

# Parish Eucharist

for the Third Sunday of Lent

23 March 2025

10am



Welcome to St Margaret's. The church operates a hearing loop system. Please turn your hearing aid to the "T" position. Please take a moment before our service begins to pray. A voluntary and introit may be played.

God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength.

Please stand as you are able:

I danced in the morning when the world was begun and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth; at Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me. I danced for the fishermen, for James and John – they came with me and the dance went on. I danced on the Sabbath
and I cured the lame;
the holy people
said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
and they hung me on high;
and they left me there on a cross to die.

I danced on a Friday
when the sky turned black –
it's hard to dance
with the devil on your back.
They buried my body
and they thought I'd gone;
but I am the dance and I still go on.

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me I am the Lord of the Dance said he.

LORD OF THE DANCE S Carter 1915-2004

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Please be seated for the welcome.

All 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. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

# **Prayers of Penitence**

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

Let us confess our sins.

All 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.

The choir and congregation sings:

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.

All Amen.

## The Collect

Let us pray:

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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.

All Amen.

Please be seated. The children go through to Sunday School.

### Isaiah 55:1-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me: listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the

unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The reader concludes:
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

How shall I sing that majesty which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie; sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
Thousands of thousands stand around thy throne, O God most high; ten thousand times ten thousand sound thy praise; but who am I?

Enlighten with faith's light my heart, inflame it with love's fire; then shall I sing and bear a part with that celestial choir.
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold, with all my fire and light; yet when thou dost accept their gold, Lord, treasure up my mite.

ΑII

How great a being, Lord, is thine, which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line to sound so vast a deep.
Thou art a sea without a shore, a sun without a sphere; thy time is now and evermore, thy place is everywhere.

COE FEN John Mason c 1645-1694 Kenneth Naylor 1931-1991

## 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

A reading from the letter to the Corinthians.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless. God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did: as it is

written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure.

The reader concludes:
This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel: Praise to You, O Christ, King of Eternal Glory. Praise to You, O Christ, king of eternal glory. Praise to You, O Christ, King of Eternal Glory. Praise to You, O Christ, king of eternal glory.

Repent, say the Lord, repent, says the Lord. For the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

Praise to You, O Christ, King of Eternal Glory. Praise to You, O Christ, king of eternal glory.

## Luke 13:1-9

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. The congregation sings:

All Glory to You, O Lord.

There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in

Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.' Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vinevard: and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener. "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to You, O Christ.

The Gospel will be followed by a voluntary.

## The Sermon

Rev'd Sarah Curl Please be seated.

Let us stand to declare our faith in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All 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 of Intercession

Please be seated.

Let us pray for the whole church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

The response is:

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

The intercessions conclude:

Merciful Father,

All accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour

Jesus Christ, Amen.

# The Peace

The congregation stands.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God though our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The peace is shared.

### The Collection

- A contactless collection will be available please select amount and tap card on contactless reader.
- Please fill in a gift-aid envelope if you are a UK tax payer.

Be still, my soul:
the Lord is at your side;
bear patiently
the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God
to order and provide;
in every change
he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul:
your best, your heavenly Friend
through thorny ways
leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God doth undertake to guide the future as he has the past. Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be clear at last.

Be still, my soul: the tempests still obey his voice, who ruled them once on Galilee.

Be still, my soul:
the hour is hastening on
when we shall be
forever with the Lord,
when disappointment,
grief and fear are gone,
sorrow forgotten,
love's pure joy restored,
Be still, my soul:
when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessèd
we shall meet at last

FINLANDIA Katharina Von Schlegal b 1697 trans Jane L Borthwick 1813-1897 Jean Sibelius 1865-1957

# Prayer over the Gifts

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,

All and of your own do we give you.



The congregation is seated.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son, for in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels, for ever praising you and singing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory: Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

> We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith.

All Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Margaret and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

Silence is held.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil;
for the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many, we are one body because we all share in one bread.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins 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.

All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

# **The Communion**

- All baptised Christians are welcome to receive Communion.
- The sacrament is distributed from front and back of church. Please follow the sides-persons instructions.
- If you would like a blessing please bow your head to indicate this.

An anthem may be sung.

# Prayers after Communion

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

All 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.

The Notices are given.

The children present their work.

Please stand for our closing hymn.

All my hope on God is founded; he doth still my trust renew. me through change and chance he guideth, only good and only true. God unknown, he alone calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory, sword and crown betray his trust; what with care and toil he buildeth, tower and temple, fall to dust But God's power, hour by hour, is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth, deep his wisdom, passing thought; splendour, light and life attend him, beauty springeth out of naught. Evermore, from his store new-born worlds rise and adore.

Still from earth to God eternal sacrifice of praise be done, high above all praises praising for the gift of Christ his Son. Christ doth call, one and all: ye who follow shall not fall.

MICHAEL Robert Bridges 1844-1930 Herbert Howells 1892-1983

# The Blessing & Dismissal

Let us pray for God's blessing.

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Voluntary Prelude in G Minor – Brahms (1833-1897)

Refreshments are served in the kitchen