

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH  
LOWESTOFT



# Holy Communion

Ordinary time  
**SERVICE ONE**



**Sunday 16th February 2025**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

**Setting: Farmer**

**Deacon Gerda**  
**Presiding Rev Jim**  
**Preacher Canon Simon**

## **WELCOME & Introduction**

We meet in the presence of God  
who knows our needs, feels our pain,  
and shares our joy.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

## **HYMN 238 *Come down, O Love divine***

***1 Come down, O love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.***

***2 O let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.***

***3 Let holy charity  
mine outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;  
true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.***

***4 And so the yearning strong,  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace,  
till we become the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.***

Bianco Da Siena (d.1434)

*Translated by Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890)*

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

Let us worship the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Prayers of Penitence**

*We are invited to confess what we have done wrong using these or other suitable words*

God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ  
to save us from our sins,  
to be our advocate in heaven,  
and to bring us to eternal life.  
Therefore let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,  
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments  
and to live in love and peace with all.

**Confession (*please sit or kneel*)**

**Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

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**

*(If you are able, please stand to sing the Gloria)*

***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.  
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.***

## **THE COLLECT *(Prayer of the week - found on the pew sheet)***

Eternal God,  
whose Son went among the crowds  
and brought healing with his touch:  
help us to show his love,  
in your Church as we gather together,  
and by our lives as they are transformed  
into the image of Christ our Lord.

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

***(Please sit)***

all age talk Canon Simon

## **BIBLE READING[S]**

### **New Testament: 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20    Read by Grace**

If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **HYMN    552 - *Think of a world without any flowers***

***1 Think of a world without any flowers,  
think of a wood without any trees,  
think of a sky without any sunshine,  
think of the air without any breeze.  
We thank you, Lord, for flowers and trees and sunshine,  
we thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.***

***2 Think of a world without any animals,  
think of a field without any herd,  
think of a stream without any fishes,  
think of a dawn without any bird.  
We thank you, Lord, for all your living creatures,  
we thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.***

***3 Think of a world without any people,  
think of a street with no-one living there,  
think of a town without any houses,  
no-one to love and nobody to care.  
We thank you, Lord, for families and friendships,  
we thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.***

**GOSPEL READING: Luke 6: 17-26**

*(Please remain standing)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
one God, who was, and who is, and who is to come, the Almighty. **Alleluia!**

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

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 'Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. 'Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. 'But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. 'Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. 'Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. 'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

***Praise to you, O Christ.***

**SERMON Canon Simon**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*(If you would like to, please stand as we affirm our faith)*

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

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

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *led by Jennifer D***

*(Please sit or kneel)*

*These responses may be used:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Receive 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**

(If you would like to, please stand)

*These words may be used:*

We are the body of Christ,  
by one spirit we were all baptised into one body.  
Let us pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

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 557 - Beauty for brokenness**

(During the hymn the bread & wine are brought forward and the altar is prepared)

**1 Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,  
Lord, in your suffering world this is our prayer.  
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,  
sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase!**

**2 Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,  
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills.  
Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,  
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.**

***God of the poor, friend of the weak,  
give us compassion, we pray:  
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.  
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.***



**3 Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,  
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share.  
Peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green,  
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.**

**4 Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,  
plundered and poisoned: our future, our  
dreams.  
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;  
make us content with the things that we need.**

***God of the poor, friend of the weak,  
give us compassion, we pray:  
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.  
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.***

**5 Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame,  
until your justice burns brightly again;  
until the nations learn of your ways,  
seek your salvation and bring you their praise.**

***God of the poor, friend of the weak,  
give us compassion, we pray:  
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.  
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.***

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

With this bread that we bring  
**we shall remember Jesus.**

With this wine that we bring  
**we shall remember Jesus.**

Bread for his body, wine for his blood, gifts from God to his table we bring.  
**we shall remember Jesus.**

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (please sit or kneel)**

**[The Choir may remain standing]**

*The Lord is here.*

***His Spirit is with us.***

*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!***

Lord of all life,  
you created the universe  
where all living things reflect your glory.  
You give us this great and beautiful earth  
to discover and to cherish.

You sent your Son to live among us,  
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.  
He suffered on the cross;  
he died to save us from our sins;  
he rose in glory from the dead,  
and we share his risen life.

You send your Spirit  
to bring new life to the world,  
and clothe us with power from on high.  
And so we join the angels  
to celebrate and sing:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna, in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

Father, on the night before he died,  
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.  
He took the bread and thanked you.  
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.  
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you.  
This is my blood, the new promise of God's unfailing love.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,  
and remember his death and resurrection,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share these gifts  
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us  
that we may love one another,  
work for the healing of the earth,  
and share the good news of Jesus,  
as we wait for his coming in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith.

***Christ has died;***  
***Christ is risen;***  
***Christ will come again.***

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

United as one body, we pray for the coming of God's Kingdom in heaven and on earth, using the words our Saviour taught us:

**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 forever. Amen.**

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

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.**

**The Agnus Dei is sung:**

*Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.*

*Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.*

*Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.*

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*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.*

An anthem is usually sung by the Choir and then a **HYMN** is also sung during  
Communion. (Please remain seated)

**Anthem:** Blest are the pure in heart

**Hymn 725 - *Make me a channel of your peace***

**1 *Make me a channel of your peace.***

***Where there is hatred***

***let me bring your love.***

***Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord***

***And where there's doubt,***

***true faith in you.***

***Oh, Master grant that I may never seek***

***So much to be consoled as to console***

***To be understood as to understand***

***To be loved as to love with all my soul.***

**2 *Make me a channel of your peace***

***Where there's despair in life,***

***let me bring hope***

***Where there is darkness, only light***

***And where there's sadness, ever joy.***

***Oh, Master grant that I may never seek***

***So much to be consoled as to console***

***To be understood as to understand***

***To be loved as to love with all my soul***

**3 *Make me a channel of your peace***

***It is in pardoning that we are pardoned***

***In giving of ourselves that we receive***

***And in dying that we're born to eternal life.***

SEBASTIAN TEMPLE (1928-1997) - from a prayer attributed to St FRANCIS OF ASSISI

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Said by a minister and found on the weekly pew sheet.

Merciful Father,

who gave Jesus Christ

to be for us the bread of life,

that those who come to him

should never hunger:

draw us to the Lord in faith and love,

that we may eat and drink with him

at his table in the kingdom,

where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

## THANKSGIVING PRAYER

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 body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light 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.

### **HYMN 708 - *Lift up your hearts!***

***1 'Lift up your hearts!' We lift them, Lord, to thee;  
here at thy feet none other may we see:  
'lift up your hearts!' E'en so, with one accord,  
we lift them up, we lift them to the Lord.***

***2 Above the level of the former years,  
the mire of sin, the slough of guilty fears,  
the mist of doubt, the blight of love's decay,  
O Lord of light, lift all our hearts to-day.***

***3 Above the swamps of subterfuge and shame,  
the deeds, the thoughts, that honour may not name,  
the halting tongue that dares not tell the whole,  
O Lord of truth, lift every Christian soul.***

***4 Lift every gift that thou thyself hast given:  
low lies the best till lifted up to heaven;  
low lie the bounding heart, the teeming brain,  
till, sent from God, they mount to God again.***

***5 Then, as the trumpet-call in after years,  
'Lift up your hearts!' rings pealing in our ears,  
still shall those hearts respond with full accord,  
'We lift them up, we lift them to the Lord!'***

## THE BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, be upon those you love, pray for and care for now and for evermore. **Amen.**

## THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace 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.***

