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, You have called us by name on the shores of our lives and asked us to show our love by how we serve others. Help us to respond to Your call with eagerness and joy. May our service be a reflection of the worship that You are due, as seen in the glorious visions of Revelation. Strengthen us to feed Your sheep and to follow You faithfully.

In Your holy name, we pray,

Amen.<sup>4</sup>

### **Hymn:**

446 STF – I will offer up my life in spirit and truth OR

513 STF – Take this moment, sign and space

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<sup>4</sup> Reflection written by Tim Baker

## **Prayers of intercession**

For our intercessions, we will hold three short periods of quiet, in which each of us is invited to bring our own prayers to God.

Firstly, we pray for those close to home, calling to mind the name or the face of somebody in our own family, amongst our church congregation or a close friend. In the quiet, we hold them and their situation up to God.

*[Silence]*

Living God, you know our hearts and our hurts. We commit them to you now, and invite you to come close to those we have prayed for, bringing them your healing, your comfort, your hope.

Secondly, we pray for situations further afield – taking a moment to pray for something we have heard in the news that troubles us, or for someone we have never met but whose story has affected us. In the quiet, we hold these people and situations up to God.

*[Silence]*

Living God, you know the pains of your world. It can feel like a dark world when we switch on the news, or read our newspapers. In the darkness, bring your light. In the conflict, bring your peace. In the brokenness, bring your healing.

*[Silence]*

Finally, we spend a moment praying for the church: perhaps this church congregation, the wider Christian church, or all people of faith. In the quiet, we pray for all who are gathering in worship today.

*[Silence]*

Living God, help us – your people – to be your hands and feet in the world. May we find ways to be an answer to prayer, to bring transformation in our own lives, communities and our world.

We pray these, and all our prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.<sup>5</sup>

## **We will now take up the offering.**

Gracious God, for all we have received, we say thank you.

As we leave the fireside and head out, to be and make disciples, help us to use these gifts – the gifts of money and the gifts of each and every one of us – to build your kingdom here on earth.

Amen.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Prayers of intercession written by Tim Baker

<sup>6</sup> Additional prayers by Tim Baker

**Hymn:**

689 STF – Summoned by the God who made us OR

407 STF – Hear the call of the Kingdom

**Blessing**

Thine be the glory, risen and conquering son.

Thine be the glory, in the week ahead, in the small things and the big decisions that we make.

Thine be the glory, Lord Jesus as we seek to follow you, today and every day.

Amen.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Additional prayers by Tim Baker