

DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY
Changed lives - Changing lives

St. Laurence Parish Church
Hawkhurst, Parish Eucharist

Service.

23. 2. 2025 - The Sunday before
Lent

The Zoom details for this service
are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784

Passcode: 5i1UCa

The sides people today are: Kate
Lagden and Diana Hunt

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

Welcome

Hymn

Jesus, where'er Thy people meet,
There they behold Thy mercy-
seat;

Where'er they seek Thee, Thou
art found,

With grace and mercy to abound.

For Thou, within no walls
confined,

Inhabitest the humble mind;

Such ever bring Thee where they
come,

And going, take Thee to their
home.

Dear Shepherd of Thy chosen
few,

Thy former mercies here renew;
Here, to our waiting hearts,
proclaim

The sweetness of Thy saving
Name.

Here may we prove the power of
prayer

To strengthen faith and sweeten
care;

To teach our faint desires to rise,
And bring Thy light before our
eyes.

Lord, we are few, but Thou art
near;

Nor short Thine arm, nor deaf
Thine ear;

Oh, rend the heavens, come
quickly down,

And make our waiting hearts
Thine own.

Command Thy blessing in this
hour;

And as the Spirit full of pow'r

With life and vision fill this place,

That all Thy purpose we may
trace.

O Thou, our Head, our Life, our
Guide,

May nought in life or death divide
The saints in Thy communion
blessed,

That all Thy fulness be
expressed.

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

In silence let us call to mind our sins against God, others and ourselves.. We confess together:

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 Gloria (Sung)

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.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, 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 - 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 read by Bob Ash

In those days, Saul went down to the desert of Ziph with three thousand picked men of Israel, to search for David in the desert of Ziph. So David and Abishai went among Saul's soldiers by night and found Saul lying asleep within the barricade, with his spear thrust into the ground at his head and Abner and his men sleeping around him. Abishai whispered to David:

"God has delivered your enemy into your grasp this day. Let me nail him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I will not need a second thrust!"

But David said to Abishai, "Do not harm him, for who can lay hands on the LORD's anointed and remain unpunished?" So David took the spear and the water jug from their place at Saul's head and they got away without

anyone's seeing or knowing or awakening. All remained asleep, because the LORD had put them into a deep slumber.

Going across to an opposite slope, David stood on a remote hilltop at a great distance from Abner, son of Ner, and the troops. He said: "Here is the king's spear. Let an attendant come over to get it. The LORD will reward each man for his justice and faithfulness. Today, though the LORD delivered you into my grasp, I would not harm the LORD's anointed."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Hymn

Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor
glowing;

O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame
bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat
consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my
path illuming.

And so the yearning strong,

with which the soul will long,
shall far out pass the power of hu-
man telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till Love create a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a
dwelling.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

I give you a new commandment,
says the Lord:

love one another as I have loved
you.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Luke

Glory to Christ our Lord

Jesus said to his disciples: "To
you who hear I say, love your en-
emies, do good to those who hate
you, bless those who curse you,
pray for those who mistreat you.
To the person who strikes you on
one cheek, offer the other one as
well, and from the person who
takes your cloak, do not withhold
even your tunic. Give to everyone
who asks of you, and from the one
who takes what is yours do not
demand it back. Do to others as
you would have them do to you.
For if you love those who love
you, what credit is that to you?

Even sinners love those who love
them. And if you do good to those

who do good to you, what credit is
that to you? Even sinners do the
same. If you lend money to those
from whom you expect repay-
ment, what credit is that to you?
Even sinners lend to sinners, and
get back the same amount. But
rather, love your enemies and do
good to them, and lend expecting
nothing back; then your reward
will be great and you will be chil-
dren of the Most High, for he him-
self is kind to the ungrateful and
the wicked. Be merciful, just as
your Father is merciful.

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

The Reflection

The Creed - said together

We believe in one God, the Fa-
ther, 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 Anne Wheelhouse

Holy God, sometimes our lives are so full of worries that we forget how you look after us through every aspect of our lives. When our worries begin to spiral out of control, help us turn them into a conversation with you, confident that you will calm our anxiety and give us hope for the future.

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

Gracious God, we pray for your church, and the churches in our local community asking that there will be a growing desire to get together. We give you thanks for those who come up with fresh ways of making your name known to the wider community. We remember the General Synod, which met this last week in London and for all those who work so hard to make important and sometimes difficult decisions regarding the everyday running of the Church of England.

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

Creator God, we pray for our King and his family. Give them health and strength, wisdom and courage, so that they may carry out their many duties in the best interests of all our people. We remember too all in government praying that they always remember that they are your servants, and that your Son came to serve rather than to be served.

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

Mighty God, we pray for peace in our world. May all lands that suffer violence and injustice find peace and reconciliation. We pray for the peoples of the world and all who offer their services in the leadership of the affairs of the world that

they may uphold what is right and good. We pray particularly at this time for peace in all places where there is violence, war and terrorism.

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

Father God, we thank you for the joy of human love, and for all those among whom we live and work. We pray particularly for loved ones who worry us with their health, or circumstances, or life direction. We pray for those among our friends and families who do not know you, or whose faith has been shaken.

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

Loving God, we pray for all who bear the burdens of pain, bereavement, worry and depression. We pray for those whose illness stems from anxiety. We pray that they may have an awareness of your presence and an understanding that you are bearing those burdens with them and always working towards their healing and wholeness. We pray for: Rebecca McQuillan, Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winstone, John Tanner, Hilary Deller, Les Dickson, Irene Bow, David Colquhoun, Brian Elliott, Hannah, Chloe, Emma, Andrew Eaton,

Matilda, Jill Fitzpatrick, Keith Brown, Matt, Judy Scanlan and Val Manser.

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

Merciful God, through your love and mercy you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life. Comfort those who grieve in their sorrow and those who are worried about how they will cope on their own and reassure them that you will never leave them to carry the burdens of life unaided. We pray For the recently departed: Ken Weatherley, Janet Chitham, Michael Barrass, Gillian Spurgeon, Archdeacon Michael Brotherton and Dylan Peter Craddock.

and those who's years mind occur this month: 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, Margaret Skeet, Doris Ringer, Jean King, David Weeks, Betty Hazel, Arthur Jeffery, Barney Underwood.

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

Everlasting God, we ask you to lead us into the coming week,

Help us to believe that you are close by us, keep us from making mistakes and help us never to dis-appoint you through our words and actions.

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

Merciful Father

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

The Peace

Christ is our peace. He has reconciled to God in one body by the Cross. We meet in his name and share his peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hymn

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love the way you love,
and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with yours,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
for all eternity.

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

Creating and liberating God, you called your people into covenant with you. and sealed it with Moses on the mountain; you called your

people back to that covenant through your prophets and spoke in a still small voice to Elijah on the mountain.

Then on a mountain your Son stood between the Law and the Prophets and revealed the radiance of your gospel. On Calvary's hill your son redeemed us by the blood of your new covenant, and on the mountain in Galilee he ascended to your right hand on high. And so we gladly thank you, celebrating your glory with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, dazzled by your face and singing the hymn of your unending praise

**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.**

Loving God, you set up your tent and make your dwelling among us. Abide with us now through the power of your Holy Spirit, that your people may become a temple of your presence, and that these gifts of bread and wine 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.**

Transfiguring God, it is good for us to be here. Through this holy sacrament make us your sons and daughters and be close to all children who have no one to share your love and mercy with them. Make us your beloved and visit all who have no one to call them beloved.

Give us grace to listen to your voice and bring to your heart any who no one to listen to them. Surround us with your prophetic company and take us up into the whirlwind of your glory, until the day comes when the waters of the

Jordan are parted and the heavens are opened and the chariots bring us home to you, ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **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 temptation; 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 sing 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 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 are: Stephen
and Rachael Ringer

Communion Hymn

My God, and is thy table spread,
and doth thy cup with love o'er-
flow?

Thither be all thy children led,
and let them all thy sweetness
know.

Hail, sacred feast which Jesus
makes,
rich banquet of his flesh and
blood!

Thrice happy he who here par-
takes
that sacred stream, that heavenly
food.

Why are its bounties all in vain
before unwilling hearts displayed?
Was not for them the Victim slain?
Are they forbid the children's
bread?

O let thy table honoured be,
and furnished well with joyful
guests;
and may each soul salvation see,
that here its sacred pledges
tastes.

Post - Communion Prayers

Give thanks to the Lord for God is
gracious

God's mercy endures for ever.

God our creator, by your gift the
tree of life was set at the heart of
the earthly paradise, and the
bread of life at the heart of your

Church: may we who have been
nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the
Saviour's cross and enjoy the de-
lights of eternity; through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

**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

The Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the
living God, teach you to walk in his
way more trustfully, to accept his
truth more faithfully, and to share
his life more lovingly; that by the
power of the Holy Spirit you may
come as one family to the king-
dom of the Father. And the bless-
ing ...

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the
Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Notices

Hymn

Forth in your name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labor to pursue,
determined only you to know
in all I think or speak or do.

The task your wisdom has as-
signed,

O let me cheerfully fulfill;
in all my works your presence
find,

and prove your good and perfect will.

May I find you at my right hand;
your eyes see truly what I do.
I labour on at your command
and offer all my works to you.

Give me to bear your easy yoke
and ev'ry moment watch and pray
and still to things eternal look,
and hasten to your glorious day.

For you I joyously employ
whate'er you in grace have giv'n:
I run my daily course with joy
and closely walk with you to
heav'n.

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 de-
parted through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. **And rise in glory.
Amen.**

Retiring Organ Voluntary Notices

Parish Breakfast is next Satur-
day 1st March at 9.30am. Our
speaker will be the Revd. Dr. Ste-
phen Need. The title of his talk is
"Re-Imagining the Council of
Nicea." If you would like to come
to the breakfast, please sign the

list provided.

Daily Prayers for February are
available on the Church website.

Bowles Lodge 10am. Wednes-
day Eucharist is at Bowles Lodge.
Please join us.

Compline – We celebrate a
compline service on zoom each
Wednesday at 6.00pm. Please
feel free to join us if you can.
The Zoom link is: Meeting ID: 457
244 0784 Passcode: 5i1UCa

World day of Prayer 2025 will
be celebrated on Friday 7 March
at the Baptist Church. Christians
from the Cook Islands have de-
vised the service this year and it
promises to be a colourful and
uplifting time of worship.
You are cordially invited to join
us from 11.45 for a light lunch
(soup and a roll) before the ser-
vice which will begin at 1.00pm.
We aim to finish around 2.00pm,
so that anyone collecting children
from school is able to do so.

The Passover Supper is on
Wednesday 16th April at 6.30pm.
The cost is £10 per head. Please
sign the list on the table if you'd
like to come. Also please pick up
an information sheet explaining
the history and procedure.

Collection and Giving

A collection will be taken during this service. Please remember to use a Gift Aid envelope if you are a taxpayer. Also you may support the work of St Laurence Church by donating at the collection box or the online terminal at the exit. Additionally you may give to St Laurence Church via the QR code which can be found on our website: www.stlaurencechurch-hawkhurst.org under the *Welcome* tab and through a link under *Giving*.

Deputy Churchwarden

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AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar: The Revd Canon

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Churchwarden and

Safeguarding:

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