



**BELFAST
CATHEDRAL**

**MORNING PRAYER:
A SERVICE OF THE WORD
Sunday 18th April 2021
11.00am
The Third Sunday of Easter**

*Welcome to the Cathedral Church of St Anne, Belfast.
Please follow the instructions from the Churchwardens.
We ask you to wear a face covering throughout your visit.
Under government guidance for the purposes of keeping
Contact Tracing Records
it is essential that you complete the following information.
Please leave this service sheet **ON YOUR SEAT**
when you leave at the end of the service.
These will be retained for 21 days, after which they will be destroyed.
Thank you.*

Name(s): _____

Telephone contact: _____



Organ Prelude: Christ lag in Todesbanden, BWV 625 J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The first verse of the chorale for which this music was composed:

*Christ lay in Death's dark prison,
It was our sin that bound Him;
This day hath He arisen,
And sheds new life around Him.
Therefore let us joyful be
And praise our God right heartily.
So sing we Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!*

Words by Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Please stand for the **OPENING HYMN: ICH 251**



Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Hearts to heaven and voices raise;
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise;
he who on the cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.**

**Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits
of the holy harvest-field,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield;
then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine
from the furrows of the grave.**

**Christ is risen, we are risen;
shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain and dew and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
so that we, with hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be;
and by angel-hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with thee.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory be to God on high!
Alleluia to the Saviour,
who has gained the victory!
Alleluia to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia
to the blessed Trinity!**

*Words: Christopher Wordsworth (1807-85)
Tune: LUX EOI Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)*

The congregation is welcomed

THE GREETING

Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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. / *Peter 1:3*

PENITENCE

Beloved in Christ, we come together to offer to Almighty God our worship and praise and thanksgiving, to confess our sins and to receive God's forgiveness, to hear his holy word proclaimed, to bring before him our needs and the needs of the world, and to pray that in the power of his Spirit we may serve him and know the greatness of his love.

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

Please kneel or sit

Heavenly Father, **we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault; by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon 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.**

Please stand

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

Praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

Please remain standing to say the PSALM: 4

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness; ♦
**you set me at liberty when I was in trouble; have mercy on me
and hear my prayer.**

How long will you nobles dishonour my glory; ♦
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?

But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness; ♦
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

Stand in awe, and sin not; ♦
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness ♦
and put your trust in the Lord.

There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?' ♦
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.

You have put gladness in my heart, ♦
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.

In peace I will lie down and sleep, ♦
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

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.

Please sit for the **FIRST READING:** Acts 3:12-19

Peter addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.'

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

Please stand to say the **EASTERTIDE CANTICLE:** The Easter Anthems (*1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22*)

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:
therefore let us celebrate the feast,
Not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
Christ, once raised from the dead dies no more;
death has no more dominion over him.
In dying, he died to sin once for all;
in living, he lives to God.
See yourselves therefore as dead to sin;
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Christ has been raised from the dead:
the firstfruits of those who sleep.

**For as by man came death,
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
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.**

Please sit for the **SECOND READING:** Luke 24:36b-49

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

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

SERMON by the Reverend Janice Elsdon

ANTHEM:

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

*Words: Job 19:25-26; 1 Corinthians 15:20
Music: (from 'Messiah') G.F Handel (1685-1759)*

Please stand to say the **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the **Father** almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in **Jesus Christ**, God's only **Son**, our **Lord**, who was conceived by the **Holy Spirit**, born of the **Virgin Mary**, suffered under **Pontius Pilate**, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the **Father**, and he will come again to judge the living 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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Let us pray.

Please kneel or sit

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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.**

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen
and grant her government wisdom.

Let your ministers be clothed with righteousness
and let your servants shout for joy.

O Lord, save your people
and bless those whom you have chosen.

Give peace in our time, O Lord,
and let your glory be over all the earth.

O God, make clean our hearts within us
and renew us by your Holy Spirit.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECTS AT MORNING PRAYER

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life, and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us in all assaults of our enemies, that we, surely trusting in your protection, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everliving God, we give you thanks for bringing us safely to this day: Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger, and in all things guide us to know and do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray to the Father in joy and hope and with the Spirit of the Risen Christ:

Father, grant that our risen Saviour may fill us and all your people with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection. Deepen our love and compassion in showing the living love of Christ to those around us.

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

Father, grant that isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter. We pray for all who find themselves judged, criticized or discriminated against because of prejudice and misunderstanding.

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

Father, grant us humility to be prepared to make ourselves subject to one another in Christian love. Bless our leaders with grace and wisdom, and those who are the voice of the Church with a serious responsibility for their words and actions.

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

Father, grant that those who lack food, work or shelter may be provided for by those that do. Give us a sense of respect and concern for those who, through poverty, war or accident of birth, lack the basic necessities of life, and inspire us into action.

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

Father, reveal the light of your presence to the sick, the weak and the dying to comfort and strengthen them. We pray for all for whom we are concerned or who have asked for our prayers, and for all who face the loneliness and fear of frail health and approaching death.

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

Father, grant that, according to Christ's promises, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day. We pray for the Royal Family at the loss of Prince Philip, as they navigate their grief under the glare of public scrutiny.

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

Father, send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon your people, so that we may bear faithful witness to the resurrection of your Son.

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

A PRAYER DURING THIS TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

O Heavenly Father, who by your Son Jesus Christ has taught us the glory of self-sacrifice and service: bless all who care for the sick, and those suffering from or recovering from Coronavirus. Stand with those who grieve. Give your strength to all who, though exhausted, work in hospitals and nursing homes, and those who give care in the community. Guide all who seek to understand the new variants of the infection, and those who are administering the vaccines. Give wisdom to those who have responsibility in church, politics and society for leading a way out of the current Lockdown. This we ask in the name of the one who spent himself in service of others with no thought for himself, even our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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

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

Please stand for the **CLOSING HYMN: ICH 258***



**Christ the Lord is risen again!
Christ has broken every chain!
Hark! angelic voices cry,
singing evermore on high,
*alleluia!***

**He who gave for us his life,
who for us endured the strife,
is our Paschal Lamb today;
we too sing for joy and say
*alleluia!***

**He who bore all pain and loss
comfortless upon the cross,
lives in glory now on high,
pleads for us and hears our cry:
*alleluia!***

**Thou, our paschal Lamb indeed,
Christ thy ransomed people feed;
take our sins and guilt away:
let us sing by night and day
*alleluia!***

Words: Michael Weiss (c.1480-1534) tr. Catherine Winkworth (1829-78)

*Tune: NASSAU (WURTEMBERG) Later form of a melody in Hundert Geistlicher Arien (Dresden, 1694) adapted by
William Henry Monk (1823-89)*

THE BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

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

Organ Voluntary: Fantasia C-dur, BWV 573 J.S Bach (1685-1750), completed by
Wolfgang Stockmeier

*Please remain in your place until the Churchwardens direct you to move.
We ask that members of the congregation exit the building straight away
and do not congregate on the west steps.
Thank you.*

Soloist: Ali Darragh
Organist: Matthew Owens



NOTICES



Sunday 25 April 2021: The Fourth Sunday of Easter

11.00am Morning Prayer: A Service of the Word

Preacher: The Reverend Dr Maithrie White

We encourage you to join us in person for this service in the cathedral.

For those who cannot do so, there will be a livestream

on the Belfast Cathedral Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BelfastCathedral/>

Please remember that you can continue to make your FWO contribution to the Cathedral via On-line Banking:

Bank Details for the Cathedral Account which you will need to make an on-line Banking Transfer are as follows:

Cathedral Bank Branch:

Bank of Ireland, City Centre Branch, 1 Donegall Square South, Belfast. BT1 5LR.

Name of Account: **Parochial No 1 Current Account**

Sort Code: **90-21-27**

Account Number: **10006051**

Please give your own name as the Payment Reference.

Thank you for your continuing financial support for Belfast Cathedral

In compliance with directions issued by the Connor Diocesan Office,
the **Annual Easter General Vestry Meeting**

will be held at **11.50am on Sunday 2nd May 2021**

in the Nave of Belfast Cathedral,

following a shortened service of Morning Worship on the same day.

An adjourment meeting of the General Vestry for the Cathedral Wardens and Honorary Secretary to confirm the above date will be held at 12.15pm on Sunday 25th April, 2021.

Connor Diocesan Regulations 7.4.1