

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
LOWESTOFT



Service of Holy Communion

For Trinity Season
Service One



Sunday 19th July 2026
Patronal Festival

Mass Setting: St. Thomas (D. Thorne)

Deacon Rachel
Preaching The Venerable Martin Gray
Presiding Canon Simon



WELCOME & Introduction (please remain seated)

Almighty God,
from whom Margaret of Antioch gained courage
to claim the name of a Christian
and to prefer your love to life itself:
grant that we who today celebrate her memory
may share her pure and steadfast faith,
as we come to worship

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)

Prayers of Penitence

We are invited to confess what we have done wrong using these words

St Margaret was faithful unto death
and now dwells in the heavenly kingdom forever.
As we celebrate her joy,
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, 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

Almighty God,
who strengthened your holy martyr
Margaret of Antioch
to confess the name of Christ
and to overcome the powers of darkness:
grant that, upheld by your grace,
we may stand firm in faith,
resist all that would draw us from you,
and bear witness to your victory in our lives;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

(Please sit)

All age Talk - Who was Margaret of Antioch

BIBLE READING

New Testament: Romans 8:12-25 Read by Kathryn

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh - for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ - if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 676 - Immortal, invisible

***1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great Name we praise.***

***2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.***

***3 To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish, as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.***

***4 Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.***

WALTER CHALMERS SMITH (1824-1908)

GOSPEL READING Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

(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 Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all

evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON The Venerable Martin Gray

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 Sarah

(Please sit or kneel)

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.**

CALLING OF BANNS OF MARRIAGE, NOTICES AND TIME OF SHARING

THE PEACE

(If you would like to, please stand)

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 628 - Father of heaven

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

***1 Father of heaven, whose love profound
a ransom for our souls hath found,
before thy throne we sinners bend,
to us thy pardoning love extend.***

***2 Almighty Son, incarnate Word,
our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord,
before thy throne we sinners bend,
to us thy saving grace extend.***

***3 Eternal Spirit, by whose breath
the soul is raised from sin and death,
before thy throne we sinners bend,
to us thy quickening power extend.***

***4 Thrice Holy! Father, Spirit, Son;
mysterious Godhead, Three in One,
before thy throne we sinners bend,
grace, pardon, life to us extend.***

Edward Cooper (1770–1833)

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 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!

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, 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.



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:

***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.***

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 Be thou my vision (Chilcott)

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

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine
and the source of life,
ever giving himself that the world may live:
may we so receive within ourselves
the power of his death and passion
that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory
and be made perfect in his love;
for 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 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

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

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.