

THE PARISH OF
WITNEY



St Mary
the Virgin



Easter 4

The Eucharist

Sunday 21 April 2024
10.45am

**We warmly welcome everyone
to Saint Mary's Church in the Parish of Witney**

**A particular welcome in this Easter Season as we
celebrate the power of the Resurrection at work within
and around us.**

Please do join in the service with great enthusiasm, for as Saint Augustine said, 'We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!'

If you are new to this church, please make yourselves known to one of the parish clergy and do join us for refreshments after the Eucharist.

Because there is more to Christ than his humanity

- there is hope for the future

Because there is more to Christ than his pain

- there is life and love in abundance

Because there is more to Christ than his death

- there was and is resurrection

If you don't normally receive communion, you are very welcome to come forward for a blessing at the time of Communion. Please cross your arms over your front so we know you wish to receive a blessing.

If you are interested in becoming a part of what is happening through the church please speak to one of the welcomers afterwards.

The Procession

As the sacristy bell sounds all stand for the first hymn as the procession moves to the font

Church of God, elect and glorious,
holy nation, chosen race;
called as God's own special people,
royal priests and heirs of grace:
know the purpose of your calling
show to all his mighty deeds;
tell of love which knows no limits,
grace which meets all human needs.

The Rite of Sprinkling (Asperges)

May none of God's wonderful works keep silence,
night or morning.

All **Bright stars,
high mountains,
the depths of the seas,
sources of rushing rivers;
may all these break into song
as we sing to Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

May all the angels in the heavens reply

All **Amen! Amen! Amen!**
Power, praise, honour, eternal glory to God,
the only giver of grace.

All **Amen! Amen! Amen!**

~ anonymous Christian author, 3rd-6th century

Risen Christ, like Mary at the empty tomb,
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.

Like the disciples behind locked doors, we are afraid to be
seen as your followers.

Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe.

Through this holy water wash us from our sins and be with us
as we celebrate your resurrection,
renewing the living spring of your life within us;
through Christ our Lord be pray.

All Alleluia! Amen!

The faithful are sprinkled with holy water from the font as a sign of forgiveness and blessing.

God has called you out of darkness
into his most marvellous light,
brought his truth to life within you,
turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you
that God's name is glorified;
and all find fresh hope and purpose
in Christ Jesus crucified.

Once you were an alien people,
strangers to God's heart of love;
but he brought you home in mercy,
citizens of heaven above.
Let his love flow out to others,
let them feel a Father's care;
that they too may know his welcome
and his countless blessings share.

Church of God, elect and holy,
be the people he intends;
strong in faith and swift to answer
each command your master sends:
royal priests, fulfil your calling
through your sacrifice and prayer;
give your lives in joyful service –
sing his praise, his love declare.

Words: M Seddon © Laudate! 825
Music: BLAENWERN, William Rowlands (1860-1937)

The Greeting

✠ In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

All **He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

*The service is introduced and the children are invited to head to their activities.
We then join in the song of the Angels in praise of God*

The Gloria

To begin, the choir sings the refrain then the congregation repeat:



Glo - ry, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est heav'ns.

9
Peace, peace, peace on the earth, peace to God's peo-ple, all peo-ple on earth.

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All: Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest heav'ns.

**Peace, peace, peace on the earth, peace to God's people,
all people on earth.**

Choir: Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father, we worship you,
we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

All: Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest heav'ns.

**Peace, peace, peace on the earth, peace to God's people,
all people on earth.**

Choir: Lord Jesus Christ, Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy, mercy on us,

All: Have mercy, mercy on us.

Choir: You are seated at the right hand, at the right hand of the
Father: receive, Lord, receive our prayer.

All: Receive Lord, receive our prayer.

Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest heav'ns.

***Peace, peace, peace on the earth, peace to God's people,
all people on earth.***

Choir: 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, glory of God, the glory of God the Father.

All: *Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest heav'ns.*

***Peace, peace, peace on the earth, peace to God's people,
all people on earth.***

Choir: Amen!

All: Amen!

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The Collect

Let us pray:

O God, you never cease to call those far way,
For it is your will that all be drawn into one fold.
Attune our ears to the voice of the Good Shepherd,
Who leads us always to you,
That we may find under your tender protection
Life in all its fullness.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, the
resurrection and the life,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

We sit for the first reading, Acts 4.5-12. At the end

This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Psalm

We stand to sing the Psalm

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.*

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. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

Stuart Townend
Copyright © 1996 Thankyou Music

We sit for the second reading, 1 John 3.16-end. At the end

This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

We stand for the Alleluia which heralds the Gospel,
John 10.11-18

The choir sings first and the congregation then joins in.



Al - le - lu - ia, — al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

We sit for the sermon.

We stand

Let us declare before God the faith of the Church,
in which we pray we may all find grace to grow:

**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.**

The Intercessions

As we join in praise of the resurrection,
we turn to God in prayer:

Lord, in your mercy
All **Hear our prayer**

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The two disciples told what had happened on the road to Emmaus,
and how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the
bread. Alleluia!

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another the sign of peace.

The Offertory Hymn

We stand as the Offertory Hymn is sung and the gifts of bread and wine are placed upon the Altar. The collection is also taken and presented. The bread, wine and money are all gifts from God and our offering of them back to God is a sign of the offering of our lives in the Lord's service.

Hymns of praise to God be given,
let the world acclaim the Lord;
Trumpets sounding, voices cheering,
heav'n and earth our God applaud;
at the sunset, in the morning,
we shall see his love outpoured;
Trumpets sounding, voices cheering,
heav'n and earth our God applaud.

Glory be to God, almighty,
reigning from his throne on high;
Love compelling, Love excelling,
Essence that can never die;
in our doubting, in our weakness,
may we reach beyond the sky;
Love compelling, Love excelling,
Essence that can never die.

Jesus Saviour, crowned victorious,
living Lord and King supreme.
For us dying, for us rising –
this is Love's triumphant theme!
our self-making, our own nature
Christ on earth came to redeem;
For us dying, for us rising –
this is Love's triumphant theme.

Alleluia to the Father,
Alleluia to the Son,
Alleluia to the Spirit,
Alleluia Holy One;
yours, the glory, yours, the Kingdom,
yours, the crown, the battle won!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, Holy One!

*Words: Ronald Green
Music: LUX EOI*

Let us pray:

Faithful God,
you love us with a mother's love;
look kindly on your children as we gather in praise.
Pour out your Spirit on all people, that we may live faithfully,
inspire hope, show love,
and raise a new song throughout all the earth.

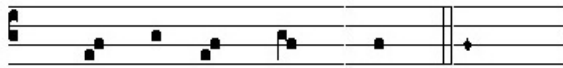
All **Amen.**

Christian Aid

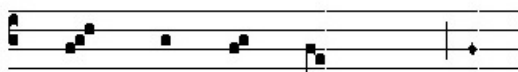
Sursum Corda



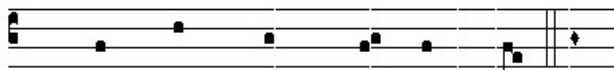
The Lord be with you



And al-so with you.



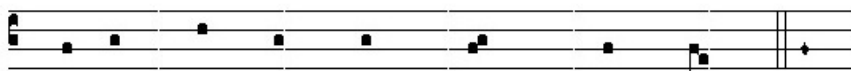
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
 always and everywhere to give you thanks,
 almighty and eternal Father,
 and in these days of Easter
 to celebrate with joyful hearts
 the memory of your wonderful works.
 For by the mystery of his passion
 Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
 has conquered the powers of death and hell
 and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
 He has placed them once more in paradise
 and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
 And so, in the joy of this Passover,
 earth and heaven resound with gladness,
 while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
 sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

9 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God_ of pow'r and God_ of might:
 17 heav-en and earth, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry, your pow'r and might. Ho -
 25 san - na Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est heav'ns, Ho -
 33 san - na Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est heav'ns.
 41 Bles-sed, bles-sed is He_ who comes, bles-sed, bles-sed is He_ who comes,
 bles-sed is He, bles-sed is He, who comes in the name of the Lord_ Back to

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us ✠ the body and blood of our Lord Jesus
Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
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.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole
world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious
ascension, and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and
thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Mary the Mother of God,
John the Baptist, John the Evangelist, Frideswide,
Mary Magdalene and all the saints
and witnesses of the resurrection,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through 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.
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 for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated host

We break this bread to share our unity with creation in Christ
and to share in the creativity of God.

All **Though we are many, we are one creation,
because we all share in the love of the creator.**

Je- sus, Lamb of God, Bread of Life for us; Je- sus Lamb of God, Wine of Joy for us;
Source of un - i - ty; Pre- cious cor - ner - stone;
Bread that makes us one; Wine that heals our pain;

5
Je - sus, Lamb of God, bear - ing all our sins: have mer - cy on us, give us your peace.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G minor, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the lyrics: 'Je- sus, Lamb of God, Bread of Life for us; Je- sus Lamb of God, Wine of Joy for us; Source of un - i - ty; Pre- cious cor - ner - stone; Bread that makes us one; Wine that heals our pain;'. The second staff, starting with a '5' above the first measure, contains the lyrics: 'Je - sus, Lamb of God, bear - ing all our sins: have mer - cy on us, give us your peace.' The music consists of quarter and eighth notes with rests.

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Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

We break the bread for the whole world. We invite all who seek God and are drawn to Christ, and all who walk the way of faith to come forward and receive the body and blood of Christ as directed by the Sidesperson. Or you are warmly invited to come forward for a blessing – please carry this booklet and bow your head. Gluten free wafers are available on request.

The Communion Hymn

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
First begotten from the dead,
You alone, our strong defender,
You lift up your people's head.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus, true and living bread!

Though the lowliest form now veil you,
As of old in Bethlehem,
Here as there your angels hail you,
Branch and lower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia, alleluia!
We in worship join with them.

Paschal Lamb, your offering, finished
Once for all when you were slain,
In its fullness undiminished
Shall forevermore remain,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Cleansing souls from every stain.

Life imparting heavenly manna,
Stricken rock with streaming side,
Heaven and earth with loud hosanna
Worship you, the Lamb who died,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Risen, ascended, glorified!

GH Bourne 1840-1925
ST HELEN George Martin 1844

The Post Communion Prayer

After a period of silence, we stand with the Priest to pray

**All Gracious God, let us recognise you here
in the beauty of this morning and in its challenge;
may the Risen One, your Shepherd-Lamb,
lead us to act for your justice and peace:
so that all may drink from your springs
of the waters of life,
and find their tears of sorrow and pain wiped away.
In the name of the Risen One we pray: Amen.**

The Notices

We sit for the notices

The Closing Response and Blessing

We stand

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Christ is Risen:

All The world below lies desolate

Christ is Risen:

All The spirits of evil are fallen

Christ is Risen:

All The angels of God are rejoicing

Christ is Risen:

All The tombs of the dead are empty

Christ is Risen indeed from the dead,
the first of the sleepers,

All Glory and power are his forever and ever. Amen.

~ written by Hippolytus (AD 190-236)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

May Christ who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,
fill you with his new life;

and the blessing of God almighty

✠ the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

come down upon you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

The Dismissal

We are raised to new life with Christ

Go in his peace. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All Thanks be to God, Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Recessional Hymn

“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!

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!

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!

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Let us bless the Lord!
All **Thanks be to God!**

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