ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH LOWESTOFT

Holy Communion for the Easter season



Sunday 11th May 2025 4th Sunday of Easter

Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of V.E. Day

Mass Setting: Thorne

Deacon: Gill Preacher: Sarah Presiding: 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 681 - In heavenly love

1 In heavenly love abiding. no change my heart shall fear; and safe is such confiding, for nothing changes here: the storm may roar without me, my heart may low be laid; but God is round about me, and can I be dismayed?

2 Wherever he may guide me, no want shall turn me back: my Shepherd is beside me. and nothing can I lack: his wisdom ever waketh, his sight is never dim, he knows the way he taketh. and I will walk with him.

3 Green pastures are before me, which yet I have not seen; bright skies will soon be o'er me, where darkest clouds have been; my hope I cannot measure, my path to life is free: my Saviour has my treasure, and he will walk with me. ANNA LAETITIA WARING (1823 - 1910)

All age talk – Children then go to their own activity

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**.

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, 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.

Please remain standing for the GOSPEL READING from

John 10: 22-30 read by Amelia

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 St John. *Glory to you. O Lord.*

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and Lare one.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Sarah

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION - led by Charles

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.

The Children return from their activities

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 800 - The Lord's my shepherd

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

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 in you alone.
And I will trust in you alone, for your endless mercy follows me, your goodness will lead me home.

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 in you alone. And I will trust in you alone, for your endless mercy follows me, your goodness will lead me home.

Stuart Townend (b. 1963) based on Psalm 23

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

EUCHARISTIC 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 Let all Mortal Flesh keep silence (Cleobury)

HYMN 785 - Such love

- 1 Such love, pure as the whitest snow; such love weeps for the shame I know; such love, paying the debt I owe; O Jesus, such love.
- 2 Such love, stilling my restlessness; such love, filling my emptiness; such love, showing me holiness; O Jesus, such love.
- 3 Such love, springs from eternity; such love, streaming through history; such love, fountain of life to me; O Jesus, such love.

Graham Kendrick (b.1950)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

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.

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 650 - Great is thy faithfulness

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! 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! 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! 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!

T.O. Chisholm © 1951 Hope Publishing Co.

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

