

**The Grouped Parishes of  
Annahilt and Magherahamlet**

**The Parish Communion  
of  
Easter 2021**



**on Easter Day 4 April 2021**

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

*The Rector introduces the Service*

*Hymn CH 271*

Jesus Christ is risen today,  
Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day,  
Alleluia!

Who did once upon the Cross,  
Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss;  
Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing,  
Alleluia!

Unto Christ our heavenly King,  
Alleluia!

Who endured the Cross and grave,  
Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save;  
Alleluia!

But the pains that he endured,  
Alleluia!

Our salvation have procured;  
Alleluia!

Now above the sky he's King,  
Alleluia!

Where the angels ever sing  
Alleluia!

*The Rector, the Revd Canon Robert Howard, says:*

Christ is risen

**All: The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia.** Luke 24:34

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. *1 Peter 1v 3*

**All:**

**Almighty God to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: Cleanse the thoughts of**

**our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name: through Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Penitence*

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:  
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets. Matt. 22:37-39

**Lord, have mercy on us, and write these your laws in our hearts.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to intercede for us in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments, and to live in love and peace:

*Silence*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought and word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may walk in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*(All Sing)*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

*The Collect of the Day*

Almighty God, through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ you have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Old Testament Reading is from the book of the prophet Isaiah Chapter 25 beginning at verse 6

<sup>6</sup> On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup> And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations;

<sup>8</sup> he will swallow up death for ever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*The Easter Anthems*

Christ our passover is | sacri • ficed | for us;

therefore | let us | keep the | feast,

Not with the old leaven nor with the leaven of | malice • and | wickedness;

but with the unleavened bread | of sin | cerity • and | truth.

Christ being raised from the dead | dieth • no | more:

death hath no | more do | minion | over him.

For in that he died he died unto | sin | once:  
but in that he liveth he | liveth | unto | God.  
Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed | unto | sin:  
but alive unto God through | Jesus | Christ our | Lord.  
Christ is | risen • from the | dead:  
and become the first | fruits of | them that | slept.  
For since by | man came | death:  
by man came also the resur | rection | of the | dead.  
For as in Adam | all | die:  
even so in Christ shall | all be | made a | live.  
Glory to the Father and | to the | Son: and | to the | Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be | ginning is | now: and shall be for | ever.  
A- | men

The Epistle is from book of the Acts of the Apostles chapter 10  
beginning at verse 34

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

*Gradual Hymn*

Take heart, friends and neighbours,  
Now 'tis Eastertide,  
Stop from fruitless labours,  
Worries put aside:

Men should rise from sadness,  
Evil, folly, strife,  
When God's mighty gladness  
Brings the earth to life.

Bluebell wakes, and lily,  
Roused from drowsy hours;  
though the wind blows chilly,  
Soon will come the flowers.  
Into life he raises  
All the sleeping buds;  
Meadows weave his praises,  
And the spangled woods.

All his truth and beauty,  
All his righteousness,  
Are our joy and duty,  
Bearing his impress:  
Look! The earth waits breathless  
After winter's strife:  
Easter shows man deathless,  
Spring leads earth to life.

*All remain standing for the reading of the Gospel.*

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to St John chapter 20 beginning at verse 1.

**All sing: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

20Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the

dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’ <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All Sing: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

*The Sermon*

The Rector

*The 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; was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of 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.**

The Prayers of the People

*The Rector says*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear the prayers of those who ask in faith We pray for the church as we celebrate Christ’s resurrection. We pray for all Christian communities that they may experience a renewed spirit of commitment and faith. Wherever there is religious persecution, darkness or despair, may the golden dawn of the resurrection transform all things.

Lord of life

**Fill us with your love**

We pray that in a world which is filled with violence, hostility and disease the joy of the resurrection may be made known. We pray for love in response to hatred, for trust in response to suspicion and for reconciliation where there are tensions and conflict. We pray especially for all the places of the world in which there is conflict.

Lord of life

**Fill us with your love**

We pray for our local communities at this anxious time, our schools and our businesses many of which are closed in the midst of the present health emergency and all people spending the Easter holiday period at home. May the light of Easter illumine the shadows of our relationships so that the love which conquers death may bind us together in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding.

Lord of life

**Fill us with your love**

We pray for those who are ill, especially those suffering the symptoms of coronavirus, and all who are weary or sick in body or mind. We pray for those who are frightened or without faith to

sustain them. We pray for all victims of natural disasters. Give your easter piece to all who are in need that they may find life and wholeness in your saving strength.

Lord of life

**Fill us with your love**

We remember those who have died, those whose faith sustained them in life, and from this Group of Parishes we remember Aileen Stockdale. May we too rediscover the hope which makes us fully alive and attuned to the power of your risen Son.

Lord of life

**Fill us with your love**

*The Rector says:*

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to 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.**

**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 our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.**

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, Peace be with you. Then they were glad when they saw the Lord.

*John 20 v 19, 20*

The peace which Jesus brought through his rising again on Easter Day be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Celebrating at the Lord's Table*

*Hymn CH 254*

At the Lamb's high feast we sing  
praise to our victorious King,  
who hath washed us in the tide  
flowing from his pierced side.  
Praise we him, whose love divine  
gives his guests his blood for wine,  
gives his body for the feast;  
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.

Where the paschal blood is poured,  
death's dark angel sheathes his sword;  
Israel's hosts triumphant go  
through the wave that drowns the foe.  
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,  
paschal victim, paschal bread;  
with sincerity and love  
eat we manna from above.

Mighty victim from on high,  
hell's fierce powers beneath thee lie;  
thou hast conquered in the fight;  
thou hast brought us life and light.  
Now no more can death appal,  
now no more the grave enthral;  
thou hast opened paradise,  
and in thee thy saints shall rise.

Easter triumph, Easter joy,  
sin alone can this destroy;  
from sin's power do thou set free  
souls new-born, O Lord, in thee.  
Hymns of glory and of praise,  
risen Lord, to thee we raise;  
holy Father, praise to thee,  
with the Spirit, ever be.

*The Taking of the Bread and Wine*

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us

**Therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

*The Great Thanksgiving*

*The congregation may kneel*

The Lord is here.

**His spirit is with us.**

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.**

Father, almighty and everliving God, at all times and in all places it is right to give you thanks and praise:

And above all we praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, the true Pascal Lamb who was sacrificed for us; by dying he destroyed our death; by rising he restored our life:

And so with all your people, 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,  
Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full,  
full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you made us in your own image, male and female you created us; even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us, but

in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin, giving your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the cross to redeem us: he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world: he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we do as Christ your Son commanded: **we remember his passion and death, we celebrate his resurrection and ascension, and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit that we may be made one in your holy Church and partakers of the body and blood of your Son, that he may dwell in us and we in him:

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, **all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The Breaking of the Bread*

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We, being many, are one body for we all share in the one bread.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Remember that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Communion is received*

Living God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have

delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily unto sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

*The Blessing*

God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to you who believe the gate of everlasting life;  
God the Son, who in rising from the grave has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith;  
God the Holy Spirit, whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace;  
And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.  
(all sing) **Amen.**

*Recessional CH 292*

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,  
your sweetest notes employ,  
the paschal victory to hymn  
in strains of holy joy.

For Judah's lion bursts his chains  
to crush the serpent's head,  
and cries aloud through death's domains  
to wake the imprisoned dead.

Devouring depths of hell their prey  
at his command restore;  
his ransomed hosts pursue their way  
where Jesus goes before.

Triumphant in his glory now,  
to him all power is given;  
to him in one communion bow  
all saints in earth and heaven.

While we, his servants, praise our king,  
his mercy we implore,  
within his palace bright to bring  
and keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,  
all glory to the Son,  
all glory Holy Ghost, to thee  
while endless ages run.  
Alleluia! Amen!

Go in the peace of the Risen Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**

*Notices*