

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
LOWESTOFT



Holy Communion for the Easter season



Sunday 4th May 2025
3rd Sunday of Easter

Mass Setting: Thorne

Presiding & Preaching Canon Simon

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 598 - Before the throne of God above.

***1 Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea:
a great High Priest, whose name is Love,
whoever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.***

***2 When Satan tempts me to despair,
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look, and see him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God, the Just, is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.***

**3 Behold him there! the risen Lamb!
my perfect, spotless righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM,
the King of glory and of
grace!**

**One with my Lord, I cannot die;
my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God.**

Charitie Lees De Chenez (1841–1923)*

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,
you filled your disciples with boldness
and fresh hope: strengthen us
to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (please sit)

All age talk

READINGS

New Testament: Acts 9: 1-6 – Read by Jennifer D

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.'

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Song ***I will offer up my life***
[on pew sheet]

I will offer up my life in spirit and truth
Pouring out the oil of love,
as my worship to you
In surrender I must give my every part
Lord, receive this sacrifice of a broken heart

Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring
To so faithful a Friend, to so loving a King?
Saviour, what can be said,
what can be sung
As a praise of Your name
for the things You have done?
Oh, my words could not tell,
not even in part
Of the debt of love
that is owed by this thankful heart

You deserve my every breath,
for You've paid the great cost
Giving up your life to death,
even death on a cross
You took all my shame away,
there defeated my sin
Opened up the gates of heaven
and have beckoned me in

*Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring
To so faithful a Friend, to so loving a King?
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As a praise of Your name
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Oh, my words could not tell,
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Of the debt of love
that is owed by this thankful heart*

Songwriters: Matthew James Redman

Please remain standing for the **GOSPEL READING**

Gospel: John 21: 1-19

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.

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he

said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God. After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Canon Simon

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.**

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 802 - *There is a higher throne.*

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

**1 There is a higher throne
than all this world has known,
where faithful ones from every tongue
will one day come.**

**Before our God we'll stand,
made faultless through the Lamb;
believing hearts find promised grace:
salvation comes.**

*Hear heaven's voices sing,
their thunderous anthem rings
through emerald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.*

*All glory, wisdom, power,
strength, thanks and honour are
to God, our King who reigns on high
for evermore.*

**2 And there we'll find our home,
our life before the throne;
we'll honour him in perfect song
where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye,
as thirst and hunger die;
the Lamb becomes our Shepherd King:
we'll reign with him.**

Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Kristyn Getty (b. 1980)

Stewardship Prayer

Thanksgiving for the commitments people have made

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

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.

Living God,
your Son made himself known
to his disciples in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him
in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns,
now and for ever.

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 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)

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



