

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
LOWESTOFT



HOLY COMMUNION

For the Season of
Christmastide & Epiphany



Sunday 12th January 2025

1st Sunday after the Epiphany - The Baptism of Christ

Mass Setting: St. Thomas (D. Thorne)

Deacon Gill

Preacher Canon Simon

Presiding Rev Jim

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

(Please remain seated)

Opening prayer

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.



HYMN 227 - Crown him with many crowns.

**1 Crown him with many crowns,
*the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.***

**2 Crown him the Virgin's Son,
*the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won
which now his brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic Rose,
as of that Rose the Stem;
the Root whence mercy ever flows,
the Babe of Bethlehem.***

**3 Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds yet visible above
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye
at mysteries so bright.**

**4 Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise:
his reign shall know no end,
and round his piercèd feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.**

**5 Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.**

Matthew Bridges (1800–1894)*

The expression 'mystic Rose' in verse 2, line 5, is a mediæval title for the Blessed Virgin, and is combined here with a reference to Isaiah 11. 1.

Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!
Praise to Christ our light

INTRODUCTION TO CONFESSION

The grace of God
has dawned upon the world with healing for all.
Though we have grieved him,
yet he will heal us if we confess our sins
in penitence and faith.

CONFESSION (Please sit or kneel)

A moment of Silence

When we fail to see Christ
In friend and stranger
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

When we fail to see Christ
In the miracle of your good earth
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

When we fail to see Christ
In the secrets of our own hearts
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

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 (Please stand)

***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)

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus
as your Son:
may we recognise him as our Lord
and know ourselves
to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (please sit)

All Age Talk

BIBLE READING

***Epistle: Acts 8: 14-17* Read by Kathryn**

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 337 - Source and fount of all creation.

***1 Source and fount of all creation,
pour your Spirit from above
on the bearers of your image,
offspring of a human love.
Human hopes and human graces
break beneath the weight of sin;
fear and envy wrench asunder
world without and self within.***

***2 Human love is unavailing
counter-weight to sin and strife;
love of God alone can hold us
on the way that leads to life.
Praised be God, whose Son our Saviour
human nature has restored,
living, dying, raised in glory,
to the likeness of its Lord.***

**3 Trace, O Christ, salvation's pattern,
God and sinner reconciled,
in an all-embracing story:
new creation, new-born child.
Word incarnate, world's Redeemer,
here in us your work repeat,
signed and sealed your own for ever,
till the pattern stands complete.**

**4 Christ our universal Saviour,
nature's poet, nature's priest,
through life's troubled waters bring us
to the eucharistic feast,
where rejoicing saint and
inner
praise the Lord of time and space,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
fount of being, source of grace.**

Peter Baelz (1923–2000)

GOSPEL READING Luke 3: 15-18, 21-22

(Please remain standing)

Alleluia, alleluia. Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the wilderness John proclaimed a baptism of repentance. As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie

the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

Now when all the people were baptised, and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Canon Simon

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please stand)

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 Sue (Please sit or kneel)

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy

hear 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 (please stand)

These words may be used

Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and Prince of Peace. Let him rule our hearts now, as one day he will rule the world.

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 103 - O worship the Lord

(During the offertory hymn the bread and wine and collection are brought to the Altar)

**1 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!**

**2 Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**3 Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine;
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**4 These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the Name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

**5 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!**

JOHN SAMUEL BEWLEY MONSELL (1811-1875)

Lord, accept your people's gifts,
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in praise

of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation.

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

All honour and praise be yours ever-living God, for your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, who was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit and lived as one of us.

We give thanks for your glory made present in our midst.

In the coming of the Magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us.

In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.

Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore, with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

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.***

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.



When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.



So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died:

***Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.***

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Believing the promises of God, 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 for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life
And that life is the light of the world
God here among us
Light in the midst of us
Bring us to light and life

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.***

This is the table of our lord, where hurts are healed, and all is made new in the love of God. Come not because it is I who invite you, it is our Lord; It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

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)

Anthem Holy Spirit, truth divine (Wynne Jones)

Hymn 263 - Spirit of the living God.

***Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me;
break me, melt me,
mould me, fill me;
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.***

Daniel Iverson (1890–1977)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Said by a minister and found on the weekly pew sheet
Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens
and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

HYMN 766 - Praise my soul, the King of heaven.

**1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia
Praise the everlasting King.**

**2 Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia
Glorious in his faithfulness.**

**3 Father-like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia
Widely yet his mercy flows.**

**4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
Blows the wind and it is gone;
But, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on:
Alleluia, alleluia,
Praise the high eternal One.**

**5 Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Praise with us the God of grace.**

HENRY FRANCIS LYTE (1793-1847)
based on Psalm 103

THE BLESSING

May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead us also in our journey to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, give us a place with the saints in light in the kingdom of his beloved Son. **Amen.**

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in our hearts and fill our lives with his joy and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ, 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.