



St Mary
the Virgin



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER
Ezekiel 47:9, 12



Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
The Eucharist
Sunday September 20th 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.



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As the sacristy bell sounds all stand

The Procession

Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flow'rs before you,
op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!

All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heav'n reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
center of unbroken praise;
field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain
praising you eternally!

Always giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blessed,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our brother,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals join the mighty chorus,
which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;

joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933)
Tune: HYMN TO JOY (Beethoven)

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.

The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it.
Let us confess our failure
to receive with gratitude God's gift of creation,
and repent of the ways in which we have caused it harm.

Silence is kept.

You laid the foundations of the earth,
but we have claimed your world as our own.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

All things were created through you and for you,
but we have not lived as those who belong to you.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

You make all things new,
but our hope has grown dim.
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

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jonah (3.10-end of 4)

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Gradual (Psalm 145)

My God, my King, your various praise
shall fill the hours of all my days;
let grace employ my humble tongue,
let truth and glory shape the song.

The wings of every hour shall bear
some thankful tribute to your ear;
and every setting sun shall see
new works of duty done by me.

Your truth and justice I'll proclaim;
your bounty flows, an endless stream;
your mercy swift, your anger slow,
confounding every stubborn foe.

God, who can tell your wondrous deeds!
Your greatness all our thought exceeds;
vast and unsearchable your ways;
vast and immortal be your praise!

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Tune: ROCKINGHAM

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians (1.21-end).

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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. The organ plays through and then we sing twice:



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.

‘For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, “You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, “Why are you standing here idle all day?” They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.” When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.” When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

Matthew 20.1-16

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

You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
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.

Come you hungry, come you lonely,
whom the world has pushed away.
Come you healing, come you hurting,
come in hope, and never stray.
Hear the welcome Jesus offers,
hear his voice of comfort say:
At my table find your place and
take my bread for each new day.

To the table let us hurry,
to the place where all are fed
To the table, starved and needy,
to receive our daily bread.
Take this body, cruelly broken,
take this blood, unjustly shed:
At my table, O my people,
feed on me; for you I bled.

Come receive the bread of heaven,
come receive the cup of God
To renew you and reveal you
in the image of the Lord,
For a life of true abundance,
where no tyrant wields the rod:
At my table there is freedom,
O beloved child of God.

Go in peace to love each other,
go in hope to share your bread.
We who tasted heaven's banquet
now must see that all are fed.
For the life of God incarnate
to the broken world is wed:
From my table rise to service,
nourished for the work ahead.

Words: Philippa White
Tune: DAILY, DAILY

Prayer over the Gifts

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
by your goodness the world was formed and filled with plenty.
As we set before you this bread and wine,
Teach us gratitude for your gifts
And make us faithful stewards of your creation

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 and good,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
For by your word the heavens were made,
and all their host by the breath of your mouth.
You formed us in your image, the crown of your creation,

and entrusted us with the works of your hands.
In your great goodness you sent your Son,
the firstborn of all creation,
who holds all things together in himself,
and through whom you make all things new.
You have given us the first-fruits of the Spirit,
as creation itself waits with eager longing
to obtain the glorious freedom of the children of God.
And so, with angels and archangels
and with all that you have made,
we join the song of your glory,
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

Father, Lord of all creation,
ground of Being, Life and Love:
height and depth beyond description
only life in you can prove:
you are mortal life's dependence
thought, speech, sight are ours by grace.
Yours is every hour's existence
sovereign Lord of time and space.

Jesus Christ, the Man for Others
we, your people, make our prayer
give us grace to love as sisters
all whose burdens we can share.
Where your name binds us together
you, Lord Christ, will surely be;
where no selfishness can sever
there your love may others see.

Holy Spirit, rushing, burning
wind and flame of Pentecost,
fire our hearts afresh with yearning
to regain what we have lost.
May your love unite our action,

nevermore to speak alone:
God, in us abolish faction
God, through us your love make known.

Words: Stewart Cross 1928-1989
Music: ABBOTS LEIGH, Cyril Taylor 1907-1991

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray:

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
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.**

We sit for the notices

The Notices

The Blessing

Please stand for the Blessing

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

May God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessing upon all things created,
and upon you his children,
that you may use his gifts to his glory
and the welfare of all peoples;
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

Tend the earth,
care for God's good creation,
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ, Amen.

The Recessional Hymn

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth:
before him on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.

O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest;
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest:
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever,
his changeless name of love.

WORDS: James Montgomery
MUSIC: CRÜGER

Let us bless the Lord
All Thanks be to God.

Everyone is welcome to stay for coffee after the Eucharist.