

Eglwys St Ffagan, Aberdâr  
St Fagan's Church, Aberdare

ORDER FOR THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2024

ORDER OF SERVICE

THE GATHERING

*When the bell rings, all stand to sing the hymn:*

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine:  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Chorus:

*This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending, bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

*Chorus*

Perfect submission, all is at rest.  
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

*Chorus*

## THE GREETING

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!**

## THE KYRIES

*All sing:*

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**  
**Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**  
**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*The priest invites the people to confess their sins, after which all say:*

**Heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and have failed to do what we ought to have done. We are sorry and truly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past and lead us in his way to walk as children of light. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you and set you free from sin, strengthen you in goodness and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*All sing:*

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

**Glory be to God in heaven, peace to those who love him well;  
on the earth let all his people speak his grace, his wonders tell:  
Lord, we praise you for your glory, mighty Father, heaven's king;  
hear our joyful adoration and accept the thanks we bring.**

**Only Son of God the Father, Lamb who takes our sin away,  
now with God in triumph seated for your mercy, Lord, we pray:  
Jesus Christ, most high and holy, Saviour, you are God alone  
in the glory of the Father with the Spirit: Three-in-One!**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## THE COLLECT

Let us pray:

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. **Amen.**

*All sit*

## FIRST READING

*Previously Peter and John had healed a sick man in the Temple. Then they were arrested and placed in custody. Now they appear before the Jewish Council, the Sanhedrin, and boldly testify about Jesus.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone." There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

*(Acts 4. 5- 12)*

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

*All say together:*

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.** *(Psalm 23)*

SECOND READING

*The author writes of the selfless love Jesus showed in laying down his life for us. We then should show the same kind of love by laying down our lives for each other in service.*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us - and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us. *(1 John 3. 16-24)*

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand to sing:*

**Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord  
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth, he is the King of creation.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord  
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.**

HOLY GOSPEL

The Lord be with you: **and also with you.**

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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)*

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*All sit*

SERMON

*All stand to say*

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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from 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.**

*All sit*

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*During which the following response may be used:*

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

*At the end:*

Merciful Father:

**accept these prayers, for the sake of your son, our saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

#### PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

*All say:*

**We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

*All stand*

## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

### THE PEACE

*The priest introduces the peace and then says*

The peace of the Lord be with you always: **and also with you.**  
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace. During the next hymn the collection will be taken.*

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*

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.

*Chorus*

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.

*Chorus*

## THE THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink. **Blessed be God for ever.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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 our thanks and praise.**

*The priest prays the preface which concludes with:*

Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

**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.**

*All sit*

*The priest continues with the Eucharistic Prayer*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come in glory.**

*The priest continues the Eucharistic Prayer which concludes with:*

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept*



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, we boldly pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The priest breaks the consecrated bread and says*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body for we all share in one bread.**

## AGNUS DEI

*All sing*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

## THE COMMUNION

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*Please follow the directions of the wardens to come forward to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

Faithful Shepherd, feed me  
in the pastures green;  
faithful Shepherd, lead me  
where thy steps are seen.

Hold me fast and guide me  
in the narrow way;  
so, with thee beside me,  
I shall never stray.

Daily bring me nearer  
to the heav'nly shore;  
may my faith grow clearer,  
may I love thee more.

Hallow every pleasure,  
ev'ry gift and pain;  
be thyself my treasure,  
though none else I gain.

Day by day prepare me  
as thou seest best,  
then let angels bear me  
to thy promised rest.

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This is my body, broken for you,  
bringing you wholeness, making you free.  
Take it and eat it, and when you do,  
do it in love for me.

This is my blood poured out for you,  
bringing forgiveness, making you free.  
Take it and drink it, and when you do,  
do it in love for me.

Back to my Father soon I shall go.  
Do not forget me; then you will see  
I am still with you, and you will know  
you're very close to me.

Filled with my Spirit, how you will grow!  
You are my branches; I am the tree.  
If you are faithful, others will know  
you are alive in me.

Love one another – I have loved you,  
and I have shown you how to be free;  
serve one another, and when you do,  
do it in love for me.

*We keep a time of silence after the hymn/s*

*All remain seated for the notices; then all stand*

## THE SENDING OUT

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious: **his love is everlasting.**

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*All say together:*

**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.**

### BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you: **and also with you.**

*The priest gives the blessing which concludes with:*

... and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*All sing the final hymn:*

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy pow'rful hand:  
bread of heaven, bread of heaven  
feed me now and evermore.  
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer  
be thou still my strength and shield.  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee.  
I will ever give to thee.

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