

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH  
LOWESTOFT



# Holy Communion for the Easter season



**27<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**Mass Setting: Thorne**

Deacon: Gill  
Preacher: Gerda  
Presiding: Rev Jim

## **WELCOME & Introduction [please remain seated]**

Lord of all life, God of Easter  
all living things reflect your glory.  
Restore and heal all that is wounded  
Roll back the stone of prejudice and fear  
Release the signs of spring

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

### **HYMN 218 - *Thine be the glory***

***1 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 victory thou o'er death hast won!***

***2 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.  
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won!***

***3 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.  
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won!***

Edmond Budry (1854-1932)

In the light of the risen son  
We worship today

**Faithful one, whose word is life:  
come with saving power  
to free our praise,  
inspire our prayer  
and shape our lives  
for the kingdom of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

### **Invitation to CONFESSION**

Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us.  
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and  
confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Confession (*please sit or kneel*)

When we do not live in the joy of the resurrection  
but are caught up in the demands of the world

Lord have mercy  
**Lord have mercy**

When there are no signs of spring in our hearts  
And we neglect to care for our world

Christ have mercy  
**Christ have mercy**

When we fail to see Christ in friend and stranger  
And we fail to see Christ in ourselves

Lord have mercy  
**Lord have mercy**

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord **Amen.**

*Please stand to sing the Gloria*

***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*)**

Risen Christ,  
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:  
open the doors of our hearts,  
that we may seek the good of others  
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,  
to the praise of God the Father.

## ***THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (please sit)***

### ***All age talk***

## **READINGS**

### **New Testament: Acts 5: 27-32    Read by Kay S**

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they made them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 818 - To God be the glory**

**1 To God be the glory,  
great things He has done;  
So loved He the world  
that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life  
an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life gate  
that all may go in.**

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father,  
through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory,  
great things He hath done.***

**2 O perfect redemption,  
the purchase of blood,  
To every believer  
the promise of God;  
The vilest offender  
who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus  
a pardon receives.**

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father,  
through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory,  
great things He hath done.***

**3 Great things He has taught us,  
great things He has done,  
And great our rejoicing  
through Jesus the Son;  
But purer, and higher,  
and greater will be  
Our wonder, our rapture,  
when Jesus we see.**

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father,  
through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory,  
great things He hath done.***

FANNY CROSBY (FRANCES JANE VAN ALSTYNE) (1820-1915)

Please remain standing for the **GOSPEL READING**

**Gospel: John 20: 19-31**

Jesus is risen from the dead

**Alleluia!**

He has defeated death

**Alleluia!**

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing

**Alleluia!**

He has the words of eternal life.

**Alleluia!**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

***Glory to you, O Lord.***

It was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**SERMON Gerda**



*We stand to affirm our Faith*

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 Sarah**

*Please sit or kneel*

*These responses may be used*

Risen Christ Jesus

**Open the tombs of our hearts**

*at the end*

God of the Easter faith

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

***Banns of Marriage, Notices and time of sharing***

**THE PEACE (*please stand*)**

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said,  
'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you  
**And also with you. Alleluia.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**OFFERTORY HYMN 204 - *If Christ had not been raised from death***

(During the hymn the bread & wine are brought forward, and the altar is prepared. The collection is also offered at the Altar)

***1 If Christ had not been raised from death  
our faith would be in vain,  
our preaching but a waste of breath,  
our sin and guilt remain.  
But now the Lord is risen indeed;  
he rules in earth and heaven:  
his gospel meets a world of need  
in Christ we are forgiven.***

***2 If Christ still lay within the tomb  
then death would be the end,  
and we should face our final doom  
with neither guide nor friend.  
But now the Saviour is raised up,  
so when a Christian dies  
we mourn, yet look to God in hope  
in Christ the saints arise!***

***3 If Christ had not been truly raised  
his Church would live a lie;  
his name should nevermore be praised,  
his words deserve to die.  
But now our great Redeemer lives;  
through him we are restored:  
his word endures, his Church revives  
in Christ, our risen Lord.***

Christopher Idle (b. 1938) based on 1 Corinthians 15.12-20  
204 Words: © Christopher Idle / The Jubilate Group. Administered by The Jubilate Group,

Risen Lord Jesus Christ, we believe you, and all we have heard is true.

When you break bread

**May we recognise you as the fire that burns within us  
that we may bring light to your world. 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.*

We praise you for Jesus Christ,  
risen to life, eternal as your love.  
With the women at the tomb,  
we raise the strain of gladness.

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 now we give you thanks that  
The day of resurrection has come,  
scattering fear and gloom.

And so we rejoice with all your people of every time and place,  
and with angels and archangels,  
to proclaim the glory of your name

***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.***

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.



Great is the mystery of faith:

***Christ has died:***

***Christ is risen:***

***Christ will come again.***

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,  
for ever and ever praising you and singing

***Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.***

***Amen.***



## ***The Lord's Prayer***

Rejoicing in God's new creation, 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 forever.**

**Amen.**

## **THE 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*

***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.***

Come to this table, because Jesus loved you  
and gave himself for you.  
Come and meet the risen Christ,  
for we are his Body.

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)

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.



Anthem        Now the green blade rises (Bullard)

Hymn         209 - Love's redeeming work is done.

**1 Love's redeeming work is done,  
fought the fight, the battle won.  
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er!  
Lo, he sets in blood no more!**

**2 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal!  
Christ has burst the gates of hell;  
death in vain forbids his rise;  
Christ has opened paradise.**

**3 Lives again our glorious King;  
where, O death, is now thy sting?  
Dying once, he all doth save;  
where thy victory, O grave?**

**4 Soar we now where Christ has led,  
following out exalted Head;  
made like him, like him we rise,  
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.**

**5 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!  
Praise to thee by both be given:  
thee we greet triumphant now;  
hail, the Resurrection thou!**

CHARLES WESLEY (1707-1788)

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

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

Lord God our Father,  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ  
you have assured your children of eternal life  
and in baptism have made us one with him:  
deliver us from the death of sin  
and raise us to new life in your love,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **THANKSGIVING PRAYER**

**Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life.**

**We are fed by your love,  
we are strengthened by your life.**

**We are sent forth into this world  
to live your way and share your joy.**

**We are now commissioned to:  
feed as we have been fed,  
forgive as we have been forgiven,  
love as we have been loved.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Amen.**

**HYMN 641 - Glorious things of thee are spoken**

**1 Glorious things of thee are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God;  
he whose word cannot be broken  
formed thee for his own abode;  
on the Rock of Ages founded,  
what can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.**

**2 See! the streams of living waters,  
springing from eternal love,  
well supply thy sons and daughters  
and all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint, while such a river  
ever flows their thirst to assuage?  
Grace which, like the Lord, the Giver,  
never fails from age to age.**

**3 Round each habitation hovering,  
see the cloud and fire appear  
for a glory and a covering,  
showing that the Lord is near.  
Thus they march, the pillar leading,  
light by night, and shade by day;  
daily on the manna feeding  
which he gives them when they pray.**

**4 Saviour, if of Zion's city,  
I through grace a member am,  
let the world deride or pity,  
I will glory in thy Name.  
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,  
All his boasted pomp and show;  
solid joys and lasting treasure  
none but Zion's children know.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed Alleluia!**

## **THE BLESSING**

The God of peace,  
Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
That great shepherd of the sheep,  
Through the blood of the eternal covenant,  
Make us perfect in every good work to do his will,  
Working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight;  
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**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
Alleluia, Alleluia

**In the name of Christ  
Alleluia, Alleluia**

