



ST LAURENCE CHURCH
THE PARISH EUCHARIST
4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
30TH APRIL 2023

**The sidesmen are Kate Lagden
and Diana Ringer**

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

INTROIT HYMN:

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.

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 sing:

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.

We sing:

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

***Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.***

**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.
*Glory to God***

**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.
*Glory to God***

**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.
*Glory to God***

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:

raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD
(Please sit)

A reading from the first letter of Peter **read by Sandra Dreyer**

Beloved: If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for

you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps. He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.

When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

GRADUAL HYMN:

The King of love my Shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.
Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy Cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
Thy unction grace bestoweth:

and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!
And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never;
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

THE GOSPEL READING

We sing:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

The word of the Lord endures for ever. The word of the Lord is the good news announced to you.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

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

Jesus said: "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognise his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognise the voice of strangers." Although

Jesus used this figure of speech, the Pharisees did not realise what he was trying to tell them.

So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

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.

*Prayers led by Peter Wyllie
(Please sit/kneel)*

Lord, you are our Shepherd and we pray that you will protect us from all danger by keeping watch over us, guide us towards green pastures where we can be nourished by your word and lead us to pure still waters where we can be refreshed by your love.

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

Lord, you are our Shepherd and we pray for our church leaders that they too may care for and lead us

by following the example of love and service you demonstrated in your earthly ministry. We pray for Justin and Rose our Bishops, and Rodney our Vicar, and their respective families

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

Lord, you are our Shepherd and we pray for the world that was given to us as an inheritance, on the understanding that we would care for it as shepherds care for their flocks. Teach us to look after our beautiful planet and care for it wisely, whilst sharing its gifts more fairly and working together with all of its inhabitants to ease its sufferings.

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

Lord, you are our Shepherd and we pray for our families and friends who need to hear the voice of Jesus the Good Shepherd; who knows every one of them by name; who offers rest to the weary and salvation to sinners and life eternal to all who accept him into their lives.

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

Lord, you are our Shepherd who seeks out the lost and the sick. We pray for those we know who are lost in illness and ask you to reassure them with the knowledge that you are watching over them in their suffering and that many are

praying for their recovery. We pray for Gillian Robinson, Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, Colin White, David Winston, Christian Jervis-Read, John Tanner, Jan Edwards, Jill Fitzpatrick, Geraldine Nurney, Don Buckle

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

Lord, you are our Shepherd so we pray for those who have died and for those who ache with sorrow in their loss of a loved one. May those we now name before you find rest in the Spirit's embrace as you welcome them into the great sheepfold, safe in your keeping for ever; Cressida Jervis-Read, Elizabeth Couvell, Maggie

Heldsinger

We pray those whose years' mind falls at this time: Thomas William Barker, Olive Fitzpatrick, Winifred French, Brenda Bladon, Jimmy Dunlop, Edwin Manser, Roger Smith, Richard Hunt, Eileen Sheldon, Lydia Harttrup, Dick Howarth, Elijah Towner, Sheila Radford, Rebecca Barker, Thomas Heady, Elsie Dodson, Anna Towner.

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

Lord, you are our Shepherd, and we thank you for this time we have shared in prayer and thanksgiving. In the week ahead we ask you to lead us down the streets of our towns and villages and guide us

safely along the roads and motorways we travel.

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

THE PEACE

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.

OFFERTORY HYMN:

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
Your sweetest notes employ,
The Paschal victory to hymn
In strains of holy joy.

For Judah's Lion bursts His chains,
Crushing the serpent's head;
And cries aloud through death's domains
To wake th'imprison'd dead.

Devouring depths of hell
Their prey at His command restore;
His ransom'd hosts pursue their way
Where Jesus goes before.

Triumphant in His glory now
To Him all power is given;
To Him in one communion bow
All saints in earth and heaven.

While we, His soldiers, praise our King,
His mercy we implore,

Within His palace bright to bring
And keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,
All glory to the Son,
All glory, Holy Ghost, to Thee,
While endless ages run.

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 sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

(Sit/kneel)

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

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 sing:

**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.

If you are a communicant member of another church you are welcome to share with us in the Blessed Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, (please indicate if you require a gluten free wafer.)

The Priest delivers the consecrated bread and wine saying:

The Body and Blood of Christ.

The communicant may reply Amen and then receive. We reply as an act of faith.

For a Personal Blessing and/or a Special Prayer only, please also go to the High Altar Rail.

*The Chalice Bearers today are:
Brian Elliott and Charles Vernede*

PLEASE DO NOT DIP THE HOST IN THE WINE – a new Diocesan regulation.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION:

(Please remain seated)

Loving shepherd of thy sheep,
keep me, Lord, in safety keep;
nothing can thy pow'r withstand,
none can pluck me from thy hand.

Loving shepherd, thou didst give
thine own life that I might live;
may I love thee day by day,
gladly thy sweet will obey.

Loving shepherd, ever near,
teach me still thy voice to hear;
suffer not my steps to stray
from the strait and narrow way.

Where thou leadest may I go,
walking in thy steps below;
then before thy Father's throne,
Jesu, claim me for thine own.

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; 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

Glorious things of you are spoken,
Sion, city of our God:
he whose word cannot be broken
formed you for his own abode.
On the rock of Ages founded,
what can shake your sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
you may smile at all your foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply your sons and
daughters
and all fear of want remove:
who can faint, while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage -
grace, which like the Lord, the
giver,
never fails from age to age?

Blest inhabitants of Sion,
washed in their Redeemer's blood:
Jesus, whom their souls rely on,
makes them Kings and priests to
God.

'Tis his love his people raises
over self to reign as kings,
and, as priests, his solemn praises
each for a thank-offering brings.
Saviour, since of Sion's city
I, through grace, a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in your name:
fading is the worldling's pleasure,
all his boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Sion's children know.

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 listen to the Organ Voluntary

NOTICES

WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST at
Bowles Lodge ~ 10.00a.m. Please
do join us.

FLOWER GUILD - Flower
Festival in St Laurence Church
over the weekend of King Charles'
coronation (6th, 7th and 8th May).
Monetary donations for flowers

would be most welcome. Also three people at any one time, to be present to **serve teas** and **welcome visitors** over the weekend. Please sign the list which is divided into one and a half hour sessions. We would also be pleased if you could **bake a cake** for the festival. The list is on the table at the side of the church. Thank you in advance for your help.

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.

PLANNED / REGULAR GIVING -

We are very grateful for all the support we receive via prayers, the giving of one's time and talent as well as other gifting through planned and regular giving including the weekly collection.

The way that the Church will be collecting and accounting for regular and / or planned giving will be changing from the **end of April 2023**. This new process will also apply to those who give at the weekly service via the collection plate.

All Parish churches going forward will be required to use the newly established **Parish Giving**

Scheme – PGS. This will help our Parish Church administrators hugely and will also make giving easier and more efficient.

What does this mean for you?

As an **existing** Planned / Regular giver – register with PGS (on-line, phone or giving form) and complete direct debit (with the simultaneous cancellation of existing standing order if one in place

New Planned / Regular giver – as above

Collection plate

Cash - no change

Weekly / Yellow envelopes – we ask that you also use the PGS process.

This process will also allow givers to review their Gift Aid nomination – this allows us to maximise the donations you make, as well as consider inflation linked increases in their giving.

More details are available in a **pack** to be found at the back of the church - this pack includes background, frequently asked questions and a giving form.

Here are some key contact details;

St Laurence Church, Hawkhurst
Julian van Kan for any questions, help, guidance for form application completion.

Tel: 07710 995 644
Email: julian@thevankans.com

Parish Giving Scheme
Tel: 0333 002 1260
Website: www.parishgiving.org.uk

Canterbury Diocese
Website: www.canterburydiocese.org/

**SERVICES TO
CELEBRATE THE
CORONATION OF KING
CHARLES**

**Friday May 5th at 5.45pm
- A Vigil of Prayer ahead
of the Coronation of
King Charles III**

**Sunday May 7th at 10.0
a.m. - A service of Holy
Communion
celebrating the
Coronation of King
Charles III**

FLOWER FESTIVAL

**Sat May 6th open
2 to 5 pm**

**Sun May 7th
open 11.30 to 4 pm**

**Mon May 8th
open 10 to 4 pm**

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