

DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY

Changed lives - Changing lives

St. Laurence Parish Church **Hawkhurst, Parish Eucharist** **Service.**

26. 3. 2023 - The Fifth Sunday
of Lent, Year A

Please Note: The Zoom details
for this service are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784

Passcode: 5i1UCa

As we gather and prepare to join
in worship together, music is
played on the organ.

Welcome

Hymn

There's a wideness in God's
mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's
justice,
which is more than liberty.

There is welcome for the sinner,
and more graces for the good.
There is mercy with the Saviour,
there is healing in his blood.

But we make God's love too
narrow
by false limits of our own,

and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.

For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple,
we should rest upon God's word,
and our lives would be illumined
by the presence of our Lord.
In the Name of God: Father, Son
and the Holy Spirit . **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Collect for Purity

**Almighty God to whom all
hearts are open all desires
known and from whom no
secrets are hid 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**

Penitence

The sacrifice of God is a broken
spirit; a broken and contrite heart
God will not despise. Let us come
to the Lord, who is full of
compassion, and acknowledge
our transgressions in penitence
and faith.

Kyries

Lord, Have mercy

**Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father in penitence we confess that we have sinned against you through our own fault in thought, word, and deed and in what we have left undone. For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your Name.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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

Prayer before receiving the Word of God — Before we read, we pray together.....

Eternal God, in the reading of the Scriptures, may your Word be heard; In the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; and In the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.

First Reading - A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans read by Bob Ash

The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life[a] because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of[b] his Spirit who lives in you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

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.

When the storms are o'er us,
and dark clouds before us,
then its light directeth,
and our way protecteth.

Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure
by thy word imparted
to the simple-hearted?
Word of mercy, giving
succour to the living;
word of life, supplying
comfort to the dying.

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

Even now, says the Lord,
return to me with your whole
heart;
for I am gracious and merciful.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to John

Glory to Christ our Lord

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill. So the sisters sent word to him saying,

“Master, the one you love is ill.”
When Jesus heard this he said,

“This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.” The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?” Jesus answered,

“Are there not twelve hours in a day? If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”

He said this, and then told them, “Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him.” So the disciples said to him, “Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved.” But Jesus was talking about his death, while they

thought that he meant ordinary sleep. So then Jesus said to them clearly, "Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe.

Let us go to him." So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples,

"Let us also go to die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus

had already been in the tomb for four days.

Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away.

And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise."

Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of

God, the one who is coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying, "The teacher is here and is asking for you." As soon as she heard this,

she rose quickly and went to him. For Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him. So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her saw Mary get up quickly and go out, they followed her, presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept.

So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said,

"Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.
This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

The Reflection

The Creed - said together

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.

The Prayers of the Church - led by Sarah Lindop

Everlasting God, you call us to your service and so we ask that you make us worthy of your calling; and to hear us as we intercede and give thanks to you through Jesus Christ your Son.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Holy God, as we gather for worship in this place we thank you for our Ecumenical partners in the mission of the Christian Church Worldwide; teach us all to serve you as you deserve, putting aside sectarianism whilst healing any divisions that keep us on the path towards your kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Creator God, we pray for the nations of the world and for their right dealing one with another, especially between Russia and Ukraine where we pray for a cessation of hostilities and a declaration of peace.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

May barriers of race, creed, gender and colour be broken down and political freedom established

where there is oppression and suppression of new ideas. We pray for educational development and for a more just economic structure which pays people fairly for their labour.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Father God, we thank you that no matter how widely spread throughout the world our families may be, our hearts may be joined together in prayer. We also thank you for the means of modern technological communication that enable us to keep so closely in touch with those we love, which means we not only hear our loved ones but also see them.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Gracious God, look mercifully upon those whose lives have been changed and affected by illness. Help them and those who care for them to be freed from resentment and give them the strength to seek your will, whatever it might be, in every situation. We pray for: Gillian Robinson, Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, Colin White, David Winston, Christian Jervis-Read, Cressida Jervis-Read, Nigel Barter, John Tanner, Jan Edwards, Jill Fitzpatrick, Geraldine Nurney

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Merciful God, we remember the slenderness of the thread which separates life from death, and the suddenness with which it can be broken. Help us also to remember that whatever occurs in life we are surrounded by your love. Help those bereaved by the loss of a loved one to find in your love peace and reassurance. We pray for:

Those recently departed: Elizabeth Couvell

And all those whose years' mind occur this month: Spencer Charles Edwards, Douglas Brown, Kathryn Louise Bembridge, William Bennett, Joseph William Ringer, Kitty Weguelin, William David Potter, Peter Lewis, Winifred Richard, Brian Lawrence, Lily Collins, Gillian Appelbe, John Else.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim in all that we do and say.

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

The Peace

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Hymn

We sing the praise of him who died,
of him who died upon the cross;
the sinner's hope let men deride,
for this we count the world but loss.

Inscribed upon the cross we see
in shining letters, 'God is love';
He bears our sins upon the tree;
He brings us mercy from above.

The cross! It takes our guilt away:
it holds the fainting spirit up;
it cheers with hope the gloomy day,
and sweetens every bitter cup.

It makes the coward spirit brave,
and nerves the feeble arm for fight;
it takes its terror from the grave,
and gilds the bed of death with light:

The balm of life, the cure of woe,
the measure and the pledge of
love,
the sinner's refuge here below,
the angels' theme in heaven
above.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the
power,
the glory, the splendour, and the
majesty;
for everything in heaven and on
earth is yours.

**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give
you.**

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 for us the
cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Lift up your hearts
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our
God

**It is right to give thanks and
praise**

Extravagant God, you poured out
your life in your covenant with
your chosen people and you
poured out your lifeblood in the
ministry and death of your Son Je-
sus Christ. You meet our mean-
ness with your grace, our scarcity
with your abundance and our sus-
picion with your generous trust.
And so we give you thanks, with
angels and archangels and all the
company of heaven, joining in the
hymn of your unending praise,
saying:

**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.

Sharing God, in Jesus you for-
gave the woman caught in adul-
tery and gave her an opportunity
of new life, so we gather today to
celebrate your resurrection, in
faith that even now you are pre-
paring a feast to celebrate our
resurrection with you. Sanctify us

that even as our flesh and blood decays, our hearts are made ready that we may meet you face to face.

Send down your Holy Spirit, that this bread of sustenance and wine of joy may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread and gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them saying,

‘Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me’

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, 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.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

Abundant God, when we know the price of everything and the value of nothing, may this meal remind us of the limitless joy you take in us. When we are full of criticism of others and hatred of ourselves, may this sacrifice show us the goodness you see in us all.

Bless all our touching, that we may touch your gifts and one another as if we were touching your body and blood.

Bless all our desire, that in every craving and longing, we may discover a deeper yearning for you. Renew the hearts of all your people, that your whole church, seeking together the justice of your kingdom, may discover in the stranger the gifts that only come from you, through whom and with whom and in whom, comes all honour and glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, One God, now and for ever. **Amen**

As Christ has taught us we are bold to say:

**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 tempta-
tion; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the
power and the glory, for ever
and ever.
Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are
one body**

We say together

**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.
Blessed are those who are called
to his supper.

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

**A Prayer for those joining us on
Zoom who are making their
Spiritual Communion**

**My Jesus, I believe that you are
present in the most Blessed
Sacrament. I love You above
all things and I desire to re-
ceive you into my soul. Since I
cannot now receive You sacra-
mentally, come at least spiritu-
ally 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 Chalice bearers today are:
Stephen and Rachael Ringer**

Communion Hymn

And now, O Father, mindful of the
love

that bought us, once for all, on
Calvary's tree,
and having with us him that
pleads above,
we here present, we here spread
forth to thee
that only offering perfect in thine
eyes,
the one true, pure, immortal sacri-
fice.

Look, Father, look on his anointed
face,
and only look on us as found in
him;
look not on our misusings of thy
grace,
our prayer so languid, and our
faith so dim:

for lo, between our sins and their
reward

we set the Passion of thy Son our
Lord.

And then for those, our dearest
and our best,
by this prevailing presence we ap-
peal:

O fold them closer to thy mercy's
breast,

O do thine utmost for their souls'
true weal;

from tainting mischief keep them
pure and clear,

and crown thy gifts with strength
to persevere.

And so we come: O draw us to thy
feet,

most patient Saviour, who canst
love us still;
and by this food, so awful and so
sweet,
deliver us from every touch of ill:
in thine own service make us glad
and free,
and grant us never more to part
with thee.

Post - Communion Prayers

Give thanks to the Lord for God is
gracious

God's mercy endures for ever.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have
taught us that what we do for the
least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you: give us the will
to be the servant of others as you
were the servant of all, and gave
up your life and died for us, but
are alive and reign, now and for
ever. **Amen**

**Father almighty we offer our-
selves to you as a living sacri-
fice in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out into the world in
the power of the Holy Spirit to
live and work to your praise
and glory. Amen**

The Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in
holiness, to deny yourselves, take
up your cross, and follow him; and
the blessing..... **Amen**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the
Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Notices

Hymn

To God be the glory, great things
he has done!

So loved he the world that he
gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement
for sin,
and opened the life-gate that we
may go in.

(Refrain)

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father thro' Jesus
the Son,
and give him the glory, great
things he has done!

O perfect redemption, the pur-
chase of blood!

To ev'ry believer the promise of
God;
the vilest offender who truly be-
lieves,

that moment from Jesus for-
giveness receives. *(Refrain)*

Great things he has taught us,
great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through
Jesus the Son;

but purer and higher and greater
will be

our wonder, our transport, when
Jesus we see. *(Refrain)*

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

AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar: Fr. Rodney Dreyer
01580 754459

Churchwardens:
Miss Alison Jones
01580 755705

Mrs. Liz Hatcher
01580 712099

Organists:
Dr. Charlotte O' Neill
01580 753817

Safeguarding:
Mrs Jane Cooper
07825044877

NOTICES

Wednesday Eucharist at Bowles Lodge ~ 10.00a.m. Please do join us.

ELECTORAL ROLL - if you would like to be registered on the Electoral Roll of St Laurence or wish to know more about being a member, please speak to Stephen Ringer. Names can be added up to the date of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will be held on Sunday 23 April. Application forms are available on the table at the back of the church.

EASTER LILIES – if you would like to purchase an Easter lily in remembrance of a loved one, please place cash or a cheque in an envelope and clearly print the person's name on the front of the envelope. Please give the envelopes to the Churchwardens (Ali or Liz) or post them in the wall safe inside the church where they will be collected.

A minimum donation of £4.50 per lily is requested. Cash is preferred. If you wish to pay by cheque it should be payable to **St Laurence Flower Guild.**

The deadline for receiving orders is TODAY SUNDAY 26 MARCH.

The Flower Guild are planning a Flower Festival in St Laurence Church over the weekend of King Charles' coronation. Monetary

donations for flowers would be most welcome.

PLEASE NOTE - 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.

PARISH LENTEN COURSE -

please do purchase the book below if you wish to join the Lenten course, every Wednesday evening after Compline on zoom.

Lent with St Francis – Daily Reflections

PAPERBACK £10.03 KINDLE EDITION £2.24

LENT LUNCHESES 2023 – 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 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 7th April, please speak to Sandra.

Loaves and Fishes Sunday every 3rd Sunday monthly. The next collection date will be Sunday 23rd April. All contribution of non-perishables will be collected and donated to the Hawkhurst Food Bank.