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Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Scottish Charity: SC016471

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Rector: The Revd Canon Christoph Wutscher · Tel: 01786 359821 · rector@holytrinitystirling.org

Thursday 2nd November 2023 — 7.30 p.m. Sung Eucharist
ALL SOULS — & Act of Remembrance

PREPARATION

Organ Prelude Jehan Alain: Choral Cistercien pour une élévation

Opening Hymn (*please stand*)

1 Blest be the everlasting God,
the Father of our Lord!
Be his abounding mercy praised,
his majesty adored!

2 When from the dead he raised his Son,
and called him to the sky,
he gave our souls a lively hope
that they should never die.

3 There's an inheritance divine
reserved against that day;
'tis uncorrupted, undefiled,
and cannot fade away.

4 Saints by the power of God are kept,
till that salvation come:
we walk by faith as strangers here,
but Christ shall call us home.

Isaac Watts after 1 Peter 1.3-5

Opening

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **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 us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love but see no longer. Grant them your peace, let light perpetual shine upon them, and in your loving wisdom and almighty power work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Wisdom 3.1-9 (*please sit*)

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. [2] In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, [3] and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. [4] For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. [5] Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; [6] like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted them. [7] In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. [8] They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them for ever. [9] Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

Gradual Hymn

1 Now is eternal life,
if ris'n with Christ we stand,
in him to life reborn,
and held within his hand;
no more we fear death's ancient dread,
in Christ arisen from the dead.

2 Man long in bondage lay,
brooding o'er life's brief span;
was it, O God, for naught,
for naught, thou madest man?
Thou art our hope, our vital breath;
shall hope undying end in death?

3 And God, the living God,
stooped down to man's estate;
by death destroying death,
Christ opened wide life's gate.
He lives, who died; he reigns on high;
who lives in him shall never die.

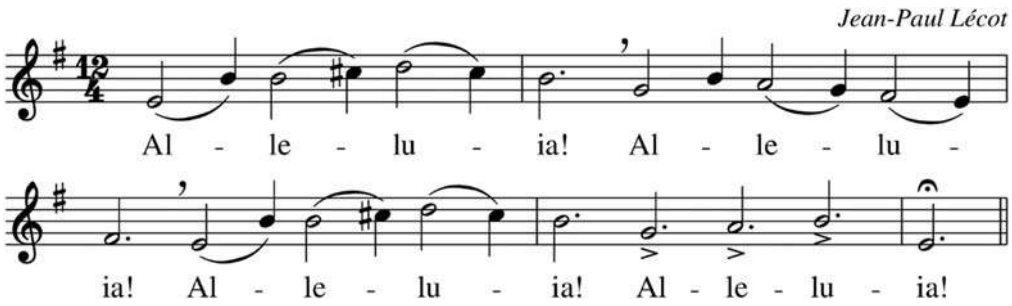
4 Unfathomed love divine,
reign thou within my heart;
from thee nor depth nor height,
nor life nor death can part;
my life is hid in God with thee,
now and through all eternity.

G. W. Briggs © 1931 Oxford University Press CCLI Licence # 237731

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1.3-9

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, [4] and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, [5] who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. [6] In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, [7] so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. [8] Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him

now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, [9] for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation
(*please stand*)

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Gospel: John 6.37-40 (*please stand*) *When it is announced:* Glory to Christ our Saviour.

Jesus said: 'Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; [38] for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. [39] And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. [40] This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

Give thanks to the Lord for this glorious Gospel. Praise to Christ our Lord.

Act of Remembrance
You are invited to light a candle in memory of loved ones who have died.

Organ music Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen (Ein Deutsches Requiem) op.45

Intercessions (*please sit or kneel*)
Lord, you alone are the source of life, may your life-giving Spirit flow through us, grant us your compassion one for the other, in our sorrow give us the calm of your peace, kindle our hope and let our grief give way to joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

During the prayers the names of those to be remembered are read out.

Eternal Lord God, you hold all souls in life: shed forth, we pray, upon your whole Church in paradise and on earth the bright beams of your light and heavenly comfort; and grant that we, following the good example of those who have loved and served you here and are now at rest, may at the last enter with them into the fullness of your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace (*please stand*)
Jesus says: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Offertory Hymn (*please stand*)

1 Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,
mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,
yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise,
Alleluia, alleluia!

2 Give thanks for those whose lives shone with a light
caught from the Christ-flame, gleaming through the night,
who touched the truth, who burned for what is right:
Alleluia, alleluia!

3 Give thanks for all, our living and our dead,
thanks for the love by which our life is fed,
a love not changed by time or death or dread:
Alleluia, alleluia!

4 Give thanks for hope that, like the seed of grain
lying in darkness does its life retain,
to rise in glory, growing green again:
Alleluia, alleluia!

Shirley Erena Murray *alt.*
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Offertory Prayer

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of this earth into your kingdom. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

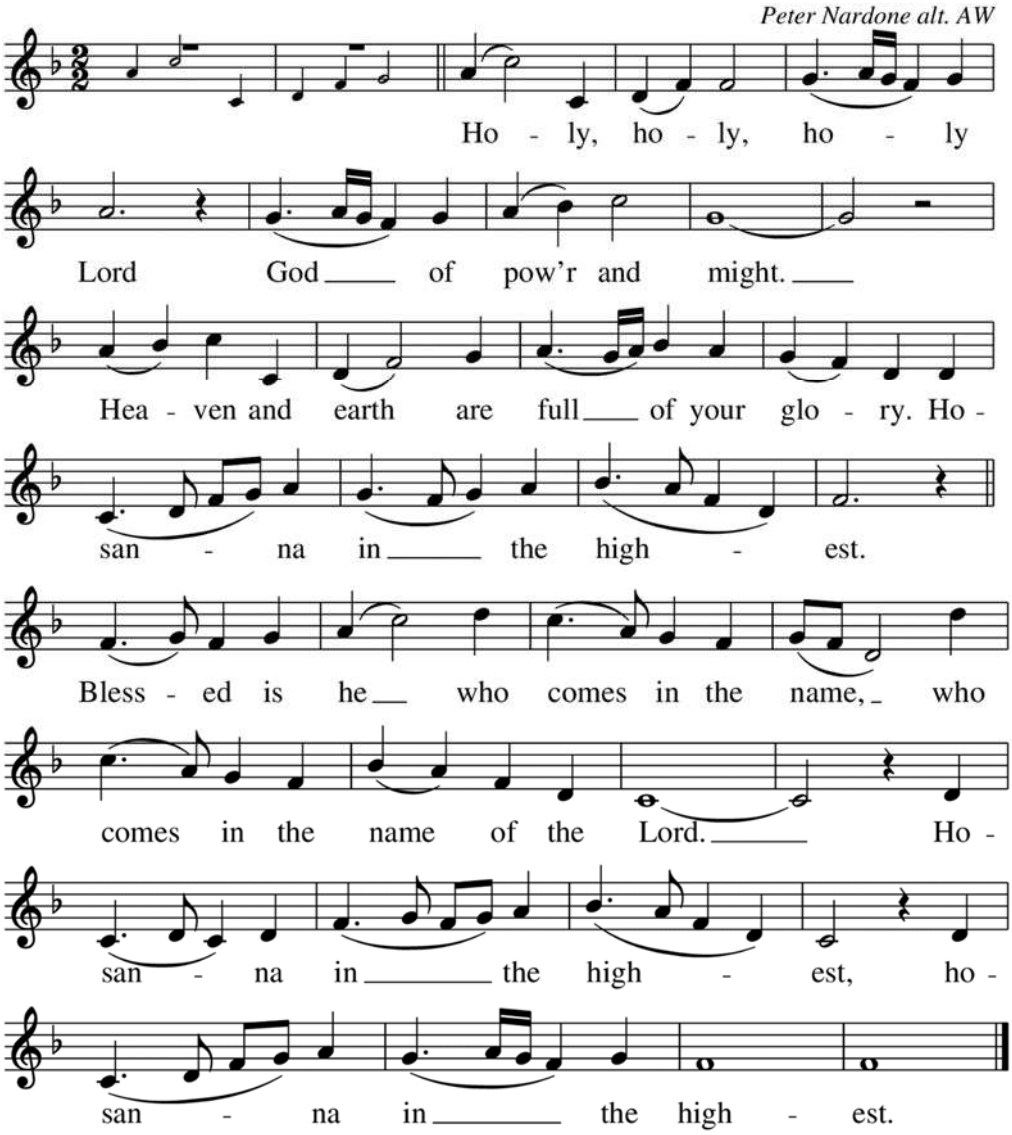
Lift up your hearts.

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. You have created us in your image, to love and serve you in our lives in this world until we find eternal rest and peace in you. Christ your Son died for us, and in Baptism we have died with him, that, as you raised him from the dead, we may rise to new life and rejoice in your eternal presence. Your Spirit empowers us, your living breath renews us, guides us through this world, and will bring us, rejoicing, to eternal life in You. As children of your redeeming purpose, freed by Christ who burst from the tomb and opened the gate of life, we offer you our praise, with all the faithful departed and all your saints, with the angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

The Sanctus

(*please sit*)

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Lord of all, for, by your Cross, eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory. In the first light of Easter glory broke from the tomb and brought the dead to new life. Before he was given up to suffering and death, Christ your Son taught his disciples of the life to come. 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.

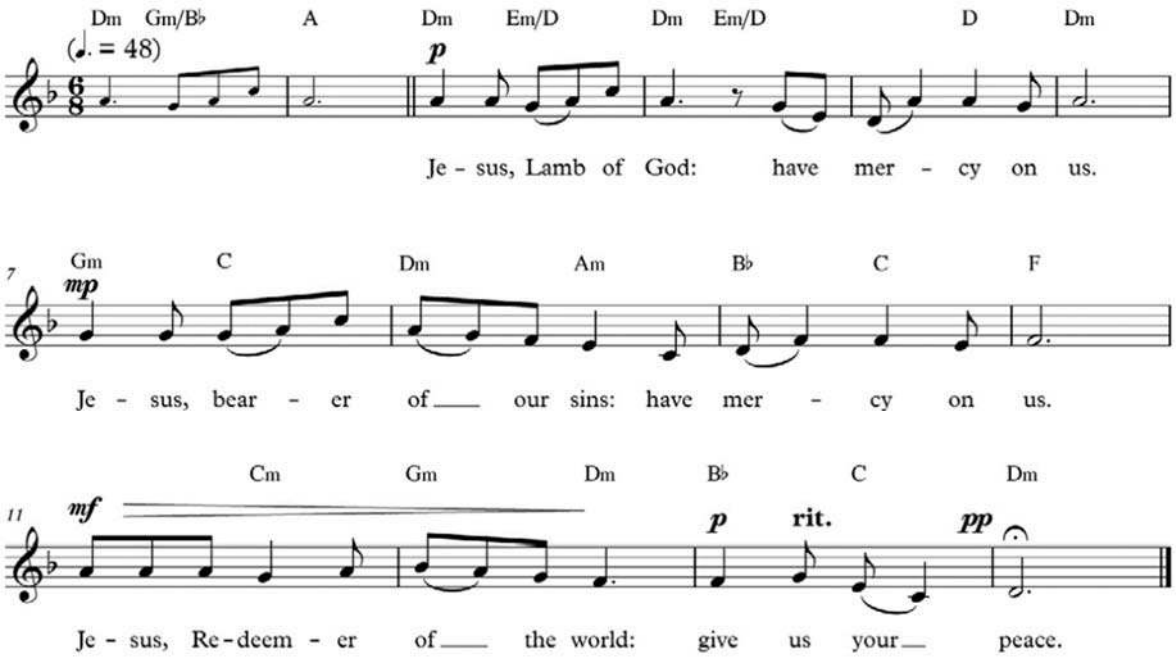
The Breaking of the Bread

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

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Agnus Dei



Communion *is administered in both kinds at the bottom of the chancel steps. Hand sanitiser is provided. It is perfectly acceptable to only receive the bread, should you so wish. Please do not intinct (dip the bread into the wine) as this is not considered to be a hygienic practice. The communicant may respond with* ***Amen*** *when receiving the bread and wine.*

Communion Chant

When we are living, we are in the Lord,
when we are dying, we are in the Lord;
for in our living and in our dying
we belong to God, we belong to God.

English version: John Bell
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THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

Post Communion Prayer

God of love, may the death and resurrection of Christ, which we celebrate in this Eucharist, bring us with the faithful departed into the peace of your eternal home. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our hope and our salvation. Amen.

Final Hymn (*please stand*)

1 The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
the darkness falls at thy behest;
to thee our morning hymns ascended,
thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

2 We thank thee that thy Church, unsleeping,
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping,
and rests not now by day or night.

3 As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.

4 The sun that bids us rest is waking
our brethren 'neath the western sky,
and hour by hour fresh lips are making
thy wondrous doings heard on high.

5 So be it, Lord: thy throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
thy kingdom stands, and grows forever,
till all thy creatures own thy sway.

John Ellerton (1826-1893)

The Blessing

The Dismissal

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

Organ Postlude Edward Elgar: Angel's Farewell (The Dream of Gerontius) op.38