

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

ORDER FOR THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE KINGDOM

19TH NOVEMBER 2023

ORDER OF SERVICE

THE GATHERING

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

Be Thou my vision, O lord of my heart;
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought, in the day and the night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee, and Thou with me Lord;
Thou my Great Father, and I Thy true heir;
Thou in me dwelling and I in thy care.

Be Thou my breast-plate, my sword for the fight;
Be Thou my armour, and be Thou my might.
Thou my soul's shelter, and Thou my high tow'r:
Raise Thou me Heavenward, O pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I need not, nor all the world's praise,
Thou mine inheritance, through all my days:
Thou and Thou only, the first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven when battle is done,
grant Heaven's joy to me, bright heav'ns' sun!
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

THE GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Grace and peace be with you: **and keep you in the love of Christ.**

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:

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; grant this for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

The prophet Zephaniah was writing about 100 years before the fall of Jerusalem and Judah. Here he prophesies that event, describing it as God bringing judgement upon the people for their disobedience

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their

gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth. *(Zephaniah 1. 7, 12-18)*

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

PSALM

All say together:

Lord, you have been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn us back to dust, and say, 'Turn back, you mortals.' For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance. *(Psalm 90. 1-8)*

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Paul writes that the day of judgement will come unexpectedly; Christians must therefore 'keep awake' and always be ready. Christians, he says, 'belong to the day', unlike sinners who abide in the darkness of the night.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for

obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.
(1 Thessalonians 5.1-11)

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 Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells another parable about being prepared for the kingdom. Servants are entrusted with talents in the master's absence and are expected to make the funds grow. In the same way God expects us to make much of what he has given to us.

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your

master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

(Matthew 25. 14-30)

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 preparation of the altar, all sing the following hymn when the collection will also be taken:

1 My God, and is thy table spread,
and does thy cup with love o'erflow?
Thither be all thy children led,
and let them all thy sweetness know.

2 Hail, sacred feast which Jesus makes!
Rich banquet of his flesh and blood!
Thrice happy all who here partake
that sacred stream, that heav'nly food.

3 What wondrous love! What perfect grace,
for Jesus, our exalted host,
invites us to this special place
who offer least and need the most.

4 O let thy table honoured be,
and furnished well with joyful guests;
and may each soul salvation see,
that here its sacred pledges tastes.

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. It is our custom to keep a time of quiet after the Communion Hymn/s.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you;
allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you,
seek, and ye shall find.
knock, and it shall be opened unto you;
allelu, alleluia!

You shall not live by bread alone;
but by every word
that proceeds out from the mouth of God;
allelu, alleluia!

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

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:

**Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through
Jesus Christ our Saviour. 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:

One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go;
From the old things to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you:

Chorus:

*And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.*

Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn;
All the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me.

Chorus:

*And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.*

As I travel through the bad and good,
Keep me travelling the way I should.
Where I see no way to go,
You'll be telling me the way, I know.

Chorus:

Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough;
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me travelling along with you:

Chorus:

You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me;
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me travelling along with you:

Chorus:

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