

Holy Communion Service
Fourth Sunday of Easter – 21st April 2024
The Good Shepherd

Welcome & Notices

Opening Prayer

Let us pray

**Faithful one, whose word is life:
come with saving power to free our praise,
inspire our prayer and shape our lives
for the kingdom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Opening Responses

God in Christ has revealed his glory.
Come let us worship.

From the rising of the sun to its setting
the Lord's name is greatly to be praised.

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.
O praise the name of the Lord!

Opening Hymn: Who Paints The Skies (River Of Fire)

**Who paints the skies into glorious day?
Only the splendour of Jesus.
Who breathes his life into fists of clay?
Only the splendour of Jesus.
Who shapes the valleys and brings the rain?
Only the splendour of Jesus.
Who makes the deserts to live again?
Only the splendour of Jesus.**

***Teach every nation his marvellous ways;
Each generation shall sing his praise.***

***He is wonderful, he is glorious,
Clothed in righteousness,
Full of tenderness.***

***Come and worship him,
He's the Prince of life,
He will cleanse our hearts
In his river of fire.***

**Who hears the cry of the barren one?
Only the mercy of Jesus.
Who breaks the curse of the heart of stone?
Only the mercy of Jesus.
Who storms the prison and sets men free?
Only the mercy of Jesus.
Purchasing souls for eternity?
Only the mercy of Jesus.**

***Teach every nation his marvellous ways;
Each generation shall sing his praise.***

***He is wonderful, he is glorious,
Clothed in righteousness,
Full of tenderness.
Come and worship him,
He's the Prince of life,
He will cleanse our hearts
In his river of fire.***

***Come and worship him,
He's the Prince of life,
He will cleanse our hearts
In his river of fire.***

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Confession

Now is the time to turn to God and seek his mercy
for we have strayed from his ways like lost sheep.
But like a good shepherd he has sought us and saved us
and longs to forgive our sins

we join together in prayer
For the actions which have angered you,
we are truly sorry
In your mercy, Lord forgive us

For the words which have wounded you,
we are truly sorry

In your mercy, Lord forgive us

For the thoughts which have betrayed you,
we are truly sorry

In your mercy, Lord forgive us

For the failure to love you with all our heart
and to love our neighbours as ourselves,
we are truly sorry

In your mercy, Lord forgive us

For the times when we have used your gifts carelessly,
and acted ungratefully,
we are truly sorry

In your mercy, Lord forgive us

For the times when we ignored the cry of the hungry,
and not cared enough for the world you have made,
we are truly sorry

In your mercy, Lord forgive us

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image,
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Bible declares,
happy are those whose sins are forgiven,
whose wrongs have been pardoned.
To them the Lord says *'I will teach you the way you should go'*
Be glad & rejoice because of what the Lord has done.

We join together in response
**Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
His love goes on forever,
Sing a new song to the Lord
He has done wonderful things**

**Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
to receive the food of your Holy Word.
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in your likeness.
That the light of Christ may be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us
all your purposes, for your glory.**

**Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
let their truth prevail over unbelief.**

**Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till your Church is built
and the earth is filled with your glory.**

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Reading: John 10.11-18: (Sue Lyons)

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one

shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Offertory Song: Father I Place Into Your Hands

**Father, I place into your hands,
The things I cannot do.
Father, I place into your hands
The things that I've been through.
Father, I place into your hands
The way that I should go,
For I know I always can trust you.**

**Father, I place into your hands
My friends and family.
Father, I place into your hands
The things that trouble me.
Father, I place into your hands
The person I would be,
For I know I always can trust you.**

**Father, we love to see your face,
We love to hear your voice.
Father, we love to sing your praise
And in your name rejoice.
Father, we love to walk with you
And in your presence rest,
For we know we always can trust you.**

**Father, I want to be with you
And do the things you do.
Father, I want to speak the words
That you are speaking too.
Father, I want to love the ones
That you will draw to you,**

**For I know that I am one with you.
For I know that I am one with you.**

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Offertory Prayer

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**We believe in God the Father,
God Almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.**

**We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's King to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as Judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.**

So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end.

Intercessions: (Joyce)

Responses

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Merciful Father
**Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Collect for Fourth Sunday of Easter

**Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Holy Communion

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 thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter to celebrate
with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you
because you raised him gloriously from the dead.
For he is the lamb who was offered for us,
and has taken away the sin of the world.
By his death he has destroyed death,
and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

And so, we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured,
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died, he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said Drink this, all of you;
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together
for that day when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours,
O loving Father, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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 forever.
Amen.**

Breaking of Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ
**Though we are many, we are one body
Because we all share in one bread**

Christ is the true bread
which has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always.

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.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

**Songs during Communion: *The Lord's My Shepherd*
*Here I Am Once Again (Pour Out My Heart)***

**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.**

***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.**

***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.***

**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.**

***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.***

***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.
For your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.***

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**Here I am once again
I pour out my heart
For I know that you hear every cry
You are listening
No matter what state my heart is in.**

**You are faithful to answer
With words that are true
And a hope that is real
As I feel your touch
You bring a freedom to all that's within
In the safety of this place I'm longing to:**

**Pour out my heart, to say that I love you
Pour out my heart, to say that I need you
Pour out my heart, to say that I'm thankful
Pour out my heart, to say that you're wonderful! *(repeat from the start)***

**Pour out my heart, to say that I love you
Pour out my heart, to say that I need you
Pour out my heart, to say that I'm thankful
Pour out my heart, to say that I'm thankful, Lord.**

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Prayer after Communion

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace and opened the gate of glory.**

**May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so, we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples,
and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you
and also with you. Alleluia.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

Opportunity for sharing

Final Hymn: Love divine, all loves excelling

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.**

**Breath, O breathe thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit,
Let us find thy promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning,
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish, then, thy new creation:
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.**

Charles Wesley 1707- 88

Blessing

May God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in 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.

Amen

Playout song: Love Divine All love Excelling – piano instrumental