

HL ST LAURENCE
CHURCH
THE PARISH
EUCHARIST
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
26TH FEBRUARY 2023

*Welcome to St Laurence, whether you regularly worship here or are here for the first time. If you have children, they are welcome to use the area at the back of the church under **Parental** supervision*

There are toilet facilities at the back of the church.

The Sides people today are: Sarah and Charles Vernede

The Zoom details are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784
Passcode: 5i1UCa

Introit Hymn

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the
foe,

should strive and should prevail;

And that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,

and essence all-divine.

O generous love! that he, who
smote in Man for man the foe,
the double agony in Man
for man should undergo;

And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and
inspire to suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

WE GATHER

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

*The Priest welcomes the
congregation and introduces the
theme of the Service.*
(Silence is kept)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**Almighty God, to whom all
hearts are open, all desires
known, and from whom no
secrets are hidden: cleanse the
thoughts of our hearts by the
inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy
name; through Christ our Lord.**
Amen.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

*The Priest introduces the Prayer of
Penitence*

My brothers and sisters, as we
prepare to celebrate the presence

of Christ in word and sacrament, let us call to mind and confess our sins.

(Silence is kept)

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.

We say:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the

wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

(Please sit)

Romans 5:12-19

read by Rachel Elliott

Brothers and sisters: Through one man sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned—for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law. But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come. But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one, the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many. And the gift is not like the result of the one who sinned. For after one sin there was the judgment that brought condemnation; but the gift, after many transgressions, brought acquittal. For if, by the

transgression of the one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so, through one righteous act, acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous.

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

GRADUAL HYMN: (CH 384)

Lord Jesus, think on me,
And purge away my sin;
From earthborn passions set me free,
And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
With care and woe oppressed;
Let me thy loving servant be,
And taste thy promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
amid the battle's strife;
in all my pain and misery
be thou my health and life.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point thou the heavenly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
when flows the tempest high:

when on doth rush the enemy,
O Saviour, be thou nigh.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
that, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see,
and share thy joy at last.

THE GOSPEL READING

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

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

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."

Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

SERMON

WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH

We stand to say

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION. LED BY

STEPHEN RINGER

Holy God, as we begin our Lenten journey, mindful of the temptation and suffering that your son Jesus Christ endured in the wilderness. We ask for you to strengthen us, as we find ourselves in the desert

of human faults, failings and sinfulness.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Gracious God, we ask for your guidance in all that our church plans for the coming six weeks of Lent; For the Lenten events and for all special services to be held in our parish. Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Creator God, your love reaches out to the boundaries our world, to the rich who have everything they need and the poor who have nothing except misery and oppression. We pray for all your people whoever they are, wherever they live and whatever their circumstances; that in their joy and sorrow, the knowledge of your presence might bring comfort, healing and restoration.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Father God, we pray against all areas of our society where good food is wasted or disposed of unnecessarily when it could be used to relieve suffering. We thank you for the work of food banks and charities which support disadvantaged individuals and communities.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Loving God, we pray for all of those, dear to our hearts, who are

ill or in any kind of need. We also give thanks for those on the road to recovery following illness, surgery or procedures, and for those whose only healing will come through death. We pray for: Gillian Robinson, Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, Colin White, David Winston, Christian Jervis-Read, Cressida Jervis-Read, Nigel Barter, Doris Ringer, John Tanner, Jan Edwards, Geraldine Nurney

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God, when death comes close to us through the loss of a family member or friend help us to remember them and rejoice in their fellowship, giving thanks for the way that, as their lives touched ours, so we were enriched by that relationship. We pray for Patrick John Roberts, Doris Ringer, Norma Fogarty, Mandy Jones, recently departed. We remember those whose years mind falls at this time: William Crouch, Michael French, Charles Bladon, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Jane Coleman, Michael Buss, Albert Collins, Victor Botha, Joan Maskell, Brian Kingcome, Martin Chubb, Desna Harries, Christobel Van der Hoeven, Leslie Corfield, Marjorie Addyman, Norman Sheldon, Christian Solari, Jean King

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Everlasting God, your love and forgiveness washes over us and astonishes us with generosity. May we go out from this time of worship today as people who enjoy complete forgiveness and a restored relationship with you and all those with whom we share our lives.

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

*We stand and the Priest
introduces the peace:*

The peace of the Lord be always
with you

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of
peace.

WE PRESENT OUR GIFTS

*The presentation of the Gifts on
behalf of the people.*

OFFERTORY HYMN: (CH 351)

Lead us, heav'nly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea:
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing ev'ry blessing
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er
us, all our weakness thou dost
know, thou didst tread this earth
before us, thou didst feel its
keenest woe; lone and dreary,
faint and weary, through the desert
thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy;
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

*The bread and wine are placed on
the altar.*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all
creation.

Through your goodness we have
this bread to offer which earth has
given and human hands have
made. It will become for us the
bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you Lord, God of all
creation.

Through your goodness we have
this wine to offer, fruit of the vine
and work of human hands. It will
become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that
our sacrifice may be acceptable to
God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the
sacrifice at your hands for the
praise and glory of his name, for
our good, and the good of all his
Church.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you

And also 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.

The Priest continues with the Eucharistic Prayer Preface and then all say:

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.

(Sit/kneel)

The Priest continues, recalling and remembering with us the Last Supper..... then we say:

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

At the End of the next Prayer we respond
Amen.

(Silence is kept)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

WE BREAK BREAD

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

We say the Agnus Dei

**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.**

WE SHARE IN HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called
to his supper.

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

A Prayer as we join with those watching and worshipping with us on Zoom

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

The Distribution of Communion

We advise those who do not wish to receive the wine to indicate this by raising their hand when offered it.

The Chalice Bearers are: Felicity Robinson and Peggy Stone

HYMN DURING COMMUNION:

(Please remain seated)

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and at thy side to stay.

As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.

As thirst and hunger thou didst bear, so teach us, gracious Lord, to die to self, and daily live by thy most holy word.

And through these days of penitence, and through thy Passiontide, yea, evermore, in life and death, Lord Christ, with us abide.

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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 GO IN CHRIST'S PEACE

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

The Priest pronounces a Blessing.
We respond **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Please sit for the Notices

RECESSIONAL HYMN:

O Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;

Be thou forever near me,
My Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me!
The world is ever near:
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will.
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
To all who follow thee
That where thou art in glory
There shall thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my friend.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God

May the divine assistance remain
with us always.

And with all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. And rise in glory. **Amen.**

We sit for the Organ Voluntary

NOTICES

Please note that we now have the facility to accept donations by Credit Card/Apple Pay etc. The machine will be on the table opposite the pew leaflets after the service.

World Day of Prayer (previously Women's World Day of Prayer) service will be held on Friday 3rd March, at 7pm at the Hawkhurst Baptist Church. The service focuses on Taiwan and members of all the churches in Hawkhurst will participate in the service. Everyone welcome to attend. For more details speak to Sandra 754459

This Lent we will be using the book below. If you would like to be part of our parish Lenten Course, please do purchase the book for our journey through Lent. Thanks.

Lent with St Francis – Daily Reflections

**PAPERBACK £10.03 KINDLE
EDITION £2.24**

Wanted – clean jam jars which will be used to make jams in aid of The Hospice in the Weald. Please leave under the table at the side of the church.

Lent Lunches 2023 will be organised by Hawkhurst Churches Together and held at the Baptist Church Hall, Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4BT from 12 noon to 1.30 pm.

Lunches will take place on the following dates, served by:

Friday 10th March- St Laurence church

Friday 17th March -Methodist Church

Friday 24th March – Baptist Church

Friday 31st March – St Barnabas Church

Good Friday 7th April – all Churches together

If you would like to help with serving or donations of soup/bread/butter/cheese/fruit on the 10th March or 7th April, please sign the list on the table at the side of the church or speak to Sandra.

New Area Dean's Commissioning – will take place at Choral Evensong on Sunday

5th March at 5.00 p.m. at St George's Church, The Green, Benenden, TN17 4RL. Church members in the Deanery are invited to attend this service when Rev. David Commander, Rector of the Benefice of Benenden and Sandhurst will be commissioned by the Archdeacon, Ven. Andrew Sewell. Choir members throughout the Deanery are invited to join with St George's Church choir for the service. There will be a rehearsal at 4.00 p.m. on the 5th March. Refreshments available after the service. Plenty of car parking around the Green.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar: Fr. Rodney Dreyer
01580 754459

Churchwardens:
Miss Alison Jones
01580 755705
Mrs. Liz Hatcher
01580 712099

Organist:
Dr. Charlotte O' Neill
01580 753817

Safeguarding:
Mrs Jane Cooper
07825044877