

DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY
Changed lives - Changing lives

St. Laurence Parish Church
Hawkhurst, Parish Eucharist
Service.

25. 5. 2025 - The Sixth Sunday
of Easter , Year C

Please Note: The Zoom details
for this service are:
Meeting ID: 457 244 0784
Passcode: 5i1UCa

The sides people today are: Kate
Lagden and Diana Hunt

Welcome

Hymn (Please stand if you are
able)

Thou, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel-day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.

Thou, who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind

let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move on the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide
let there be light.

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.

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

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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 -Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 read by Bob Ash

Some who had come down from Judea were instructing the brothers,

“Unless you are circumcised according to the Mosaic practice, you cannot be saved.”

Because there arose no little dissension and debate

by Paul and Barnabas with them, it was decided that Paul, Barnabas, and some of the others should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders about this question.

The apostles and elders, in agreement with the whole church, decided to choose representatives

and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.

The ones chosen were Judas, who was called Barsabbas, and Silas, leaders among the brothers.

This is the letter delivered by them:

“The apostles and the elders, your brothers,
to the brothers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia
of Gentile origin: greetings.

Since we have heard that some of our number

who went out without any mandate from us
have upset you with their teachings

and disturbed your peace of mind, we have with one accord decided to choose representatives

and to send them to you along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So we are sending Judas and Silas

who will also convey this same message by word of mouth:

‘It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us

not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities, namely, to abstain from meat sacrificed to idols,

from blood, from meats of strangled animals,

and from unlawful marriage.

If you keep free of these, you will be doing what is right. Farewell.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

City of God, how broad and far
outspread thy walls sublime!

The true thy chartered freemen
are
of every age and clime:

One holy church, one army
strong,
one steadfast, high intent;
one working band, one harvest-
song,
one King omnipotent.

How purely hath thy speech come
down

from man's primaeval youth!

How grandly hath thine empire
grown

of freedom, love, and truth!

How gleam thy watch-fires
through the night

with never-fainting ray!

How rise thy towers, serene and
bright,

to meet the dawning day!

In vain the surge's angry shock,
in vain the drifting sands:

unharm'd upon the eternal Rock
the eternal city stands.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Whoever loves me will keep my word,
says the Lord,
and my Father will love him and
we will come to him.

R. 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

Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you.

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would

rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I.

And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

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 liv-

ing 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

Everlasting God, you made the world and everything in it, we pray with one voice, proclaiming your presence to all the earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you and give thanks for all wonders of your marvellous creation. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We pray for Bishop Rose that she will be guided in her ministry by the influence of the Holy Spirit. We pray for the Church, both here in Hawkhurst and worldwide that we may go forward together in unity and strength. Help us to respect the beliefs of others even if we do not share them, to celebrate what we have in common and to accept our differences.

Guide us all in our ministries as we live each day.

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

Creator God, we pray for governments and world leaders, for captains of industry and workers; for inventors and technicians, for entertainers and audiences. For those who set the targets at work, in education and training and in the pews. For all who are powerful, that they may be guided by the Spirit of Truth that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. We continue to pray for an end to the war between Russia and Ukraine and in Gaza. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Loving God, we pray for King Charles and every member of the Royal family. We pray for all members of the Royal family as they support her in her ministry. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Father God, we pray for our family and colleagues, friends and lovers, for neighbours and strangers; For those with whom we break bread at home, at work, in the community, and in our church; For all who grow, harvest and prepare the food we eat and for those who cook it and serve it; For all who

share with the less fortunate through food banks and charities
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Merciful God, we pray for all those who have been ill for so long that it has become part of their life. Help them and those who care for them to see all the possibilities that life still holds despite their disabilities and to make the most of all the wonderful aids that are now available to help people lead enjoyable and fulfilled lives. Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winstone, John Tanner, Irene Bow, Brian Elliott, Hannah, Chloe, Emma, Matilda, Jill Fitzpatrick, Keith Brown, Matt, Val Manser, Thomas Cox

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

Merciful God, we pray for those whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them, for members of our families who have died and whose anniversary we recall.

Those recently departed: Les Dickson, Eileen Burnett, David Colquhoun, David Axford, Judy Scanlan, Peter Hunt, Peter Close and Tim Davis.

And all those whose years' mind occur this month: Simon Edwards, David Cutmore, Stella

Keaney, Alfred Scrivener, 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**

Gracious God, help us in the power your Holy Spirit to make your way become known upon earth and your saving power among all nations.

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)

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

We lift our hearts in praise to you, God of glory, because in every time and place you have shown yourself to your people and revealed your purpose to dwell with them always. In the wilderness you made your place of dwelling in a tabernacle. In Jerusalem the temple became a theatre of encounter with you. In Jesus your Son you came among us making your home in human flesh. In his death he faced the consequences of our sin and in his resurrection he made possible an everlasting home for us at your right hand.

You have prepared for us a holy city of heavenly lights where we will dwell with you forever. So with angels and archangels we join the praises sung for evermore in that eternal city

**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.**

Lord God Almighty, from your throne flows the river of life. Fed from that river, your tree of life bears fruit for the healing of the nations. Nourish your church in this sacred meal, that the bread and wine we receive may be poured through us as life abundant.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, make your church a healing balm in places of suffering and sorrow. Sanctify this bread and cup that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son.

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.**

Revealing God, whose radiance is all holiness, make your face to shine upon us that we may be saved. Look with mercy upon those who turn to you in hope and long for peace the world cannot give.

Hold in your light of compassion every troubled heart that waits for the dawn of your one eternal day. Shine with the fullness of your love into every fear-filled soul and make yourself known to all who long to see you face to face; until that hour when night is no more and there is no need of lamp or sun, when you will be our light and when in your eternal radiance you shall reign for 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 Ringer and Rachael Ringer

Communion Hymn

Now, my tongue, the mystery telling
of the glorious body sing,
and the blood, all price excelling,
which the Gentiles' Lord and King,
in a Virgin's womb once dwelling,
shed for this world's ransoming.
Given for us, and condescending
to be born for us below,
he, with us in converse blending,
dwelt the seed of truth to sow,
till he closed with wondrous ending
his most patient life of woe.

That last night, at supper lying,
'mid the Twelve, his chosen band,
Jesus, with the law complying,
keeps the feast its rites demand;
then, more precious food supplying,
gives himself with his own hand.

Word-made-flesh, true bread he maketh
by his word his flesh to be,
wine his blood; which whoso taketh
must from carnal thoughts be free:
faith alone, though sight forsaketh,
shows true hearts the mystery.

Therefore we, before him bending,
this great sacrament revere:

types and shadows have their ending,
for the newer rite is here;
faith, our outward sense befriending,
makes our inward vision clear.

Glory let us give and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
honour, might, and praise addressing,
while eternal ages run;
ever too his love confessing,
who, from both, with both is One.
Amen.

Post - Communion Prayers

Give thanks to the Lord for God is gracious

God's mercy endures for ever.

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Father almighty we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice 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)

Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of
heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.
When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of
praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

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
Retiring Organ Voluntary

NOTICES

Wildlife Meeting

The Wildlife group will be meeting again on Saturday 31st of May at 10am to continue its work in the Churchyard. All are welcome, please invite your friends. Tea, coffee and cake will be provided. (If you have your own gardening equipment please bring it along)

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

Hawkhurst Village Fete 28th

June. We have been asked once again to run the Tea Stall. A sign up sheet to help run the stall as well as for donations of cake is available from today on the table at the back. Please do sign if you can help. We hope we will once again have a generous response from you, as last year. Further details speak to Sandra or Felicity.

Thy Kingdom Come

2025 (TKC) - 29th May - 8th

June. We will be once again be joining with the global ecumenical wave of prayer. The movement invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension Thursday to Pentecost Sunday for more people to come to know Jesus. This is the 10th year of Thy Kingdom Come. Please use the Prayer Journal and the Novena booklet handed out today. You can also sign up on the TKC website and follow interesting stories of witness and encouragement.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar: The Revd Canon Rodney Dreyer
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Churchwardens

Claire Roberts 01580 754374
Liz Hatcher 01580 712099

Assistants

Lydeke Klein 01580 493732
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