



St Mary
the Virgin



Eighth Sunday after Trinity

The Eucharist

Sunday July 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

Come, Holy Spirit, come!
Inflame our souls with love,
transforming every heart and home
with wisdom from above.
O let us not despise
the humble path Christ trod,
but choose, to shame the worldly wise,
the foolishness of God.

Come with the gift to heal
the wounds of guilt and fear,
and to oppression's face reveal
the kingdom drawing near.
Where chaos longs to reign,
descend, O holy Dove,
and free us all to work again
the miracles of love.

Spirit of truth, arise:
Inspire the prophet's voice:
Expose to scorn the tyrant's lies,
and bid the poor rejoice.
O Spirit, clear our sight,
all prejudice remove,
and help us to discern the right,
and covet only love.

Come, Holy Spirit, dance
within our hearts today,
our earthbound spirits to entrance,
our mortal fears allay.
And teach us to desire,
all other things above,

that self-consuming holy fire,
the perfect gift of love.

Words: 1 Corinthians 12, Michael Forester b1946
Music: DIADEMATA, GJ Elvey, 1816-1893

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.

The service is introduced.

Prayers of Penitence

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

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

Silence is kept.

**All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour**

**in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

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

Let us pray:

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern
both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws
and the works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and 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 First Book of Kings (*1 Kings 3.5-12*)

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst

of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?’

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, ‘Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Psalm

The choir sings and we repeat, also between verses

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130*



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I have said, O LORD, that my part is to keep your words.
The law of your mouth is to me more precious than thousands of gold
and silver pieces. *℟.*

For I love your command more than gold, however fine.
For in all your precepts I go forward; every false way I hate. *℟.*

Wonderful are your decrees; therefore I observe them.
The revelation of your words sheds light, giving understanding to the
simple. *℟.*

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (*Romans 8.26-end*).

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

We stand and face the reader as the book of the Gospel as is carried amongst us:

Alleluia

Tone II



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The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

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

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

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:

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

All stand

The Peace

Blessed are the peacemakers:
they shall be called children of God.
We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All and also with you.

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 God of Abraham praise,
who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of Everlasting Days,
and God of Love;
Jehovah, great I AM!
by earth and heaven confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name
forever blest.

The God of Abraham praise,
At whose supreme command
From earth we rise, and seek the joys
At his right hand;

We all on earth forsake
Its wisdom, fame, and power;
And him our only portion make,
Our shield and tower.

The goodly land we see,
with peace and plenty blest;
a land of sacred liberty,
and endless rest.
There milk and honey flow,
and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow
with mercy crowned.

The God who reigns on high
the great archangels sing,
and "Holy, holy, holy!" cry
"Almighty King!
Who was, and is, the same,
and evermore shall be:
Jehovah, Father, great I AM,
we worship thee!"

The whole triumphant host
Give thanks to God on high;
'hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,'
They ever cry:
Hail, Abraham's God, and mine,
(I join the heavenly lays)
All might and majesty are thine,
And endless praise.

Words: Thomas Olivers, 1725-1799 based on the Hebrew *Yigdal*
Music: LEONI, Hebrew Melody

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

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.
Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

**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.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word
and I shall be healed.**

*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

Lord, Thy Word abideth,
and our footsteps guideth;
who its truth believeth,
light and joy receiveth.

When our foes are near us,
then Thy Word doth cheer us,
Word of consolation,
message of salvation.

Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure,
by Thy Word imparted
to the simple-hearted?

O that we, discerning
its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear Thee,
evermore be near Thee.

Words: H.W. Baker, 1821–1877

Music: RAVENSHAW, based on a Medieval German melody

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray:

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word
be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your praise
be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love
shine with the light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed with your body
be refreshed with the fullness of your life;
glory to you for ever.

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

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

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
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 peace to love and serve the Lord.
All **In the name of Christ, Amen.**

The Recessional Hymn

The kingdom of God is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,
the captives are freed, the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened in place of despair.

The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

Organ extemporisation

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,
and all things cry 'Glory!' to God all in all.

Words: Bryn Rees, 1911-1983
Music: HANOVER, 1708

Let us bless the Lord
All Thanks be to God.

Everyone is welcome to stay for coffee after the Eucharist.

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