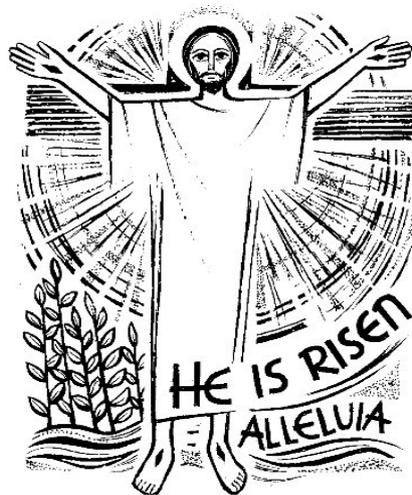


Eglwys Sant Asa
Llanelwy
Saint Asaph
Parish Church



The Parish Eucharist for Easter Day



Sunday 31st March 2024

Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rev'd Canon Rex Matthias
Parish Priest

Easter Day

'This is to us a Feast of feasts, and a Solemnity of solemnities ... today we are celebrating the Resurrection itself, no longer an object of expectation, but as having come to pass, and gathering the whole world to itself.'

St Gregory Nazianzen (329-390)

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Today, Christians around the world celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and the victory of love over hate, life over death, goodness over evil. We have gone from the barrenness of Ash Wednesday, when we remembered our sinfulness and mortality, through the rigours and discipline of Lent, to the Hosannas of Palm Sunday and the agony of betrayal in the garden, the death on the Cross and the grief of the tomb.

The journey will have been different for each one of us.

From today until Pentecost, the Easter Candle stands near the front of the Church and is lit. It stands among us as a symbol of Christ's risen presence with his people.

The 'alleluia' which was silenced throughout Lent, returns today with shouts of joyous praise.

In the early centuries of Christianity, Christian initiation only took place at Easter. This was to emphasise that it is through Baptism that we share new life with Christ.

Today is a day for all of us to renew baptismal vows and to give thanks that we share in Christ's risen life. In this Eucharist we are sacramentally reunited with our risen Lord and we rejoice in the hope and peace that he brought not only to his disciples that first Easter morning, but to us, his disciples today.



Hymn

*The Easter Candle, lit from the Cathedral candle at the Vigil last night
is carried in and is placed in its stand during the Hymn:*

I will sing the Lord's high triumph
Ruling earth and sky and sea;
God, my strength, my song, my glory,
My salvation now is he.
Through the waters, through the waters,
God has brought us liberty.
God has brought us liberty.

By the storm and at the mountain
Grace and judgement both are shown;
All who planned his people's ruin
Power divine has overthrown.
Nations tremble, nations tremble;
God has made his mercy known.
God has made his mercy known.

Who is like the God of Israel,
Faithful, holy, throned above?
Stretching out the arm of anger,
Yet he guides us by his love,
To our homeland, to our homeland,
God will see us safely move.
God will see us safely move.

Praise our God, who in the thunder
Led a nation through the sea;
Praise the One whose blood released us
From our deeper slavery.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Christ is risen: we are free!
Christ is risen: we are free!

*Christopher Idle (b.1938)
Based on Exodus 15
Tune: Cwm Rhondda*

In the name of the ☩ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Priest gives and introduction to the Eucharist.

Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory in the highest to the God of heaven!
Peace to all your people through the earth be given:
Mighty God and Father, thanks and praise we bring,
Singing alleluias to our heavenly King.**

**Jesus Christ is risen, God the Father's Son:
With the Holy Spirit, you are Lord alone!
Lamb once killed for sinners, all our guilt to bear,
Show us now your mercy, now receive our prayer.**

**Christ the world's true Saviour, high and holy one,
Seated now and reigning from your Father's throne:
Lord and God, we praise you; highest heaven adores:
In the Father's glory, all the praise be yours!**

Tune; Camberwell

The Collect for Easter Day *(Please remain Standing)*

Let us pray:

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

For the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

But the pain which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation hath procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

*Surrexit Hodie 14th Century & Complete Psalmist, J. Arnold 1749
Melody from 'Lyra Davidica' 1708, Harm. William Henry Monk*

Mark 16. 1-8

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

(Please Sit)

The Renewal of Baptismal Promises

(Please Stand)

*The Celebrant goes to the Font
and invites the people to renew their baptismal promises*

Dear friends, Christ is risen and we rose with him on the day we were baptized. Since then, we are called to a new risen life until the day the Lord will raise us up to enter with him into the Father's joy. May the Lord pour the flood of his love on you and may the Holy Spirit gladden your hearts.

The Celebrant blesses the water in the Font

We give thanks to you, O God:
we bless your holy name.

For you gift of water to nourish and sustain all life,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through the waters of the sea
you led the children of Israel from slavery to freedom:
we give you thanks and praise.

At his baptism, your Son Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit:
we give you thanks and praise.

Through the power of that same Spirit, sanctify this water
that your children who are washed in it
may be united with Christ in his death and resurrection.
Cleanse and deliver them from all sin;
bring them to new birth in the family of your Church
and make them inheritors of your kingdom:
through Jesus Christ our Lord
whom, by the power of the Spirit,
you raised to live with you
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

So let us renew the promises made at our Baptism affirming our allegiance to Christ
and our rejection of all that is evil.

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil

Let us now proclaim the Christian faith into which we were baptised and in which we
live and grow:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Everyone is then sprinkled with baptismal water as a token of God's renewing grace. Please join in with the Response to the Sprinkling Canticle:

**We shall draw water joyfully, singing joyfully, singing joyfully.
We shall draw water joyfully from the well springs of salvation.**

The Intercession

(Please Sit)

At the end of the intercessions

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

The Peace

(Please Stand)

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, Peace be with you!
They were overjoyed on seeing the Lord.

The peace of the Lord be with you always. Alleluia. Alleluia.
And also with you. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Let us offer one another a sign of the Lord's peace.

Hymn

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
your sweetest notes employ;
the Paschal victory to hymn
in strains of holy joy.

How Judah's Lion bursts his chains,
and crushed the serpent's head;
and brought with him, from death's dormains
the long-imprisoned dead.

From hell's devouring jaws the prey
alone our Leader bore;
his ransomed hosts pursue their way
where he hath gone before.

Triumphant in his glory now
his sceptre ruleth all;
earth, heaven, and hell before him bow
and at his footstool fall.

While joyful thus his praise we sing,
his mercy we implore,
into his palace bright to bring
and keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,
all glory to the Son,
all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
while endless ages run. Alleluia! Amen!

St Fulbert of Chartres 1028 tr. Robert Campbell 1814-1868
Tune: St Fulbert

The Thanksgiving

We celebrate together the gifts and grace of God.

**We take this bread,
we take this wine
to follow Christ's example
and obey his command.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Risen Lord Jesus Christ,
we believe in you, and all we have heard is true.
When you break bread
may we recognize you as the fire that burns within us,
that we may bring light to your world. **Amen.**

Hear us, heavenly Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Through him accept our sacrifice of praise,
and grant that, by the power of your Spirit,
these gifts of bread and wine may be for us
his body and his blood;

who in the same night that he was betrayed
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper,
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying,

Drink from this, all of you;
for this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come in glory.

Therefore, Father,
remembering the saving death and resurrection of your Son
we offer to you in thanksgiving this bread and this cup, your gifts to us,
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send your Holy Spirit upon all of us
who share this bread and this cup.
Strengthen our faith, make us one
and welcome us and all your people
into the glorious kingdom of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
all honour and glory are yours,
almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Silence is kept

Raised again with Christ in the power of the Spirit, we say:

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The priest breaks the bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body
for we all share in one bread.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.**

The Invitation to Holy Communion

Alleluia! Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The sacrament is administered with these words:

The body of Christ. **Amen.** The blood of Christ. **Amen.**

All those who are baptised (Christened) are welcome to receive Holy Communion today. Baptised (Christened) children are welcome to receive holy communion at the discretion of their parents.

If you are not receiving you are welcome to come forward for a blessing but please bring this leaflet with you as a signal to the priest.

Hymn at the end of Communion

*Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.*

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and is risen:

We have been crucified with Christ:
now we shall live for ever:

God has proclaimed the just reward:
life for the world, alleluia:

*Donald Fishel b.1950
Tune: Alleluia No. 1*

After Communion a period of Silence is kept

The Sending Out

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious:
his love is everlasting.

Living God,
who for our redemption
gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross,
and by his glorious resurrection
have delivered us from the power of our enemy:
grant us to die daily to sin,
that we may evermore live with the him
in the joy of his risen life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

Final 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 vict'ry, 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 hath 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.

*Text: Edmond Budry (1854-1932) translated Richard Hoyle (1875-1939)
Music: George F. Handel (1685-1759)*

Notices

Refreshments. Please do join us for refreshments after the service if you can.

Praying for Growth. Please pray for the growth and renewal of the Church here in this place. Here is the Leading Your Church into Growth Prayer:

*God of Mission,
Who alone brings growth to your
Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship,
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Community Fridge takes place every Sunday from 4-5pm at the Parish Church.

Sunday Sheet. Please take this sheet home with you for the notices for the week and to pray for what is happening in the life of our Church.

Church Committee. There are sheets at the back of the Church to make nominations for Peoples' Warden and for members of the Church Committee. The Annual Vestry Meeting will take place on Sunday 14th April after the Parish Eucharist.

Organ Recitals. This year's Organ Recital series begins on Wednesday 3rd April at 7.30pm. This recital will be given by Stephen Power, Director of Music at Brecon Cathedral. Retiring Collection. A warm welcome to all.

Funeral The Funeral of Norman Eaton will take place at the Parish Church on Monday 8th April at 11.15am.

The Week Ahead

1st Monday – In Easter Week

9am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Eucharist
5pm Evening Prayer

2nd Tuesday – In Easter Week

9am Morning Prayer
5pm Evening Prayer
6pm Holy Eucharist

3rd Wednesday – In Easter Week

9am Morning Prayer
10.30am Holy Eucharist
5pm Evening Prayer
7.30pm Organ Recital

4th Thursday – In Easter Week

9am Morning Prayer
10am Holy Eucharist *at the Parish Church*
10.45am Prayer Group *at the Parish Church*
5pm Evening Prayer

5th Friday – In Easter Week

9am Morning Prayer
9.30am Offeren (*Welsh Eucharist*)
5pm Evening Prayer

6th Saturday – In Easter Week

9am Morning Prayer
5pm Evening Prayer

7th Sunday – Easter Week

9.30am Parish Eucharist *at the Parish Church*
9.30am Holy Eucharist *at St Mary's Cefn*
11am Cathedral Eucharist
3.30pm Evening Prayer

Contact:

Parish Church: 01745 535957

Fr Rex: 07393 639813

Parish Church Website:

www.stasaphparishchurch.org.uk