



Welcome to St Alban's Church

Easter 4

Before the children leave for Children's Church we pray together....

**Dear God, this church is a family.
Help us to learn together, to worship together,
to share together and to pray together.
In Jesus' name. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *William Kethe (d. 1594)*

**1 All people that on earth do dwell
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
come ye before Him and rejoice.**

**2 The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,
without our aid he did us make:
We are his flock, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.**

**3 O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto:
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.**

**4 For why, the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.**

**5 Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise him all creatures here below,
praise him above, ye heavenly hosts:
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

We are gathered together as one body

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

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

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer,
this is your world and we are your people: come among us and save us.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought, in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you † pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in life eternal. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Glory, glory, glory to God.

Glory, glory, glory to God.

**Glory to God in the heights of the heavens,
peace to God's people, all people on earth.**

Glory, glory...

**Son of the Father, all glory and worship;
praise and thanksgiving to you. Lamb of God**

Glory, glory...

**You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us, receive our prayer.**

Glory, glory...

**Seated in pow'r at the right of the Father,
Jesus alone is the Lord, the Most High.**

Glory, glory...

**And with the Spirit of love everlasting,
reigning in glory for ever. Amen.**

Glory, glory, glory to God.

Glory, glory, glory to God.

THE COLLECT

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

READINGS

*After each reading ...*This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

FIRST READING: Acts 2.42–47

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2.19–25

GRADUAL HYMN *Edwin Hatch (1835-1889)*

**1 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew;
that I may love what thou dost love
and do what thou wouldst do.**

**3 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine;
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.**

**2 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure;
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.**

**4 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.**

THE GOSPEL

We sing....**Alleluia, alleluia; alleluia, alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

John 10.1–10

*After the reading...*This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED *Please stand if you are able*

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

**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 and the Son,
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.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

At the end of the prayers we say together:

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

THE PEACE *Please stand if you are able*

To crown all things there must be love,
to bind all together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Thomas O. Chisholm (1866–1960)*

**1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

**2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
*Great is thy faithfulness...***

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
*Great is thy faithfulness...***

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

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 forever.

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 for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God forever.

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 thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy, holy
Lord of power, Lord of might.
Heav'n and earth are filled with glory.
Sing hosanna evermore.**

**Blest and holy, blest and holy,
He who comes from God on high
Raise your voices, sing his glory,
Praise his name for evermore.**

Israeli Mass ©Anthony Hamson

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread
and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear
Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking
bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
Do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you; 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.
So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with
confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith
Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Alban, and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

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

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Saviour 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.
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

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

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

AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin, the sin of all the world.
Give us mercy, give us mercy,
give us mercy Lamb of God. (repeat)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin, the sin of all the world.
Grant us peace, Lord, grant us peace, Lord,
grant us peace, O Lamb of God.**

Israeli Mass, Anthony Hamson

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

*All baptised Christians who receive communion in their own churches are welcome
to receive communion. Anyone may come up to receive a blessing.*

**1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.
*And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me.
Your goodness will lead me home.***

**2 He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights. *And I will trust...***

**3 And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know. *And I will trust...***

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Through Him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will;
and the blessing ...

We are raised to new life with Christ.
Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

CLOSING HYMN *Sydney Bertram Carter ©1971 Stainer & Bell Ltd*

**1 One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go,
From the old things to the new
Keep me travelling along with you.
*And it's from the old I travel to the new,
Keep me travelling along with You.***

**2 Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn.
And the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me.
*And it's from the old...***

**3 As I travel through the bad and good
Keep me travelling the way I should.
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know.
*And it's from the old...***

**4 Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough.**

Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me travelling along with you.
*And it's from the old I travel to the new,
Keep me travelling along with You.*

5 You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me.
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me travelling along with you.
And it's from the old...

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*Celebrating God's love in the
heart of the community*

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