**East Neuk Episcopal Churches**

**11 May 2025 —Fourth Sunday of Easter**

9.45am at St Michael’s led by Revd David Gordon

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**

Come, let us with our Lord arise,
our Lord, who made both earth and skies:
who died to save the world he made,
and rose triumphant from the dead;
he rose, the Prince of life and peace,
and stamped the day for ever his.

This is the day the Lord has made,
that all may see his love displayed,
may feel his resurrection’s power,
and rise again, to fall no more,
in perfect righteousness renewed,
and filled with all the life of God.

Then let us render him his own,
with solemn prayer approach his throne,
with meekness hear the gospel word,
with thanks his dying love record,
our joyful hearts and voices raise,
and fill his courts with songs of praise.

Honour and praise to Jesus pay
throughout his consecrated day;
be all in Jesus’ praise employed,
nor leave a single moment void;
with utmost care the time improve,
and only breathe his praise and love.

*Charles Wesley*

**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 in excelsis**

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis, in excelsis*

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Peace on earth to all your people,

Lord God, heavenly King.

We worship you, almighty Father,

let our voices ring! Sing:

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis, in excelsis*

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Jesus, blessed Lamb of God,

to you our voice we raise.

You take away our sins, O Lord,

receive our song of praise! Sing:

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis, in excelsis*

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Holy Lord in highest heaven,

how our hearts rejoice

in God the Father, Son and Spirit,

so with loudest voice sing:

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis, in excelsis*

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.*

**Collect of the day**

**O God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do your will, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.** **Amen**.

**Readings**

**Acts 9.36-43**

In Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, ‘Please come to us without delay.’ So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, ‘Tabitha, get up.’ Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

**Psalm 23**

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
**The Lord is my shepherd**

**I shall not be in want**

He restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name’s sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

**The Lord is my shepherd**

**I shall not be in want**

You prepare a table before me
 in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

**The Lord is my shepherd**

**I shall not be in want**

**Revelation 7.9-17**

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,
‘Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!’ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, ‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour
and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.’ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?’ I said to him, ‘Sir, you are the one that knows.’ Then he said to me, ‘These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’

**Gradual hymn**

Jesus is Lord!

Creation's voice proclaims it,

for by his power each tree and flower

was planned and made.

Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it;

sun, moon and stars in heaven cry:

Jesus is Lord!

*Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!*

*Praise him with alleluias,*

*for Jesus is Lord!*

Jesus is Lord!

Yet from his throne eternal

in flesh he came to die in pain

on Calvary's tree.

Jesus is Lord! From him all life proceeding,

yet gave his life as ransom

thus setting us free.

Jesus is Lord!

O'er sin the mighty conqueror,

from death he rose and all his foes

shall own his name.

Jesus is Lord! God sends his Holy Spirit

to show by works of power

that Jesus is Lord.

*David J. Mansell © Authentic Publishing*

**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 10.22-30**

The festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, ‘How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.’ Jesus answered, ‘I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.’

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**

Come, ye faithful, raise the anthem,

cleave the skies with shouts of praise;

sing to him who found the ransom,

Ancient of eternal days,

God of God, the Word incarnate,

whom the heaven of heaven obeys.

Ere he raised the lofty mountains,

formed the seas or built the sky,

love eternal, free and boundless,

moved the Lord of Life to die,

fore-ordained the Prince of princes

for the throne of Calvary.

There, for us and our redemption,

see him all his life-blood pour!

There he wins our full salvation,

dies that we may die no more;

then arising, lives for ever,

reigning where he was before.

 High on yon celestial mountains

stands his sapphire throne, all bright,

midst unending alleluias

bursting from the saints in light;

Sion's people tell his praises,

victor after hard-won fight.

Bring your harps, and bring your

incense,

sweep the string and pour the lay;

let the earth proclaim his wonders,

King of that celestial day;

he the Lamb once slain is worthy,

who was dead and lives for ay.

Laud and honour to the Father,

laud and honour to the Son,

laud and honour to the Spirit,

ever Three and ever One,

consubstantial, co-eternal,

while unending ages run.

*Job Hupton and John Mason Neale*

**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**

God of steadfast love, watch over the Church redeemed by the blood of your Son. May we who share in these holy mysteries come safely to your eternal kingdom, where there is one flock and one shepherd. We ask this in the name of 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**

Praise the Lord, his glories show, Alleluia!

saints within his courts below, Alleluia!

angels round his throne above, Alleluia!

all that see and share his love. Alleluia!

Earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, Alleluia!

tell his wonders, sing his worth; Alleluia!

age to age and shore to shore, Alleluia!

praise him, praise him evermore! Alleluia!

Praise the Lord, his mercies trace: Alleluia!

praise his providence and grace, Alleluia!

all that he for us has done, Alleluia!

all he sends us through his Son. Alleluia!

Strings and voices, hands and hearts, Alleluia!

in the concert play your parts; Alleluia!

all that breathe, your Lord adore, Alleluia!

praise him, praise him evermore! Alleluia!

*Henry Francis Lyte*

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

alleluia, alleluia.

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

**Notices**

**Today** St John’s will join the ecumenical **commemoration of VE Day** at Pittenweem Parish Church at 11.30am followed by potluck lunch in the church hall on James Street

2.45pm **National Fishing Remembrance Day** service at Pittenweem Fishermen’s Memorial in the harbour following silent walks from Cellardyke and St Monans

**Next Sunday** services will be led by Revd David Gordon. There will be a consultation at St John’s after the service on the redevelopment of the building.

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