



The Church of the Ascension, Annahilt

A Celebration of the Holy Communion

on the Fifth Sunday of Easter

15 May 2022

At 10.00 am

ORDER OF SERVICE

Hymn CH 255

Christ is risen, alleluia!
risen our victorious head;
sing his praises, alleluia!
Christ is risen from the dead.
Gratefully our hearts adore him,
as his light once more appears,
bowing down in joy before him,
rising up from grief and tears.

*Christ is risen, alleluia!
risen our victorious head;
sing his praises, alleluia!
Christ is risen from the dead.*

Christ is risen! all the sadness ◡
of this earthly life is o'er;
through the open gates of gladness
he returns to life once more;
death and hell before him bending,
he doth rise the victor now,
angels on his steps attending,
glory round his wounded brow:

Christ is risen! henceforth never ◡
death or hell shall us enthral,
we are Christ's, in him for ever ◡
we have triumphed over all;
all the doubting and dejection
of our trembling hearts have ceased.
'tis the day of resurrection;
let us rise and keep the feast.

*The Rector, the Revd Canon Robert Howard, introduces the Service
and greets the congregation*

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 1 v 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:

Kneel

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.**

Stand

(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

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
Grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity. **Amen**

The Epistle is from book of the Acts of the Apostles chapter 11 beginning at verse 1

Now the apostles and the believers* who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God.² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers* criticized him,³ saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?'⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying,⁵ 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me.⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air.⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat."⁸ But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth."⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane."¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us.* These six brothers

also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

All remain standing for the reading of the Gospel.

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to St John chapter 13 beginning at verse 31.

All sing: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him,* God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

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. Today we especially remember this Group of Parishes and the Parish of Magheralin. We pray for all Christian communities that they may experience a renewed spirit of commitment and faith. Give them the spirit of holiness, to be the image here on earth of the New Jerusalem. Inspire your people with mutual love, so that all may know that we are your disciples.

Lord of life
Fill us with your love

We pray that in a world which is filled with violence and hostility, the joy of resurrection may be made known. We pray for Ukraine, Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria and other places where there is war or conflict.

We pray for this country, for Elizabeth our Queen, the Prime Minister, Boris Johnston, the Secretary of State Brandon Lewis and Government. We pray for the newly elected Assembly Members, also President Michael D Higgins, Taoiseach Micheál Martin, Tánaiste Leo Varadkar and Government in the Republic. Break

through the prejudices that divide people from one another. We pray for love in response to hatred, for trust in place of suspicion, and for reconciliation where there are tensions and division.

Lord of life

Fill us with your love

Grant that in our families and friendships we shall truly love one another. In our work and with our neighbours, make us open to hear different opinions and to respect those with whom we disagree.

Lord of life

Fill us with your love

We pray for those who are ill, those who are lost, those who are weary or sick in body or mind. We pray for those who are frightened or who are without faith to sustain them. We pray for all victims of natural disasters. Give your Easter peace 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. 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.

Stand

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 432

Love is his word, love is his way,
feasting with friends, fasting alone,
living and dying, rising again,
love, only love is his way:

*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord,
better than splendour and wealth.*

Love is his way, love is his mark,
sharing his last Passover feast.
Christ at his table, host to the twelve,
love, only love, is his mark:

Love is his mark, love is his sign,
bread for our strength, wine for our joy,
'This is my body, this is my blood' -
love, only love, is his sign:

Love is his name, love is his law,
hear his command, all who are his:
'Love one another, I have loved you' -
love, only love, is his law:

Love is his law, love is his word:
love of the Lord, Father and Word,
love of the Spirit, God ever one,
love, only love, is his word:

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

Eternal God,
in word and sacrament
we proclaim your truth in Jesus Christ and share his life.
In his strength may we ever walk in his way,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **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 glory Christ was raised from the dead,
raise you up to walk with him in the newness of his risen life:
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.**

Notices

Recessional CH 283

The day of Resurrection,
earth, tell it out abroad –
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God!
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over,
with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright –
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light:
and, listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own 'All hail!' and, hearing,
may raise the victor-strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful,
let earth her song begin,
the round world keep high triumph,
and all that is therein;
let all things seen and unseen
their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord is risen,
our joy that has no end.

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

The Annual Easter General Vestry Meeting (previously adjourned) will now reconvene for the purpose of Nominating Churchwardens, Glebewardens and up to 12 members of the Select Vestry for the coming year.

While only registered Vestrypersons can stand for office and / or vote all parishioners are entitled and welcome to be present at this meeting.