

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
LOWESTOFT



HOLY COMMUNION

For the Season of
Christmastide & Epiphany



Sunday 26th January 2025 – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Mass Setting: St. Thomas (D. Thorne)

Deacon Sarah

Preacher Gerda

Presiding Canon Simon

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

(Please remain seated)

Opening prayer

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.



HYMN 2 - *Christ, whose glory fills the skies.*

***1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise!
Triumph o'er the shades of night:
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.***

***2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.***

***3 Visit then this soul of mine!
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief
Fill me, radiance divine;
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.***

CHARLES WESLEY (1707-1788)

Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!
Praise to Christ our light

INTRODUCTION TO CONFESSION

The grace of God
has dawned upon the world with healing for all.
Though we have grieved him,
yet he will heal us if we confess our sins
in penitence and faith.

CONFESSION (Please sit or kneel)
A moment of Silence

When we fail to see Christ
In friend and stranger
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

When we fail to see Christ
In the miracle of your good earth
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

When we fail to see Christ
In the secrets of our own hearts
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

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

THE GLORIA (Please stand)

***Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
Glory to God in the Highest and peace to his people on earth,
Lord God, Heavenly King, Almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

***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.***

***Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
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.
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

THE COLLECT (Prayer of the week – found on the pew sheet)

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (please sit)

All Age Talk

BIBLE READING(S)

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a Read by Tina

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’, nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 700 - King of Kings.

**1 King of kings, Majesty
God of Heaven living in me
Gentle Saviour, closest friend
Strong Deliverer, beginning and end
All within me falls at Your throne**

**Your Majesty, I can but bow
I lay my all before You now
In royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve Your Majesty.**

**2 Earth and Heaven worship You
Love eternal, Faithful and True
Who bought the nations, ransomed souls
Brought this sinner near to Your throne
All within me cries out in praise.**

**Your majesty, I can but bow
I lay my all before You now
In royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve Your Majesty
I live to serve Your Majesty.**

JARROD COOPER

GOSPEL READING Luke 4: 14-21

(Please remain standing)

Alleluia, alleluia. Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world.

Alleluia.

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

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

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

SERMON Gerda

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please stand)

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Led by Captain John (Please sit or kneel)

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

at the end

Merciful Father,

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

NOTICES AND TIME OF SHARING

THE PEACE (please stand)

These words may be used

Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and Prince of Peace. Let him rule our hearts now, as one day he will rule the world.

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

Deacon: Let us offer one another a sign of peace

OFFERTORY HYMN 258 - *O thou who camest from above.*

(During the offertory hymn the bread and wine and collection are brought to the Altar)

***1 O thou who camest from above
the fire celestial to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart.***

***2 There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.***

***3 Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work and speak and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire
and still stir up the gift in me.***

***4 Ready for all thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat,
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.***

CHARLES WESLEY (1707-1788)

Lord, accept your people's gifts,
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in praise
of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation.
Amen

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Please sit or kneel - The Choir may remain standing

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

All honour and praise be yours ever-living God, for your Son our
Saviour Jesus Christ, who was born of the Virgin Mary by the power
of your Spirit and lived as one of us.
We give thanks for your glory made present in our midst.

In the coming of the Magi the King of all the world was revealed to
the nations.

In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the
Saviour sent to redeem us.

In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the
wedding feast.

Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore, with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.***

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 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.**



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Believing the promises of God, 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.
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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life
And that life is the light of the world
God here among us
Light in the midst of us
Bring us to light and life

The Agnus Dei

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.***

This is the table of our lord, where hurts are healed, and all is made new in the love of God. Come not because it is I who invite you, it is our Lord; It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

All are welcome to come forward to receive the bread and the wine or a blessing. It is helpful for us if you say your name when you come to the front. The choir will receive Holy Communion first at the High Altar, followed by the rest of the congregation who will receive Holy Communion at the Chancel step.

An anthem is usually sung by the Choir and then a Hymn is also sung during communion (please remain seated)

Anthem Author of life divine (McDowall)

Hymn 249 - Holy Spirit, living Breath of God

**1 Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
breathe new life into my willing
soul.**

**Bring the presence of the risen Lord
to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause your word to come alive in me,
give me faith for what I cannot see;
give me passion for Your purity;
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.**

**2 Holy Spirit, come abide within,
may your joy be seen in all I
do.**

**Love enough to cover every sin
in each thought and deed and attitude:
kindness to the greatest and the
least,
gentleness that sows the path of peace.
turn my strivings into works of grace;
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.**

**3 Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
giving life to all that God has made,
show your power once again on earth,
Cause your church to hunger for your ways.
May the fragrance of our prayers
arise;
lead us on the road of sacrifice,
that in unity the face of Christ
may be clear for all the world to see.**

Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Said by a minister and found on the weekly pew sheet

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
is the light of the world: may your people,
illuminated by your word and sacraments,

shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped,
and obeyed to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

**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.**

HYMN 588 - *And can it be.*

***1 And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood!
Died he for me, who caused his pain!
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?***

***2 'Tis mystery all! the Immortal dies:
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds inquire no more.***

***3 He left his Father's throne above
so free, so infinite his grace;
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race;***

*'tis mercy all, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me.
'tis mercy all, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me.*

*4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.
my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.*

*5 No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine;
alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.*

CHARLES WESLEY (1707-1788)

THE BLESSING

May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead us also in our journey to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, give us a place with the saints in light in the kingdom of his beloved Son. **Amen.**

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in our hearts and fill our lives with his joy and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ, to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Or

By the power of the Spirit, we take into our community the peace
and love of God.

In the name of Christ. Amen.