

**St. Laurence Parish**  
**Church, Hawkhurst, in the**  
**Diocese of Canterbury**

**21.9.205 The Parish**  
**Eucharist Service for the**  
**Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle**

*This church is a Hybrid Church open for public worship and private prayer. This service will be live streamed. Your image will be captured on CCTV as a participant in the liturgy. Please tell a sidesman if you do not wish to be filmed in order to be seated in a position out of the view of the camera.*

The You Tube link is:

<https://www.youtube.com/@StLaurenceChurchHawkhurst>

The Sidesmen today are Jean Elliott and Judy Darkins

Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
To his feet your tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored,  
forgiven,  
Evermore his praises sing.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise the everlasting King!  
Praise him for his grace and favour  
To his people in distress.

Praise him, still the same as ever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glorious in his faithfulness!

Fatherlike he tends and spares us;

Well our feeble frame he knows.

In his hand he gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Widely yet his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;

You behold him face to face.

Sun and moon, bow down before him,

Dwellers all in time and space.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise with us the God of grace!

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**

God has shone in our hearts to  
give the light of the knowledge  
of his glory in the face of  
Christ. But we have this  
treasure in earthen vessels to  
show that the transcendent  
power belongs to God and not  
to us.

As we acknowledge our human  
frailty, we call to mind our sins  
of word, deed and omission,  
and confess them before God  
our Father.

*Silence is kept.*

You raise the dead to life in the  
Spirit

Lord, have mercy

**Lord, have mercy.**

You bring pardon and peace to  
the broken in heart:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

You make one by your Spirit  
the torn and divided

Lord, have mercy

**Lord, have mercy.**

May God our Father forgive us  
our sins and bring us to the  
eternal joy of his kingdom,  
where dust and ashes have no  
dominion. **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 .....***

The Collect

Let us pray.

O Almighty God, whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist: give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive love of riches that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ, 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

**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 2 Corinthians  
4:1-6 - read by Sandra Dreyer

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

### Gradual Hymn

Thy kingdom come, O God,  
thy rule, O Christ, begin;  
break with thine iron rod  
the tyrannies of sin.

Where is thy reign of peace  
and purity and love?  
When shall all hatred cease,  
as in the realms above?

When comes the promised  
time  
that war shall be no more,  
and lust, oppression, crime  
shall flee thy face before?

We pray thee, Lord, arise,  
and come in thy great might;  
revive our longing eyes,  
which languish for thy sight.

Men scorn thy sacred name,  
and wolves devour thy fold;  
by many deeds of shame  
we learn that love grows cold.

O'er lands both near and far  
thick darkness broodeth yet:  
arise, O Morning Star,  
arise, and never set!

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,**  
'It is the will of him who sent  
me', says the Lord, 'that I  
should lose none of all that he  
has given me, but raise them  
up on the last day'.

### **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord  
Jesus Christ according to Mat-  
thew

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

As Jesus was walking along,  
he saw a man called Matthew  
sitting at the tax booth; and he  
said to him, "Follow me." And  
he got up and followed him.  
And as he sat at dinner in the  
house, many tax collectors and  
sinners came and were sitting  
with him and his disciples.  
When the Pharisees saw this,  
they said to his disciples, "Why  
does your teacher eat with tax  
collectors and sinners?" But  
when he heard this, he said,  
"Those who are well have no  
need of a physician, but those  
who are sick. Go and learn  
what this means, 'I desire  
mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have  
come to call not the righteous  
but sinners."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Refection

### The Nicene Creed

**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 led by Stephen Ringer  
Encouraged by our fellowship  
with all the saints, let us make  
our prayers to the Father  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Father, your Son called men and women to leave the past behind them and to follow him as his disciples in the way of the cross. Look with mercy upon those whom he calls today, marks with the cross and makes his disciples within the Church...

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer**

Your Son told his disciples not to be afraid and at Easter breathed on them his gift of peace. Look with mercy upon the world into which he sent them out, and give it that peace for which it longs...

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer**

Your Son formed around him a company who were no longer servants but friends, and he called all those who obeyed him his brother and sister and mother. Look with mercy upon our families and our friends and upon the communities in which we share...

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer**

Your Son sent out disciples to preach and heal the sick. Look with mercy on all those who yearn to hear the good news of salvation, and renew among your people the gifts of healing...

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer**

Your Son promised to those who followed him that they would sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel and would share the banquet of the kingdom. According to your promise, look with mercy on those who have walked with Christ in this life and now have passed through death...

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer**

Almighty God, Grant that your Church may faithfully hold and make known the faith that has come to us through the apostles, that with them and all your saints we may inherit the glories of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer**

We pray for the sick and suffering; We pray for Eleanor Ash, David Winstone, John Tanner, Irene Bow, Brian Elliott, Jill Fitzpatrick, Keith Brown, Val Manser, Thomas Cox, Gwen Brown, Peter Duffy, Matt, Jill, Carol and Hannah. Lord, in your mercy.

### **Hear our prayer**

We pray for the recently departed; Particia Anne Okines

Those whose years mind occur at this time: Harry Sidebottom, Gladys Bridgland, Jamie Hiscock, Carolyn Horner, Pat Hodges, Ivy Fawcett, Michael Kilby, Iris Weeks, Peggy Richardson, Geoffrey Pynegar, Michael Wright, Marjorie Easteal, George Maskell, Olive Boulton, Michael Brown, Donald Buckle, Richard Thompson, Jimmy Little, Angela Cheeseman, Harold Fussell, David Fussell, Patricia Travers.

Lord, in your mercy.

### **Hear our prayer**

**God of mercy, entrusting into your hands all that you have made and rejoicing in**

**our communion with all your faithful people, we make our prayers through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

### The Peace

Jesus says: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give you Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. The peace of the risen Lord be always with you.

### **And also with you.**

### Offertory Hymn

*(During this hymn a collection will be taken for the continuing work of this church locally)*

Jesus is Lord ! Creation's voice proclaims it, for by his power each tree and flower was planned and made.

Jesus is Lord ! The universe declares it ; sun, moon and stars in heaven cry: Jesus is Lord!

Jesus is Lord ! Jesus is Lord! praise him with Alleluias, for Jesus is Lord!

Jesus is Lord ! Yet from his throne eternal in flesh he came to die in pain on Calvary's tree.

Jesus is Lord ! From him all  
life proceeding,  
yet gave his life a ransom,  
thus setting us free.

Jesus is Lord ! O'er sin the  
mighty conqueror,  
from death he rose ; and all  
his foes shall own his name.

Jesus is Lord ! God sends his  
Holy Spirit  
to show by works of power  
that Jesus is Lord.

#### 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.**

Pray, my brothers and sisters,  
that our sacrifice may be ac-  
ceptable 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 up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord  
our God

**It is right to give thanks and  
praise**

It is indeed right and good that  
we should give you thanks,  
praise and glory, almighty and  
everlasting God, through  
Jesus Christ your Son our  
Lord. For after his resurrection  
he sent out his apostles and  
evangelists to preach the



gospel to all nations and lead us in the way of truth. Himself the chief cornerstone, he founded his Church upon the apostles firmly to stand for ever as a sign of your holiness upon earth and a living witness to all of the way that leads to heaven. And so with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we lift our voices and join in their unending hymn of 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.**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues...

Great is the mystery of faith.  
**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues... **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

The Fraction

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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.**

## The Agnus Dei

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.**

## A Prayer for those joining us on You Tube 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.**

## Prayer of Humble Access

**We do not presume to come to this your Table, O 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 thy Table. But you are the same Lord, whose property 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.**

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 Distribution of Communion

The Chalice bearers today are:  
Peter Hodges and Felicity  
Robinson

## Communion Hymn

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,

That saved a wretch; like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,

Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear

The hour I first believed!

The Lord hath promised good to me,

His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be

As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,

Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise

Than when we first begun.

#### Post-Communion Prayer

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your

eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, 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**

#### Notices

##### Recessional Hymn

Immortal Love for ever full,  
for ever flowing free,  
for ever shared, for ever whole,  
a never-ebbing sea.

Our outward lips confess the name  
all other names above;  
love only knoweth whence it came  
and comprehendeth love.

We may not climb the heavenly steeps  
to bring the Lord Christ down;

in vain we search the lowest  
deeps,  
for him no depths can drown:

But warm, sweet, tender, even  
yet  
a present help is he;  
and faith has still its Olivet,  
and love its Galilee.

The healing of his seamless  
dress  
is by our beds of pain;  
we touch him in life's throng  
and press,  
and we are whole again.

Through him the first fond  
prayers are said  
our lips of childhood frame;  
the last low whispers of our  
dead  
are burdened with his name.

Alone, O Love ineffable,  
thy saving name is given;  
to turn aside from thee is hell,  
to walk with thee is heaven.

#### Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve  
the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

Let us bless the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

May the divine assistance re-  
main 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.**

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#### Organ Voluntary

## **NOTICES**

**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

**Rota** - We have six teams at present on our **TEA/COFFEE ROTA** for preparing and serving refreshments after the 10am Eucharist. A vacancy has come up for one of these slots and we are appealing to you to consider with a friend or partner to be part of this important ministry of fellowship after our Sunday service. With a full compliment of 6 teams you only have a turn every six weeks, and you can easily swap with another team should you not be able to do your next date. Perhaps we can have a team of men to take on the vacant slot? The next date needed for the team will be 12th October. Please speak to Peggy Stone for more details and to offer yourselves. 01580 276200. Many thanks. Sandra and Peggy

**Wildlife Group** - The next meeting of the Wildlife Group will be on Saturday 4th October at 10am. There is a lot to do if we are to keep the Churchyard looking beautiful and so we will be grateful for as much help as possible. There are jobs for all levels of fitness and a reward of coffee and homemade cake so please do come.

**Harvest Supper and Quiz** - Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup> – Doors open at 6pm for a prompt 6.30pm start.

Tickets are £10 per head. £5 for children under 12.

Tables of six to eight people but do please join us even if you are not bringing a team. The cut off date for catering purposes is Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

**Harvest Festival** – Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup>

**Sale on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

This is a sale in church of ***Pictures, Plants and Pretty Things***

***10am – 12 noon***, with cake and coffee. We would be pleased to receive any items that you would like to donate

for this sale in aid of Gaza and repairs to St Laurence Church. If you are able to provide a cake, please sign the list at the back of the church.

Claire Roberts is willing to collect donations if you contact her.

**Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Parish Lunch - 2nd November 2025

Hot meal - vegetarian/vegan option available, wine/soft drinks included.

£10 per head, under 16's £5, under 10's free. Please bring own plates/cutlery etc. Sign up form on table by entrance.

Contributions of desserts welcome, please indicate.

Please also indicate if you need transport. Steve and Diana Ringer

**Monday November 3<sup>rd</sup>** at

**7:30pm** in St Laurence Church, the Bodiam Band are holding an informal 'cabaret style' concert with interval music performed by small ensembles from the band.

They'd love to see you if you can make it.

**Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup>** – Remembrance Service.

**Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup>** – King Aardvarks Big Swing Band concert 7pm in church. Put on your dancing shoes. Tickets £15 to include the first drink. Paying licenced bar and snacks available during the interval. Tickets available from October.

**Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup>** – Light up a Life service (Hospice in the Weald) at 3.00pm.

**Friday December 5<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Tree Festival 10am – 4pm.

**Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Tree Festival 10am – 4pm.

**Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Tree Festival 11.30– 4pm.

**Easyfundraising**

St Laurence Church is registered with easyfundraising, which means you can help us for FREE. Over 8,000 retailers will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is

sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE! These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stlaurencehawkhurst/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=pmc&utm\\_content=email-1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stlaurencehawkhurst/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=email-1)

### **Ride and Stride**

A very big thank you to everyone who participated in any way.

Well done!!

### **QR code for giving to the continuing work of this church locally.**



**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 above.

### **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

### **Organists:**

Dr. Charlotte O' Neill  
Richard O'Neill  
01580 753817