**East Neuk Episcopal Churches**

**21 April 2024—Fourth Sunday of Easter**

945am St Michael’s and 1130am St John’s Holy communion

Led by Revd David Irvine

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

**Opening hymn**

Low in the grave he lay,

Jesus, my Saviour;

waiting the coming day,

Jesus, my Lord.

*Up from the grave he arose,*

*with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;*

*he arose a victor*

*from the dark domain,*

*and be lives for ever*

*with his saints to reign.*

*He arose! He arose!*

*Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

Vainly they watch his bed,

Jesus, my Saviour;

vainly they seal the dead,

Jesus, my Lord.

Death cannot keep its prey,

Jesus, my Saviour;

he tore the bars away,

Jesus, my Lord.

*Robert Lowry*

**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**

**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 4.5-12**

Their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is
“the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.” There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.’

**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;**
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.**

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.**

**Glory to God, Source of all being,**
**Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be forever. Amen.**

**1 John 3.16-24**

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

**Gradual hymn**

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

in a believer's ear!

It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,

and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,

and calms the troubled breast;

'tis manna to the hungry soul,

and to the weary, rest.

Dear name! the rock on which I build,

my shield and hiding-place,

my never-failing treasury filled

with boundless stores of grace.

Jesus! my shepherd, brother, friend,

my prophet, priest, and king,

my Lord, my life, my way, my end,

accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,

and cold my warmest thought;

but when I see thee as thou art,

I'll praise thee as I ought.

Till then I would thy love proclaim

with every fleeting breath;

and may the music of thy name

refresh my soul in death.

*John Newton*

**Gospel**

**Alleluia.**

*(When the reading is announced, we say)*
**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

**John 10.11-18**

‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.’

*(At the end)*
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**We meet in Christ’s name.
**Let us share his peace.**

 **Offertory hymn**

The King of love my shepherd is,

whose goodness faileth never;

I nothing lack if I am his

and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow

my ransomed soul he leadeth,

and where the verdant pastures grow

with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,

but yet in love he sought me,

and on his shoulder gently laid,

and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill

with thee, dear Lord, beside me;

thy rod and staff my comfort still,

thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight,

thy unction grace bestoweth:

and O what transport of delight

from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days

thy goodness faileth never;

good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise

within thy house for ever.

*Henry Williams Baker*

**Liturgy of the sacrament**Let us present our offerings to the Lord.

**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 we give you.**
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.**

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

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.**

**The 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 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 blood live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life 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.**

**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.**

**Closing 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*

**Notices**

**Next Sunday** services will be led by Revd Elaine Ryder and David Andrews

**Sending out**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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