



St Mary  
the Virgin



Low Sunday  
**The Eucharist**  
Sunday April 12th 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**

Christ the Lord is risen again,  
Christ hath broken every chain,  
Hark, angelic voices cry,  
singing evermore on high,  
Alleluia!

He who gave for us his life,  
who for us endured the strife,  
is our Paschal Lamb to-day;  
we too sing for joy, and say  
Alleluia!

He who bore all pain and loss  
comfortless upon the cross,  
lives in glory now on high,  
pleads for us, and hears our cry: Alleluia!

He whose path no records tell,  
who descended into hell,  
who the strong man armed hath bound,  
now in highest heaven is crowned.  
Alleluia!

He who slumbered in the grave  
is exalted now to save;  
now through Christendom it rings  
that the Lamb is King of Kings.  
Alleluia!

Now he bids us tell abroad  
how the lost may be restored,  
how the penitent forgiven,  
how we we too may enter heaven. Alleluia!

Thou, our Paschal Lamb indeed,  
Christ, thy ransomed people feed;  
take our sin and guilt away;  
Let us sing by night and day:  
Alleluia!

Words: Michael Weisse, 1480-1534  
Music: ORIENTIS PARTIBUS, French Medieval Melody

### **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**

Risen Christ,  
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:  
open the doors of our hearts,  
that we may seek the good of others  
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,  
to the praise of God the Father.

**All Amen**

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

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (*Acts 2.14a, 22-32*)

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you

will make me full of gladness with your presence.” ‘Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, “He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.” This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gradual Hymn**

Jesus lives! thy terrors now  
can, O death, no more appal us;  
Jesus lives! by this we know  
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.  
*Alleluia!*

Jesus lives! henceforth is death  
but the gate of life immortal:  
this shall calm our trembling breath,  
when we pass its gloomy portal.  
*Alleluia!*

Jesus lives! for us he died;  
then, alone to Jesus living,  
pure in heart may we abide,  
glory to our Saviour giving.  
*Alleluia!*

Jesus lives! our hearts know well  
naught from us his love shall sever;  
life nor death nor powers of hell  
tear us from his keeping ever.  
*Alleluia!*

Jesus lives! to him the throne  
over all the world is given:  
may we go where he is gone,  
rest and reign with him in heaven.

*Alleluia!*

Words: CF Gellert, 1717-1769

Music: ST ALBINUS, HJ Gauntlett, 1805-1876

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter, (*1 Peter 1.3-9*).

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel

*We stand for the Gospel Alleluia:*



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.**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*John 20.19-end*

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.

The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad;  
the passover of gladness,  
the passover of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
from earth unto the sky,  
our Christ hath brought us over,  
with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,  
that we may see aright  
the Lord in rays eternal  
of resurrection light;  
and listening to his accents,  
may hear, so calm and plain,  
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,  
may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful!  
and earth her song begin!  
Let the round world keep triumph,  
and all that is therein!  
Let all things seen and unseen  
their notes in gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord hath risen,  
our joy that hath no end.

Words: S John of Damascus, d. c.754  
Music: ELLACOMBE, c18th German Melody

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

Be present, be present,  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
our risen high priest;  
make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

**All Amen.**

### **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 strife is o'er, the battle done,  
now is the Victor's triumph won;  
O let the song of praise be sung:  
Alleluia!

Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,  
and Jesus hath his foes dispersed;  
let shouts of praise and joy outburst:  
Alleluia!

On the third morn he rose again  
glorious in majesty to reign;  
O let us swell the joyful strain:  
Alleluia!

Lord by the stripes which wounded thee  
from death's dread sting thy servants free,  
that we may live, and sing to thee:  
Alleluia!

Words: Latin, probably c17th  
Music: VICTORY,  
from *Gloria Patri* of Palestrina's *Magnificat tertii toni*

## Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray:

Lord God our Father,  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ  
you have assured your children of eternal life  
and in baptism have made us one with him:  
deliver us from the death of sin  
and raise us to new life in your love,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**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.**

*We sit for the notices*

**The Notices**

**The Blessing**

*Please stand for the Blessing*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

God the Father,  
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,  
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

### The Dismissal



Go in the peace of Christ. Al-le-lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



**All** Thanks be to God. Al-le-lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### The Recessional Hymn

Love's redeeming work is done;  
fought the fight, the battle won:  
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,  
lo, he sets in blood no more.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;  
Christ has burst the gates of hell;  
death in vain forbids his rise;  
Christ has opened paradise.

Lives again our glorious King;  
where, O death, is now thy sting?  
dying once, he all doth save;  
where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,  
following our exalted Head;  
made like him, like him we rise;  
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!  
Praise to thee by both be given:  
thee we greet triumphant now;  
hail, the Resurrection Thou!

Words: Charles Wesley

Music: SAVANNAH, from Herrnhut collection c1740

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

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



Copyright material is included from *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* © The Archbishops' Council 2000. *Times and Seasons* © The Archbishops' Council 2000. *Common Worship: Christian Initiation and Festivals* © The Archbishops' Council 2008. *Hymns and music reproduced under CCLI Number: 174801*  
Calamus Licence: 2274