**East Neuk Episcopal Churches**

**27 April 2025 —Second Sunday of Easter**

9.45am at St Michael’s and 11.30am at St John’s led by Very Revd Dr Graham Forbes CBE

All baptised Christians are welcome to share in communion with us

Grace and peace to you from God our   
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Opening hymn**

Thine be the glory,

risen, conquering Son,

endless is the victory

thou o'er death hast won;

angels in bright raiment

rolled the stone away,

kept the folded grave-clothes

where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory,*

*risen, conquering Son,*

*endless is the victory*

*thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo, Jesus meets us,

risen from the tomb;

lovingly he greets us,

scatters fear and gloom.

Let the Church with gladness

hymns of triumph sing,

for her Lord now liveth;

death hast lost its sting.

No more we doubt thee,

glorious Prince of Life!

Life is naught without thee:

aid us in our strife.

Make us more than conquerors

through thy deathless love.

Bring us safe through Jordan

to thy home above.

*Edmond Budry*

**Collect for purity**

**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.**

**Confession and absolution**

God is love and we are God’s children. There is no room for fear in love. We love because God loved us first. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

*Silence*

**God our Father, we confess to you and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry. Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil, for the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

God, who is both power and love,

forgive *you* and free *you* from your sins, heal and strengthen *you* by the Holy Spirit, and raise *you* to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Gloria***(Sung)***Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria, Gloria, Alleluia, Alleluia.** (Taizé)

**or**

**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.**

**Collect of the day**

**Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen**.

**Readings**

**Acts 5.27-32**

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, ‘We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.’ But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.’

**Psalm 118.14-29**

The Lord is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:  
‘The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;  
the right hand of the Lord is exalted;  
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.’

**This is the day that the Lord has made;**

**we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

I shall not die, but I shall live,  
and recount the deeds of the Lord.  
The Lord has punished me severely,  
but he did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the Lord.

**This is the day that the Lord has made;**

**we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.  
The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.  
This is the Lord’s doing;  
it is marvellous in our eyes.  
**This is the day that the Lord has made;**

**we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!  
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
We bless you from the house of the Lord.  
**This is the day that the Lord has made;**

**we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

The Lord is God,  
and he has given us light.  
Bind the festal procession with branches,  
up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

**This is the day that the Lord has made;**

**we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Revelation 1.4-8**

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. ‘I am the Alpha and the Omega’, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

**Gradual hymn**

When Easter to the dark world came,

fair flowers glowed like scarlet flame:

*at Eastertide, at Eastertide.*

*O glad was the world at Eastertide.*

When Mary in the garden walked,

and with her risen Master talked:

When John and Peter in their gloom

met angels at the empty tomb:

When ten disciples met in fear,

then ‘Peace’ said Jesus, ‘I am here’:

When Thomas’ heart was hurt and grieved,

then Jesus’ wounds his doubt relieved:

And friend to friend in wonder said:

‘The Lord is risen from the dead!’

This Eastertide with joyful voice

we’ll sing ‘The Lord is King! Rejoice!’

*at Eastertide, at Eastertide.*

*O sing, all the world, for Eastertide.*

*W H Hamilton © Oxford University Press*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us;

let us celebrate the feast, then, in the Lord.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John*.*  
**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

**John 20.19-31**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious

Gospel. **Praise to Christ our Lord.**

**Sermon**

**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 substance with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made**

**human. 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, 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.**

**Intercessions**

**The peace**The risen Jesus came and stood among his disciples saying, “Peace be with you.”

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

We meet in Christ’s name.  
**Let us share his peace.**

**Offertory hymn**

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,

first begotten from the dead,

thou alone, our strong defender,

liftest up thy people's head.

Alleluia, alleluia,

Jesus, true and living bread.

Here our humblest homage pay we,

here in loving reverence bow;

here for faith's discernment pray we,

lest we fail to know thee now.

Alleluia, alleluia,

thou art here, we ask not how.

Though the lowliest form doth veil thee

as of old in Bethlehem,

here as there thine angels hail thee,

Branch and Flower of Jesse's stem.

Alleluia, alleluia,

we in worship join with them.

Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished

once for all when thou wast slain,

in its fullness undiminished

shall for evermore remain.

Alleluia, alleluia,

cleansing souls from every stain.

Life-imparting heavenly Manna,

stricken Rock with streaming side,

heaven and earth with loud hosanna

worship thee, the Lamb who died.

Alleluia, alleluia,

risen, ascended, glorified!

*George Hugh Bourne*

**Liturgy of the sacrament**

**Prayers of offering**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made: it will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands; it will become the cup of our salvation.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

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.**

Worship and praise belong to you, Author of all being. Your power sustains, your love restores, our broken world. You are unceasingly at work, from chaos bringing order and filling emptiness with life.

Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope. He lives in us that we may walk in light.

Your Spirit is fire in us, your breath is power to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love.

As children of your redeeming purpose, freed by him who burst from the tomb and opened the gate of life, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

*(Sung)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth

are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he, O blessed is he

who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
  
*(Please feel free to sit)*

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Lord of all, for by the Cross eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory. In the first light of Easter glory broke from the tomb and changed the women's sorrow into joy. From the Garden the mystery shone clear that he whom they had loved and lost is with us now in every place for ever.

Making himself known in the breaking of the bread, speaking peace to the fearful disciples, greeting fishermen on the shore, he renewed the promise of his presence and of new birth in the Spirit who sets the seal of freedom on your sons and daughters.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, recalling the night of Israel's release, the night in which slaves walked free, at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

**We now obey your Son's command. We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom. Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.**

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by the Spirit’s life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

**Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles, and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. **Amen.**

**Breaking of the bread**

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.  
**Lord, unite us in this sign.**

**Lord’s prayer**

As our Saviour has 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. Do not bring us to the time of trial but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Lamb of God, you take away   
the sins of the world:**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away   
the sins of the world:**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away   
the sins of the world:**

**grant us peace.**

**Invitation to communion**

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia, alleluia.

**Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Communion**

**Thanksgiving**

Father, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life. Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other; through Jesus Christ the risen Lord. **Amen.**

Give thanks to our gracious God,  
**whose mercy endures for ever.**

**Father, we have broken the bread which is Christ’s body, we have tasted the wine of his new life. We thank you for these gifts by which we are made one in him and drawn into that new creation which is your will for all the world; through him who died for us and rose again, your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.** **Amen.**

**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; working in *you* that which is pleasing and good; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon *you*, and remain with *you* always. **Amen.**

**Closing hymn**

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 hath 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,

and 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 hath risen,

our joy that hath no end.

St John of Damascus

**Sending out**  
Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

alleluia, alleluia.

**In the name of Christ, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Notices**

**Next Sunday** is St John’s patronal festival and Revd David Gordon will lead a joint service at St John’s at 10.30am.

© Scottish Episcopal Church 2022 CCLI licence 1070131 Scottish charity no. SC005954/SC010982