



Depiction of Pentecost in the East Window in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Belfast Cathedral

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

HYMN: ICH 639

O Thou who camest from above,
the pure celestial fire to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work, and think, and speak for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
And still stir up thy gift in me.

Still let me prove thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat,
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Tune: HEREFORD S.S. Wesley (1810-76)

OPENING RESPONSES:

O Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

PSALM: 148

O praise the Lord of heaven;
praise him in the height.
Praise him, all ye angels of his;
praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all ye stars and light.
Praise him, all ye heavens;
and ye waters that are above the heavens.
Let them praise the Name of the Lord;
for he spake the word, and they were made; he commanded, and they were created.
He hath made them fast for ever and ever;
he hath given them a law which shall not be broken.
Praise the Lord upon earth;
ye dragons, and all deeps;
Fire and hail, snow and vapours;
wind and storm, fulfilling his word;
Mountains and all hills;
fruitful trees and all cedars;
Beasts and all cattle;
worms and feathered fowls;
Kings of the earth and all people;
princes and all judges of the world;
Young men and maidens, old men and children, praise the Name of the Lord;
for his Name only is excellent, and his praise above heaven and earth.
He shall exalt the horn of his people; all his saints shall praise him;
even the children of Israel, even the people that serveth him.

Glory be to the Father:
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Joel 2:21-32

Do not fear, O soil;
be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things!
Do not fear, you animals of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

O children of Zion, be glad
and rejoice in the LORD your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.
The threshing-floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the LORD your God,

who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.
You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again
be put to shame.

Then afterwards

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.
Even on the male and female slaves,
in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

THE CANTICLE MAGNIFICAT:

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth:
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him:
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

SECOND LESSON: Acts 2:14-38

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,
"He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption."
This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,
"The Lord said to my Lord,
'Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.'"
Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'

THE CANTICLE NUNC DIMITTIS:

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation.
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord be with you
and with thy Spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**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. Amen.**

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us
and grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen
and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness
and make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people
and bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord,
because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us
and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

God, who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by the sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit; Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord: and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYERS

O God, we pray thee for thy Church which is set today amid the perplexities of a changing order, and is face to face with a new task. Fill us all afresh with the Spirit of Pentecost. Help us to proclaim boldly the coming of thy kingdom. And do thou hasten the time when the knowledge of thyself shall fill the earth as the waters cover the sea. We ask it in the name and for the sake of Christ our Lord.

O God, who hast made of one blood all nations for to dwell on the face of the earth, and didst send thy blessed Son Jesus Christ to preach peace to them that are afar off, and to them that are nigh: grant that the peoples of the earth may feel after thee and find thee; and hasten, O Lord, the fulfilment of thy promise to pour out thy Spirit upon all flesh; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O Lord God Almighty, who dost by thy Holy Spirit endow thy servants with manifold gifts of knowledge and skill: grant us grace to use them always for thine honour, and for the service of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, who resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble: deliver us when we draw near to thee from all self-sufficiency and spiritual pride; and grant us an ever deepening sense of our own unworthiness and of thy unfailing mercy; through him who is our only righteousness, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord of all power and might, we praise thee for thy good gifts of health and strength; for the sight of our eyes, the hearing of our ears, the strength of our limbs, the powers of our mind, and the energy which forges them into a fit instrument for thy service. Praise be to thee, O God of our health, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O Christ our Lord, our good physician and our salvation: Look upon all thy faithful people who are sick, and who love to call upon thy name; take their souls into thy keeping, and vouchsafe to deliver them from all sickness and infirmity; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

We thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for all who hallow pain by triumphing over it; for sufferers whose thought is always for others; for those whose faith brings light to the dark places of life; for those whose patience inspires others to endure. And grant that, we beseech thee, O loving Father, to all who are bound together in the mysterious fellowship of suffering, the sense of comradeship with each other and with their crucified Saviour; granting them in this life the peace that passeth all understanding, which the world cannot give nor take away, and in the world to come life everlasting.

A PRAYER OF ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

HYMN: ICH 293

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure;
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine;
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God:
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

Words: Edwin Hatch (1835-89) based on Job 33:4

Tune: SPIRITUS DEI Frederick Ellis (1896)

PRAYER OF BLESSING

May the peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Belfast Cathedral Closure

We regret that, due to current restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 virus, Belfast Cathedral is closed to services, tourism, events and as a public gathering venue.

However, please continue to watch the cathedral website (www.belfastcathedral.org) or our Facebook Page "Belfast Cathedral" for up to date news and online prayer resources.