



St Mary  
the Virgin



Fourth Sunday of Easter

**The Eucharist**

Sunday April 26th 2026

10.45am

## **Welcome to Saint Mary's Church in the Parish of Witney.**

We are an inclusive church embracing a hospitable Christianity.

Everyone is welcome at this service. If you usually receive communion please join us – or please come forward 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. We also have Welcome Packs available with more information – please ask!**

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is a simple and secure way for churches to receive regular donations. It is an established service for managing Direct Debit donations, designed to support churches to fund their mission and ministry. Talk to one of the church wardens to find out more or for help signing up, or pick up a leaflet at the North door.

*This service is live-streamed. If you do not want to appear on the stream please speak to the Welcomers or Duty Wardens.*

*As the sacristy bell sounds all stand*

## **The Procession**

At the Lamb's high feast we sing  
praise to our victorious King,  
who hath washed us in the tide  
flowing from his pierced side;  
praise we him, whose love divine  
gives his sacred Blood for wine,  
gives his Body for the feast,  
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.

Where the Paschal blood is poured,  
death's dark angel sheathes his sword;  
Israel's hosts triumphant go  
through the wave that drowns the foe.  
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,  
Paschal victim, Paschal bread;  
with sincerity and love  
eat we manna from above.

Mighty victim from on high,  
hell's fierce powers beneath thee lie;  
thou hast conquered in the fight,  
thou hast brought us life and light:  
now no more can death appall,  
now no more the grave entrall;  
thou hast opened paradise,  
and in thee thy saints shall rise.

Easter triumph, Easter joy,  
sin alone can this destroy;  
from sin's power do thou set free  
souls newborn, O Lord, in thee.  
Hymns of glory and of praise,

Risen Lord, to thee we raise;  
Holy Father, praise to thee,  
with the Spirit, ever be.

Words: Latin Breviary Hymn  
Music: SALZBERG, Jacob Hintze, 1622-1702

## The Greeting

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

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

*The service is introduced.*

## Prayers of Penitence

*The priest invites us to confession in these or similar words.*

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.

*Silence is kept.*

Like Mary at the empty tomb,  
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.

Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

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

**All Christ, have mercy.**

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

**All Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

*We sing together:*

**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.**

### **The Collect**

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which are above,  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen**

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (*Acts 2.42-end*)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## The Gradual Psalm

Antiphon



My shep-herd is the Lord, noth-ing in-deed shall I want.

Text: Psalm 23; The Grail  
Music: Joseph Gelineau, SJ  
© 1963, The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter, (*1 Peter 2.19-end*).

For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel

*We stand for the Gospel Alleluia:*



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

The Lord be with you  
**All and also with you.**

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

Jesus said, 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

*John 10.1-10*

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

*We sit*

**The Sermon**

**The Creed**

Let us declare before God the faith of the Church:

**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.

## Intercessions

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ  
let us pray to the Father.

*The Intercessor may use the response*

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer.**

*And at the end:*

Most Merciful God

**All Accept these prayers  
For the sake of your Son  
Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

*All stand*

## The Peace

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.

Alleluia. The peace of the risen Christ be always with you  
**All and also with you. Alleluia.**

Let us offer one another a 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.*

**You can give to the work of the Church by signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme, or by using these bank details - Witney PCC, Sort Code 20-97-48, Account Number 00971626.**

There is also a card reader by the North Door,

All that we bring to the altar is a gift from God, and our offering 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 him 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-seeking, 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. Sing! 43  
Music: LUX EOI

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.  
In your loving care you spread before us the table of life  
and give us the cup of salvation to drink.  
Keep us always in the fold of our Saviour and our Shepherd,  
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
**All And also with you**  
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**

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:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes  
In the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

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  
**All 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,  
and all the saints,  
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.

**All Amen.**

## 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.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

*The Priest breaks the consecrated host*

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.**

## Agnus Dei

**All 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.**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

*All who are used to receiving Communion are welcome to do so here  
– please make your way to the altar as directed by the Sidesperson.*

*If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are warmly invited to  
come forward for a blessing – please approach the president carrying  
this booklet. Gluten free wafers are available on request.*

### **The Communion Hymn**

The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never.  
I nothing lack if I am his,  
and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,  
my ransomed soul he leadeth;  
and where the verdant pastures grow,  
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me;  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and oh, what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days,  
thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house forever.

Words: H.W. Baker, 1821-1877  
Music: DOMINUS REGIT ME, J.B. Dykes, 1823-1876

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray:

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.

**All Amen**

**All 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.**



## The Recessional Hymn

I will sing the wondrous story  
Of the Christ Who died for me;  
How He left His home in glory  
For the cross of Calvary.  
I was lost, but Jesus found me,  
Found the sheep that went astray,  
Threw His loving arms around me,  
Drew me back into His way.

I was bruised, but Jesus healed me,  
Faint was I from many a fall,  
Sight was gone, and fears possessed me,  
But He freed me from them all.  
Days of darkness still come o'er me,  
Sorrow's path I often tread,  
But the Saviours still is with me;  
By His hand I'm safely led.

He will keep me till the river  
Rolls its waters at my feet;  
Then He'll bear me safely over,  
Where the loved ones I shall meet.  
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story  
of the Christ who died for me;  
sing it with the saints in glory,  
gathered by the crystal sea.

Words: Francis Harold Rowley

Music: HYFRYDOL, FH Rowley, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

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

***Everyone is welcome to stay for coffee after the Eucharist.***



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

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