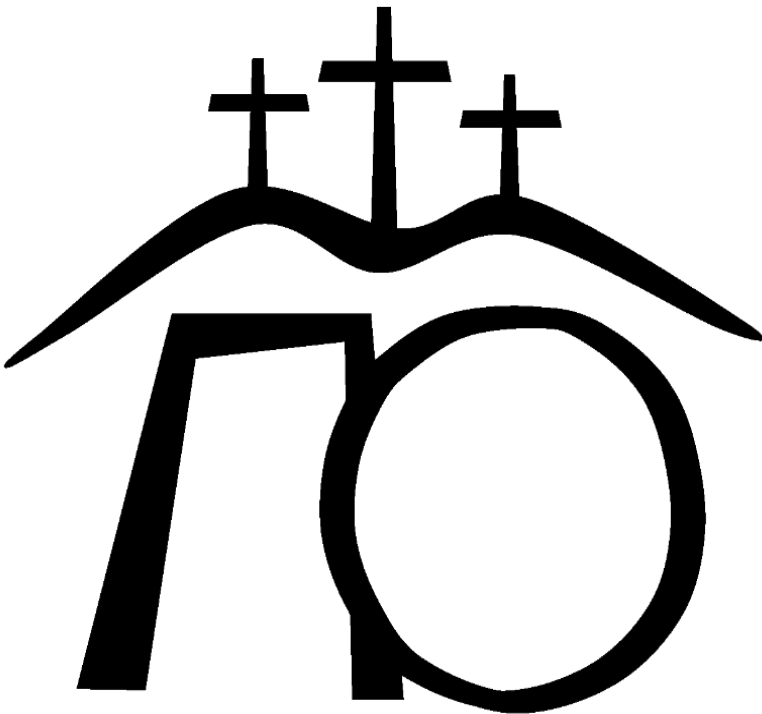


ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
LOWESTOFT



Easter Sunday Morning
31 March 2024



Sung Eucharist

Welcome & Introduction

With the first gold of dawn came a resurrection,
a new hope that grew with the rising of the sun
and went into the waiting world.

Today is the day

All: When the darkness melted away.

Today is the day

All: When the light banished fear and decay.

God of Easter,
restore and heal all that is wounded,
roll back the stone of prejudice and fear,
release the signs of spring.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

HYMN 205: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Jesus Christ is risen today, alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. alleluia!

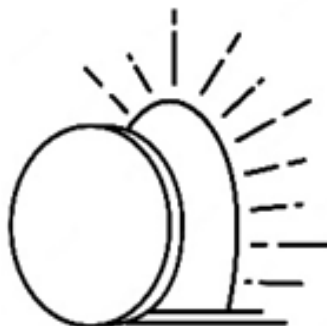
Hymns of praise then let us sing, alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. alleluia!

But the pains that he endured, alleluia!
Our salvation have procured, alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing: alleluia!

Introduction to The Confession

In this moment, we are gathered,
welcoming love's return, the tomb is
empty, the stone laid back. Risen one,
come amongst us, speak your words of
peace, release us from our fears, heal
us from our wounds, restore us from
the tomb of sin, to the dance of life.

Please sit or kneel.



CONFESSIO

Like the Prodigal, Jesus,
All: we have wasted your love.

Like Nicodemus,
All: we have crept about in darkness.

Like James and John,
All: we have slept through other's sorrow.

Like Peter,
All: we have denied and betrayed you.

Like Pilate,
All: we have washed our hands of blame.

And yet, as with the woman at the well,
All: you give us drink in the heat of the day.

As with the man born blind,
All: you open our eyes.

As with the disciples,
All: you wash our feet.

As with the criminal hanging near you,
All: you promise us paradise.

As with Peter,
All: you restore us in your love.

Give us, now, Jesus,

**All: the gift of repentance, the grace of forgiveness and hearts made ready for Easter's joy.
Amen.**

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

All: Amen.

Please stand to sing the Gloria:

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.

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.

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. Amen.

Please remain standing for the Collect.

THE COLLECT

God of glory,
By the raising of your son
You have broken the chains of death and hell,
Fill your church with faith and hope;
For a new day has dawned
And the way to life stands open
In our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit.

Old Testament Reading – *Isaiah 25.6-9 (Read by Rev Pauline)*

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading – *1 Corinthians 15.1-11 (Read by Kathryn)*

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN 678: In Christ alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! — who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Stuart Townend (b. 1963) and Keith Getty (b. 1974)

If you are able, please remain standing for the Gospel Reading.

Gospel Reading – John 20: 1-18

Jesus is risen from the dead.

All: Alleluia!

He has defeated death.

All: Alleluia!

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.

All: Alleluia!

He has the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia!

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

All: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in

Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Canon Simon

THE CREED

Please stand as we affirm our faith.

All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We

acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by Christine

Responses:

Alleluia! Christ is risen

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

At the end:

Merciful Father,

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

NOTICES and time of sharing

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE PEACE (please stand)

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

Then they were glad when they saw the Lord.

All: Alleluia!

Alleluia. The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: and also with you. Alleluia!

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN 588: *And can it be.*

During this hymn the bread and wine are brought to the Altar along with the gifts of the people.

***And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood!
Died he for me, who caused his pain!
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?***

***'Tis mystery all! the Immortal dies:
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds inquire no more.***

***He left his Father's throne above
so free, so infinite his grace;
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race;
'tis mercy all, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me.***

***Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.
No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine;
alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.***

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

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

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER (please sit or kneel)

[The Choir may remain standing]

The Lord is here.

All: *His Spirit is with us.*

Lift up your hearts.

All: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: *It is right to give thanks and praise.*

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,

Lord God of truth, for by the breath of your mouth

you have spoken your word,

and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image

and placed us in the garden of your delight.

Though we chose the path of rebellion

you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.

You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets

to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,

we echo the song of the angels in heaven,

evermore praising you and singing:

All sing ***Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
Holy is the Lord God Almighty,
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
Holy is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.***

Lord God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.
Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

*All sing: **Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,
Jesus is the Lord God Almighty.
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,
Jesus is the Lord God Almighty.
Who was and is and is to come -
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord.***

On the night he gave up himself for us all
he took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you
thanks; he gave it to them, saying:
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.

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high
and we long for his coming in glory.

*All sing: **Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord,
Worthy is the Lord God Almighty,
Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord,
Worthy is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come
Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord.***

As we recall the one perfect sacrifice of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.
Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.
Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with all your saints at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to perfection
in Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours,
almighty Father for ever and ever.

*All sing: **Glory, glory, glory to the Lord,
Glory to the Lord God Almighty
Glory, glory, glory to the Lord,
Glory to the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come
Glory, glory, glory to the Lord.***

The Lord's prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All: 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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: 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.***

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.

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.

An anthem is usually sung by the Choir and then a **HYMN** is also sung during Communion. (Please remain seated)

Anthem: Come, ye faithful (Thatcher)

HYMN 358: Be still, for the presence of the Lord.

***Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here;
come, bow before him now,
with reverence and fear.***

***In him no sin is found,
we stand on holy ground.***

***Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.***

***Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned.
How awesome is the sight,
our radiant King of Light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.***

***Be still, for power of the Lord
is moving in this place,
he comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace.
No work too hard for him,
in faith receive from him;
be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.***

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:
give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and
King, to the glory of God the Father.

All: Amen

Together we say this prayer:

**God of life, who for our redemption gave your only
begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious
resurrection have delivered us from the power of our
enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may
evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN 218: Thine Be The Glory

*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!*

*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!*

*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!*

THE BLESSING

Risen Lord Jesus,
Let us trust you:

All: Roll away the stone of our doubts.

Let us proclaim you:

All: Roll away the stone of our reserve.

Let us rejoice in you:

All: Roll away the stone of heaviness of heart.

Let us find our hope in you:

All: Roll away the stone of our fear.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you,
those you love and those you pray for this day
and evermore.

All: Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**After the service, you are invited to join with the choir,
and celebrate Easter Sunday,
by singing the Hallelujah Chorus.**

**Please bring your service booklet with you,
with the printed words.**

"Hallelujah Chorus"

*Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

*For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

*For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

*For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth
Hallelujah!*

*The kingdom of this world is become
The Kingdom of our Lord
And of His Christ, and of His Christ
And He shall reign for ever and ever
And He shall reign for ever and ever
And He shall reign for ever and ever*

*King of Kings
For ever and ever
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
And Lord of Lords
For ever and ever
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

*King of Kings
For ever and ever
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
And Lord of Lords
For ever and ever
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

*King of Kings
For ever and ever
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
And Lord of Lords*

*King of Kings, and Lord of Lords
And He shall reign for ever and ever
And He shall reign for ever and ever*

*King of Kings
And Lord of Lords
And He shall reign for ever and ever*

*King of Kings
And Lord of Lords
King of Kings
And Lord of Lords
And He shall reign for ever and ever
King of Kings
And Lord of Lords
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*



Easter blessings from everyone at St. Margaret's

Church Services:

Each Sunday we have a service here at 10.00am & 6pm

(There is no 6pm Evening Service on the first or fifth Sunday of the month)

Middy Prayer - Monday & Wednesday at 12 noon
(starts again 15th April)

Friday Holy Communion Service at 12 noon

The church is also open every Friday at 12.30pm - 4pm
whether it's for prayer & reflection,

Rector

Revd. Canon Simon Stokes
01502 573046 or 07771 520085
simon@stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk

Church Office

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Keep up to date with the latest church events & services at:

www.stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk

or scan the QR Code



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