



ST LAURENCE CHURCH
THE PARISH EUCHARIST
4TH SUNDAY OF LENT
10TH MARCH 2024
MOTHERING SUNDAY



*Welcome to St Laurence,
whether you regularly worship
here or are here for the first time.*
**The sidesmen today are Judy
Darkins and Ali Jones**

Zoom details:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784

Passcode: 5i1Uca

**INTROIT HYMN: (PLEASE STAND IF
YOU ARE ABLE)**

All my hope on God is founded,
all my trust he shall renew;
he, my guide through changing order,
only good and only true:
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
all that human toil can fashion,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

Day by day our mighty giver
grants to us his gifts of love;
in his will our souls find pleasure,
leading to our home above:

love shall stand at his hand,
joy shall wait for his command.

Still from Earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done;
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son:
hear Christ's call, one and all –
we who follow shall not fall.

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:

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; 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)

The first reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians, Chapter two - **read by Rachel Elliott**

Brothers and sisters:

God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us,

even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ — by grace you have been saved —, raised us up with him,

and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN (PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

O thou who camest from above the fire celestial to impart, kindle a flame of sacred love on the mean altar of my heart!

There let it for thy glory burn with inextinguishable blaze, and trembling to its source return

in humble prayer and fervent praise.
Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work, and speak, and think for
thee;

still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up the gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat;
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.

THE GOSPEL READING

John 19:25-27

Speak, Lord, for your servant is
listening.

**You have the words of eternal
life.**

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Je-
sus Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

Standing near the cross of Jesus
were his mother, and his mother's
sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,
and Mary Magdalene. When Je-
sus saw his mother and the disci-
ple whom he loved standing be-
side her, he said to his mother,
'Woman, here is your son.' Then
he said to the disciple, 'Here is
your mother.' And from that hour
the disciple took her into his own
home.

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, eter-
nally begotten of the Father, God
from God, Light from Light, true
God from true God, begotten, not
made, of one Being with the Fa-
ther; through him all things were
made.**

**For us and for our salvation he
came down from heaven, was in-
carnate from the Holy Spirit and
the Virgin Mary and was made
man.**

**For our sake he was crucified un-
der 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 Fa-
ther.**

**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 pro-
ceeds 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 NORMA CROWE**

Holy God, during Lent we come to you aware that we are not prepared for the awesome Easter message of Christ's suffering and death and his glorious victory of resurrection. So help us as we offer our intercession and thanksgiving to truly understand the tremendous gift of Easter.

Today on Mothering Sunday we give thanks for our Church and earthly families and especially pray for our Mother churches where we first got to know you and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Loving God, we come before you today aware of how you call us to be like you. We remember that you made us in your own image and that you gave to us mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, people to love, enjoy and work for and people to pray for and we are thankful.

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

As we think about our family, help us to remember our own sinfulness before you and how you forgive it and so make us, within our families and the wider world, to be messengers of your reconciling love.

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

Merciful God, we pray for those who are in need of a healing touch

today; We pray for Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winstone, Jan Edwards, Jill Fitzpatrick, John Tanner, Hilary Deller, Georgie Whitaker, Brian Elliott.

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

We pray for children who are hungry; for families threatened by war or insurrection; for the sister who is very ill; for the father who soon will be dwelling in your kingdom; for the prodigal son who left home in haste leaving behind uncertain parents; for the mother who is living in a house of fear especially as the war continues in Ukraine and the Middle East.

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

Everlasting God, we remember before you those who brought us into this world, raised and cherished us and made us what we are today, especially those who we love but see no longer, and we ask that you be close to all those who are grieving today over the loss of a loved one.

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

We pray for those recently departed: Richard Piper. We pray for those whose years mind occur this month: Norma Fogarty, Spencer Charles Edwards, Francis Ann Vaughan, Douglas Brown, Kathryn Louise Bembridge, Brian

Louis Piper, William Bennett, Joseph William Ringer, Mandy Jones, Kitty Weguelin, William David Potter, Freda Mary Griffin, Michael William Raymond Corp, Peter Lewis, Winifred Richard, Brian Lawrence, Lily Collins, Gillian Appelbe, Barney Underwood

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

Saving God, our heart-felt prayer today, is but this, bless our family, and help us be a blessing to it. Touch all those who are mothers to us or to others. Anoint with your healing goodness our brothers and our sisters, smile upon our children and help them to grow.

Merciful Father,

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

WE SHARE GOD'S PEACE

We stand to sing

**Shalom, Shalom,
May peace be with you,
Throughout your days;
In all that you do,
May peace be with you,
Shalom, Shalom.**

(Repeat)

WE PRESENT OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY HYMN (PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

Ye who own the faith of Jesus
Ye who own the faith of Jesus,
sing the wonders that were done
when the love of God the Father

over sin the victory won,
when he made the Virgin Mary
mother of his only Son.

Hail Mary, hail Mary, hail Mary, full
of grace.

Blessed were the chosen people
out of whom the Lord did come;
blessed was the land of promise
fashioned for his earthly home;
but more blessed far the mother,
she who bare him in her womb.

Hail Mary, hail Mary, hail Mary, full
of grace.

Wherefore let all faithful people
tell the honour of her name;
let the Church, in her foreshadowed,
part in her thanksgiving claim;
what Christ's mother sang in glad-
ness

let Christ's people sing the same.

Hail Mary, hail Mary, hail Mary, full
of grace.

Let us weave our supplications,
she with us and we with her,
for the advancement of the faithful,
for each faithful worshipper,
for the doubting, for the sinful,
for each heedless wanderer.

Hail Mary, hail Mary, hail Mary, full
of grace.

May the Mother's intercessions
on our homes a blessing win,
that the children all be prospered,
strong and fair and pure within,
following our Lord's own footsteps,
firm in faith and free from sin.

Hail Mary, hail Mary, hail Mary, full
of grace.

For the sick and the aged,
for our dear ones far away,
for the hearts that mourn in secret,
all who need our prayers today,
for the faithful gone before us,

may the holy Virgin pray.
Hail Mary, hail Mary, hail Mary, full
of grace.

Praise, O Mary, praise the Father,
praise thy Saviour and thy Son,
praise the everlasting Spirit,
who hath made thee ark and throne
o'er all creatures high exalted,
lowly praise the Three in One.

Hail Mary, hail Mary, hail Mary, full
of grace.

*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 ac-
ceptable to God, the almighty Fa-
ther.

**May the Lord accept the sacri-
fice 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.**

Cradling God, we thank and
praise you because like a mother
you brought all things into being.
Through trial and truth-telling
touch and tenderness you nur-
tured a people and led them in the
ways of justice and peace. When
the time came for you to dwell
among us in faith and blood, your
Holy Spirit called a woman to be
the God bearer, that in her we
may behold that our bodies could
bring forth your glory. And so we
join with angels and archangels
and all the household of heaven
to sing of your eternal joy

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of
power and might, heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Ho-
sanna in the highest.**

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Redeeming God, you called a
woman to be closest to your Son
at the moment of his nativity, at
the place of crucifixion and in the
wonder of his resurrection. Like a
mother hen gathering her chicks
you draw the weary, the lost and

the betrayed to the abundant table of your kingdom. Send your Holy Spirit on your church, that it may radiate gladness as its destiny with you.

By that same Spirit, sanctify this bread and this cup that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord 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.

Yearning God, bless every mother who gives and does not count the cost, who toils and does not seek for rest, who labours and does not ask for any reward, save that of knowing that she does your will. Visit and heal the sadness of those whose calling to be a mother has not been fulfilled.

Transfigure the distress of any who whose experience of raising a child has meant a sword has

pierced their own heart. Come close to all who find they cannot look upon a parent with either gratitude or grace. Hasten the day when the holy city descends like a bride prepared for you, when all desires are known and from you no secrets are hid, ever living, ever giving God, Trinity of mercy and love. **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

**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.**

The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

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 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 chalice bearers today are Andrea Higgins and Alison Parsons

HYMN DURING COMMUNION:

(PLEASE REMAIN SEATED)

Lord Jesus Christ you have come to us

You are one with us, Mary's Son.

Cleansing our souls from all their sin
pouring Your love and goodness in
Jesus our love for you we sing,
living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ now and every day

Teach us how to pray, Son of God.

You have commanded us to do this in remembrance Lord of you
Into our lives your power breaks through,
living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us

Born as one with us, Mary's Son.

Led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free,
living Lord Jesus help us see
You are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ I would come to
you
live my life for you, Son of God.
All your commands I know are
true,
your many gifts will make me
new,
into my life your power breaks
through,
living Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God, as a mother feeds
her children at the breast you
feed us in this sacrament with the
food and drink of eternal life: help
us who have tasted your good-
ness to grow in grace within the
household of faith; 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.**

Please sit for the Notices

*The flowers are placed on the al-
tar to be blessed by the Vicar.*

*They are then distributed to the
children who take them to their
mothers and grandmothers.*

WE GO IN CHRIST'S PEACE

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

*The Priest pronounces a Bless-
ing.*

May the Lord who provides for all
our needs, sustain us day by
day. May the Lord whose stead-
fast love, is constant as a
mother's care, send us out to live
and work for others. And the
blessing....

We respond **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve
the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN: (PLEASE
STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)**

Tell out, my soul, the greatness
of the Lord!

Unnumbered blessings, give my
spirit voice;

tender to me the promise of his
word;

in God my Saviour shall my heart
rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness
of his name!

Make known his might, the deeds
his arm has done;

his mercy sure, from age to age
the same;

his holy name, the Lord, the
mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness
of his might!

Powers and dominions lay their
glory by.

Proud hearts and stubborn wills
are put to flight,

the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!

Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord to children's children and for evermore!

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

BOWLES LODGE – Please join us on Wednesdays at 10 am.

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.**

Last date for orders is Palm Sunday is March 24th

MONDAY MARCH 18th

10 – 12.30 p.m.

Working Party to prepare for Easter.

If you can help with this, please sign the list at the back of the church or speak to Sandra.

ELECTORAL ROLL – application forms are available on the table at the back of the church. Please return to Stephen Ringer who is the Electoral Roll Officer.