

Douglas Union with Frankfield

4th Sunday of Easter

3 May 2020

A SHORT SERVICE TO BE USED AT HOME

Prepared by Archdeacon Adrian Wilkinson

*(Where two or more people are gathered for worship the sentences in **bold type** are read by all)*

The Greeting

Christ is risen! **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

O Lord, open our lips, **and our mouth will proclaim your praise.**
Let us worship the Lord. **All praise to his name.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As once you ransomed your people from Egypt
and led them to freedom in the promised land,
so now you have delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your risen Son.
May we, the first fruits of your new creation,
rejoice in this new day you have made,
and praise you for your mighty acts.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

Penitence

Lord God, you raised your Son from the dead.
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, through you we are more than conquerors.
Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, you help us in our weakness.
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Your word is a lantern to my feet
and a light upon our path. *c.f. Psalm 119:105*

O Lord, your word is everlasting:
it stands firm for ever in the heavens. *c.f. Psalm 119:89*

Let us then receive the word of the Lord.
so may the light of your presence shine into our hearts.

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

The First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceed to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

The Second Reading

John 10:1-10

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the

sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

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

A Canticle

The Easter Anthems

- 1 Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:
so let us celebrate the feast,
 - 2 not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
 - 3 Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:
death has no more dominion over him.
 - 4 In dying he died to sin once for all:
in living he lives to God.
 - 5 See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - 6 Christ has been raised from the dead:
the first fruits of those who sleep.
 - 7 For as by man came death:
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;
 - 8 for as in Adam all die:
even so in Christ shall all be made alive
- Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

The Sermon

Reflection on the Gospel Passage – *See attached email video clip.*

Followed by Hymn 570 – Put peace into each other’s hands.

A video reflection using the hands of the confirmation candidates.

The Response to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith

This affirmation of faith may be used instead of the Apostles' Creed.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
who made the world?

I believe and trust in him

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,
who redeemed mankind?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit
who gives life to the people of God?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**we believe and trust in One God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

The Prayers of the People *See video clip if you wish to listen to these prayers.*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith:

Thank you, Lord, for hands with which we can do so much: strong hands enabling physical work digging and building; precision hands enabling intricate computer work and sewing, art and music. May all our work be done, not selfishly, but generously, especially in these times when so much is being done differently because of Covid 19. Show us when and where we can give a helping hand and how to do so wisely and sensibly:

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you, Lord, for feet, taking us to interesting places, supporting us for fitness or sport. Right now our activities and our sports are under restriction due to the virus. Give us patience with the restrictions, knowing they are there to keep us and all around us healthy. We pray for the HSE and the Government as they plan the best way forward so that the virus may be contained.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you Lord for ears to hear those around us, families and friends and the joyful sounds of our world: birds singing, children at play, music and the words that encourage us and for your word that we hear in the Bible and through your church, prompting us to follow you;

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you, Lord, for eyes to see the beauty of the world, the intricacies of nature, the wonder of the stars at night and the faces of those we love. Help us also to notice those who are hurting, those who are isolated or lonely or finding it hard to cope and to pray for them. So be with all those who are having hard times today, whether through illness or sorrow or need.

We name before God those who need our prayers today...

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you, Lord, for your church, and although we cannot celebrate Confirmation today, we thank you that we are free to practise our faith by praying, by loving you and by caring for each other. As they continue to prepare for their confirmation, we pray for:

Laura, James, Alanna, Molly, Alex, Sophie, Jamie, Bradley, Eoin, Aisling, Olan, Christy, Shane, Colm, Denis, Louis, Alexandra, Ethan, Abigail, Holly and Jessica, and for their parents, godparents and families. We pray for Paul, our Bishop and thank you for his interest in each and every one who continues to prepare for confirmation at a later date. We pray for our parish, Adrian our rector and Hazel our assistant priest.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for all those who have been an example to us in the past, and ask that we with them may share the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Merciful Father,

accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

The Collect of the Day

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 and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and for ever. Amen.

Going Out as God's People

A Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

For the love of our Father, the maker of all, the giver of all good things,
let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

For Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lived and worked among us,
let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

For his suffering and death on the cross and his resurrection to new life,
let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

For his rule over all things and his presence in the world,
let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

For the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who teaches us and guides us,
let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

For the grace of the Spirit in the work of the Church and the life of the world,
let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

The Dismissal

Let us say together:

**We go into the world
to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect God's glory.**

The Easter Blessing: In the recorded service the priest blesses the people.

Where the service is being read privately at home, this prayer is said.

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless us and keep us. **Amen.**

We go in the peace of the Risen Christ, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!