

**DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY**  
**Changed lives - Changing**  
**lives**

St. Laurence Parish Church  
Hawkhurst, Parish Eucharist  
Service.

11. 5. 2025 - The Fourth  
Sunday of Easter, Year C

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784  
Passcode: 5i1UCa

The sidemen today are: Anne  
Wheelhouse and Diana Ringer  
As we gather and prepare to  
join in worship together, music  
is played on the organ.

PLEASE TAKE THIS  
LEAFLET HOME WITH YOU

**Welcome**

**Hymn** (Please stand if you are  
able)

Jerusalem the golden!  
With milk and honey blest;  
Beneath your contemplation  
Sink heart and voice opprest.  
I know not, oh! I know not,  
What joys await us there,  
What radiancy of glory,  
What bliss beyond compare.

They stand, those halls of Zion,  
Conjubilant with song,  
And bright with many an angel,

And all the martyr throng;  
The Prince is ever in them,  
The daylight is serene;  
The pastures of the blessed  
Are deck'd in glorious sheen.  
There is the throne of David,  
And there, from care released,  
The shout of those who  
triumph,  
The song of those who feast,  
And they, who with their  
Leader,  
Have conquer'd in the fight,  
Forever and forever,  
Are clad in robes of white.

O sweet and blessed country,  
Shall e'er I see your face?  
O sweet and blessed country,  
Shall e'er I win your grace?  
Exult, O dust and ashes!  
The Lord shall be your part;  
His only, his forever,  
You shall be and you are.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia**  
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 (Sung)**

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. Amen**

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**

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. **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 - Revelation 7:9, 14b-17 read by: Clare Roberts**

I, John, had a vision of a great multitude,

which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. Then one of the elders said to me, "These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

"For this reason they stand before God's throne and worship him day and night in his temple. The one who sits on the throne will shelter them. They will not hunger or thirst anymore, nor will the sun or any heat strike them. For the Lamb who is in the centre of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

This is the word of the Lord.

### **Thanks be to God**

#### **Hymn (Please stand if you are able)**

The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want.

He makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me

the quiet waters by.  
He leadeth me, he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of  
righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake;  
within the paths of  
righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's  
dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill;  
for thou art with me, and thy  
rod  
and staff me comfort still;  
for thou art with me, and thy  
rod  
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil  
anoint,  
and my cup overflows.  
My head thou dost with oil  
anoint,  
and my cup overflows.  
Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me,  
and in God's house  
forevermore  
my dwelling place shall be;  
and in God's house  
forevermore

my dwelling place shall be.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

**R. 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 Christ our Lord**

Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no

one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

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:** Robin Crowther

God of great expectations, you have been patient with us in our understanding of your revelation through your Son's life, death and resurrection. Help us to have renewed confidence, firm in faith, constant in prayer, and attentive in deed. Strengthen our powers to listen to you and to proclaim your name, whatever the cost. May the lives of the saints and martyrs be an inspiration to our lives and witness.

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Your Church is the people of God for our age. May we be renewed in your Spirit in order to capture the hearts and minds of those who do not know you. Let tradition and the best of what has gone before blend with the greatest story ever told – and that will be told. Cherish and protect the leaders you have chosen for your Church and may we rejoice in them, as they guide our faith journey.

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Living Lord, who wants us to live life in all its abundance, we give thanks for the sheer variety of your creation. In giving us the responsibility to be good stewards of your world equip us, we ask, with the will and the means to safeguard the well-being of people and environment. Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Where there is conflict about scarce resources, let us be firm in your principles of justice and fairness – and loving our neighbours as ourselves. We pray especially for the difficulties now facing the people of India

and Pakistan. Let not human greed get in the way of acts of human generosity. Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we continue to pray for King Charles and for every member of the Royal Family. We pray too for every member of Parliament and for their respective families.

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

In our own community we pray for all those whose lives are closely linked with us.

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Help the sick and the infirm to feel the hope of your love and the compassion of your touch as we remember those in urgent need of our prayers. We pray for Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winstone, John Tanner, Irene Bow, David Colquhoun, Brian Elliott, Hannah, Chloe, Emma, Matilda, Jill Fitzpatrick, Keith Brown, Matt, Val Manser.

Bring comfort to the carers, too, Lord.

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: Les Dickson, Eileen Burnett, David Colquhoun, David Axford, Judy Scanlan and Peter Hunt.

And all those whose years' mind occur this month: Simon Edwards, David Cutmore, Stella Keaney, Alfred Scriver, Anthony Smith, Sheila Pope, Thomas Weguelin, Henry Husey, Joscelyn Thompson, Grace Parsons, Albert Richard, Mark Webber, Heather Murphy, David Wood, Robert Botha, Vera Boulton, Ione McEwen, Sylvia Parkinson, David Barter, Barbara Barter.

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

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you.**

### Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

The Lord my pasture shall prepare,  
and feed me with a shepherd's care;  
his presence shall my wants supply,  
and guard me with a watchful eye;  
my noonday walks he shall attend,  
and all my midnight hours defend.

When in the sultry glebe I faint,  
or on the thirsty mountain pant,  
to fertile vales and dewy meads  
my weary wandering steps he leads,  
where peaceful rivers, soft and slow,

amid the verdant landscape flow.

Though in a bare and rugged way  
through devious lonely wilds I stray,  
thy bounty shall my pains beguile;  
the barren wilderness shall smile  
with sudden greens and herbage crowned,  
and streams shall murmur all around.

Though in the paths of death I tread,  
with gloomy horrors overspread,  
my steadfast heart shall fear no ill,  
for thou, O Lord, art with me still:  
thy friendly staff shall give me aid,  
and guide me through the dreadful shade.

### 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**

Shepherding God, we praise and thank you. because you gathered your flock around Abraham, and through Moses and Joshua you brought your sheep to a place of safety. In Jesus you came to us as a

Passover Lamb to take away the sin of the world. As our everlasting good shepherd you promise that those who hear your voice shall never be in want, for you know your sheep by name and you call us your own and give to each of us a place in the sheepfold of your kingdom, where angels and archangels and all the company of heaven sing 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.**

Sustaining God, as you lead your sheep to green pastures and guide them beside still waters, so you have led us to this table, where in bread and wine you restore our soul. Send down your Holy Spirit and restore your church through the abundance of this sacred meal.

As we remember the story of your Son's life laid down for us, sanctify this bread and cup and make them to 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.**

Saving God, your rod and your staff comfort all who look to you in faith. Search out your sheep that are lost and bring them home. When you find them in the valley of fear, gather them into your arms. When they face evil in the presence of their enemies, follow them with your goodness and mercy all the days of their lives. On that day

when the shadow of death covers them, bring them to dwell in your house forever. Shepherd us with all your saints of every age into your glorious presence, where we shall behold your Lamb in seated glory, most Holy Trinity, now and always. **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 today are Sandra Dreyer and Peter Hodges.

**Communion Hymn**

Father, hear the prayer we offer:

not for ease that prayer shall be,

but for strength that we may ever

live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures do we ask our way to be;

but the steep and rugged pathway

may we tread rejoicingly.

Not for ever by still waters

would we idly rest and stay;

but would smite the living fountains

from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,

in our wanderings be our  
guide;  
through endeavour, failure,  
danger,  
Father, be thou at our side.

### **Post - Communion Prayers**

Give thanks to the Lord for God  
is gracious

**God's mercy endures for  
ever.**

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 pro-  
tection, and give us grace to  
follow in his steps; through Je-  
sus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Father almighty we offer our-  
selves to you as a living sac-  
rifice 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**

God the Father, by whose glory  
Christ was raised from the  
dead, strengthen you to walk  
with him in his risen life; and  
the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the  
Holy Spirit, be among you and  
remain with you always. **Amen**

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve  
the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

### **Notices**

**Hymn** (Please stand if you are  
able)

Glorious things of thee are spo-  
ken,

Zion, city of our God.

He whose Word cannot be bro-  
ken

formed thee for His own abode.  
On the Rock of Ages founded,  
what can shake thy sure re-  
pose?

With salvation's walls sur-  
rounded,  
thou may'st smile at all thy  
foes.

See, the streams of living wa-  
ters,

springing from eternal love,  
well supply thy sons and  
daughters

and all fear of want remove.

Who can faint while such a  
river

ever flows their thirst to as-  
suage?

Grace, which like the Lord, the  
Giver,

never fails from age to age.

'Round each habitation  
hov'ring,

see the cloud and fire appear  
for a glory and a cov'ring,

showing that the Lord is near.  
Thus deriving from their banner  
light by night and shade by day  
safe they feed upon the manna  
which He gives them on their  
way.

Saviour, since of Zion's city  
I through grace a member am,  
let the world deride or pity,  
I will glory in Thy name.  
Fading is the worldling's pleasures,  
all his boasted pomp and  
show;  
solid joys and lasting treasures  
none but Zion'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.**

Alleluia, Christ is Risen  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia**

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Retiring Organ Voluntary

## **NOTICES**

### **Christian Aid Week 2025**

A fundraising **Coffee Morning**  
will be held at St Laurence  
Church on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May  
between 10.30am and 12.00.

Everyone welcome; Please  
join us!

There will be refreshments,  
stalls, film, music and a display.

**Loaves and Fishes Sunday** is  
always the third Sunday of the  
month. This month it will be  
next Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> May. Please  
bring goods for the Foodbank.  
They can be left on the Vicar-  
age doorstep or brought to  
church and placed in the box  
under the table at the back of  
the church.

**Bowles Lodge** - the 10am  
Wednesday 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

### **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](http://www.stlaurencechurch-hawkhurst.org) under the *Welcome* tab and through a link under *Giving*.

**The St Laurence 100 Club** is another one of our fund-raising initiatives. The Club is open to those over 16 years of age and membership costs £10 a year. There is a monthly draw for three prizes, with first prize being £20, the second £10 and the third £5. Please speak to Alison Parsons for details.

## **AT YOUR SERVICE**

**Vicar:** The Revd Canon Rodney Dreyer  
01580 754459

### **Churchwardens**

Claire Roberts 01580 754374  
Liz Hatcher 01580 712099

### **Assistants**

Lydeke Klein 01580 493732  
Ali Jones 01580 755705

### **Safeguarding:**

Mrs Jane Cooper  
07825 044877

### **Organist:**

Dr. Charlotte O' Neill  
01580 753817