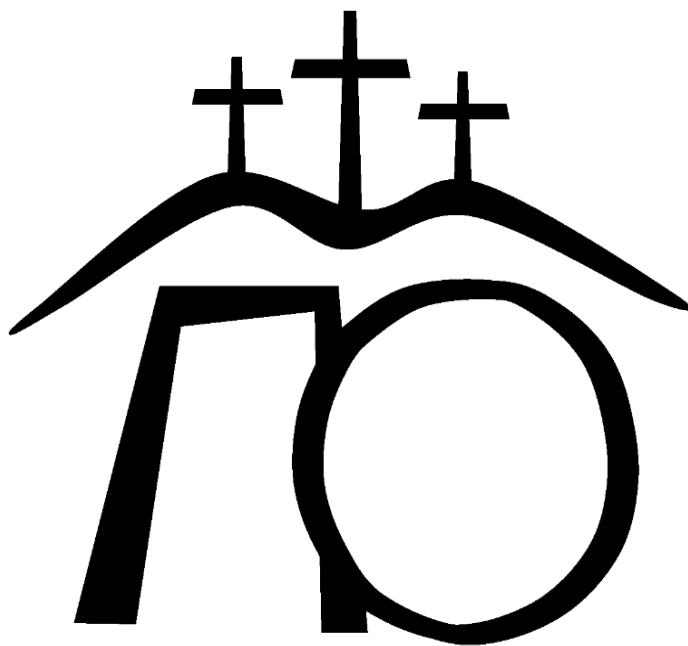


ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH  
LOWESTOFT



# Easter Sunday Morning



Sung Eucharist  
20<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Deacon: Sarah  
Presiding & Preaching: Canon Simon

# Welcome to St. Margaret's Church Lowestoft

## WELCOME & Introduction

With the first gold of dawn came a resurrection,  
a new hope that grew with the rising of the sun  
and went into the waiting world.

Today is the day

**When the darkness melted away.**

Today is the day

**When the light banished fear and decay.**

God of Easter,  
restore and heal all that is wounded,  
roll back the stone of prejudice and fear,  
release the signs of spring.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**



## **HYMN: 205 - Jesus Christ Is Risen Today**

***Jesus Christ is risen today, alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, alleluia!  
Who did once, upon the cross, alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss. alleluia!***

***Hymns of praise then let us sing, alleluia!  
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save. alleluia!***

***But the pains that he endured, alleluia!  
Our salvation have procured, alleluia!  
Now above the sky he's King, alleluia!  
Where the angels ever sing: alleluia!***

## ***Introduction to The Confession***

In this moment, we are gathered, welcoming love's return, the tomb is empty, the stone laid back. Risen one, come amongst us, speak your words of peace, release us from our fears, heal us from our wounds, restore us from the tomb of sin, to the dance of life.

*Please sit or kneel.*

### **CONFESSION**

Like the Prodigal, Jesus,  
**we have wasted your love.**

Like Nicodemus,  
**we have crept about in darkness.**

Like James and John,  
**we have slept through other's sorrow.**

Like Peter,  
**we have denied and betrayed you.**

Like Pilate,  
**we have washed our hands of blame.**

And yet, as with the woman at the well,  
**you give us drink in the heat of the day.**

As with the man born blind,  
**you open our eyes.**

As with the disciples,  
**you wash our feet.**

As with the criminal hanging near you,  
**you promise us paradise.**

As with Peter,  
**you restore us in your love.**

Give us, now, Jesus,  
**the gift of repentance, the grace of forgiveness and hearts  
made ready for Easter's joy.  
Amen.**

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our  
sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit and raise us to new life  
in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Please stand to sing the Gloria:*

**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, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.**

**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, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.**

**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, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.**

*Please remain standing for the Collect.*

## THE COLLECT

God of glory,  
By the raising of your son  
You have broken the chains of death and hell,  
Fill your church with faith and hope;  
For a new day has dawned  
And the way to life stands open  
In our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Please sit.*

### ***All Age Talk***

***Children go out to the tower room for their own activity***

### **New Testament Reading – Acts 10: 34-43 -Read by Helen**

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ - he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God

as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN: 598 – *Before the throne of God above***

***1 Before the throne of God above***

***I have a strong, a perfect plea:***

***a great High Priest, whose name is Love,  
whoever lives and pleads for me.***

***My name is graven on his hands,***

***my name is written on his heart;***

***I know that while in heaven he stands***

***no tongue can bid me thence depart,***

***no tongue can bid me thence depart.***

***2 When Satan tempts me to despair,***

***and tells me of the guilt within,***

***upward I look, and see him there***

***who made an end of all my sin.***

***Because the sinless Saviour died,***

***my sinful soul is counted free;***

***for God, the Just, is satisfied***

***to look on him and pardon me,***

***to look on him and pardon me.***

***3 Behold him there! the risen Lamb!***

***my perfect, spotless righteousness,***

***the great unchangeable I AM,***

***the King of glory and of grace!***

***One with my Lord, I cannot die;***

***my soul is purchased by his***

***blood;***

***my life is hid with Christ on high,***

***with Christ, my Saviour and my God,***

***with Christ, my Saviour and my God.***

*If you are able, please remain standing for the Gospel Reading.*

## **Gospel Reading – John 20: 1-18**

Jesus is risen from the dead.

**Alleluia!**

He has defeated death.

**Alleluia!**

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.

**Alleluia!**

He has the words of eternal life.

**Alleluia!**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.

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

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;

for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**SERMON Canon Simon Stokes**



## THE CREED

*Please stand as we affirm our faith.*

**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 Led by Pam

*Responses:*

*Alleluia! Christ is risen*

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*At the end:*

Merciful Father,

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

*Children return from their activity and share what they have  
been doing*

**NOTICES and time of sharing**

## LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

**THE PEACE** (please stand)

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples  
and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then they were glad when they saw the Lord.

**Alleluia!**

Alleluia. The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you. Alleluia!**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## **OFFERTORY HYMN: 216 - *The day of resurrection.***

During the hymn the bread & wine are brought forward, and the altar is prepared. The collection is also offered at the Altar

***The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad;  
the Passover of gladness,  
the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
from earth unto the sky,  
our Christ hath brought us over,  
with hymns of victory.***

***Our hearts be pure from evil,  
that we may see aright  
the Lord in rays eternal  
of resurrection light;  
and listening to his accents,  
may hear so calm and plain  
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,  
may raise the victor strain.***

***Now let the heavens be joyful!  
Let earth her song begin!  
The round world keep high triumph,  
and all that is therein!  
Let all things seen and unseen  
their notes in gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord hath risen,  
our joy that hath no end.***

ST JOHN OF DAMASCUS (c.675 – 750)  
*translated by* JOHN MASON NEALE (1818 – 1866)

Risen Lord Jesus Christ,  
we believe you, and all we have heard is true.  
When we break bread

**May we recognise you as the fire that burns within us  
that we may bring light to your world. Amen.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*[Please sit or kneel - The choir may remain standing]*

*The Lord be with you  
and also with you*

*Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them to the Lord.*

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give thanks and praise.*

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,  
Lord God of truth, for by the breath of your mouth  
you have spoken your word,  
and all things have come into being.  
You fashioned us in your image  
and placed us in the garden of your delight.  
Though we chose the path of rebellion  
you would not abandon your own.  
Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.  
You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets  
to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.  
As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,  
we echo the song of the angels in heaven,  
evermore praising you and singing:

*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty,  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty  
Who was and is and is to come  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.*

Lord God, you are the most holy one,  
enthroned in splendour and light,  
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ  
you reveal the power of your love  
made perfect in our human weakness.  
Embracing our humanity,  
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;  
loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us;  
dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin,  
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

***Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,  
Jesus is the Lord God Almighty.  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,  
Jesus is the Lord God Almighty.  
Who was and is and is to come -  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord.***

On the night he gave up himself for us all  
he took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.



In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you  
thanks; he gave it to them, 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.



Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,  
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,  
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high  
and we long for his coming in glory.

***Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord,  
Worthy is the Lord God Almighty,  
Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord,  
Worthy is the Lord God Almighty  
Who was and is and is to come  
Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lord.***

As we recall the one perfect sacrifice of our redemption,  
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation  
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
form us into the likeness of Christ  
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people  
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.  
Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free  
and fill your Church with power from on high.  
Gather your people from the ends of the earth  
to feast with all your saints at the table in your kingdom,  
where the new creation is brought to perfection  
in Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours,  
almighty Father for ever and ever.

***Glory, glory, glory to the Lord,  
Glory to the Lord God Almighty  
Glory, glory, glory to the Lord,  
Glory to the Lord God Almighty  
Who was and is and is to come  
Glory, glory, glory to the Lord.***



### **The Lord's prayer**

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.

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

## *The Agnus Dei*

***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.***

Come to this table, because Jesus loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

All are welcome to come forward to receive the bread and the wine or a blessing. It is helpful for us if you say your name when you come to the front. The choir will receive Holy Communion first at the High Altar, followed by the rest of the congregation who will receive Holy Communion at the Chancel step.

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

***Anthem: Come ye faithful (Thatcher)***

## **Hymn: 249 – *Holy Spirit, living breath of God***

***1 Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,  
breathe new life into my willing soul.  
Bring the presence of the risen Lord  
to renew my heart and make me whole.  
Cause your word to come alive in me,  
give me faith for what I cannot  
see;  
give me passion for Your purity;  
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.***

***2 Holy Spirit, come abide within,  
may your joy be seen in all I  
do.  
Love enough to cover every sin  
in each thought and deed and attitude:  
kindness to the greatest and the least,  
gentleness that sows the path of peace.  
turn my strivings into works of grace;  
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.***

***3 Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,  
giving life to all that God has made,  
show your power once again on earth,  
Cause your church to hunger for your ways.  
May the fragrance of our prayers arise;  
lead us on the road of sacrifice,  
that in unity the face of Christ  
may be clear for all the world to see.***

Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)

## ***POST COMMUNION PRAYER***

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,  
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:  
give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and  
King, to the glory of God the Father.

**Amen**

*Together we say this prayer:*

**God of life, who for our redemption gave your only begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**HYMN 218: *Thine Be The Glory***

**1 Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.  
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won!***

**2 Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.  
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won!***

**3 No more we doubt thee, glorious prince of life;  
Life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;  
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;  
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.  
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won!***

Edmond Budry (1854-1932)

## ***THE BLESSING***

Risen Lord Jesus,  
Let us trust you:  
**Roll away the stone of our doubts.**

Let us proclaim you:  
**Roll away the stone of our reserve.**

Let us rejoice in you:  
**Roll away the stone of heaviness of heart.**

Let us find our hope in you:  
**Roll away the stone of our fear.**

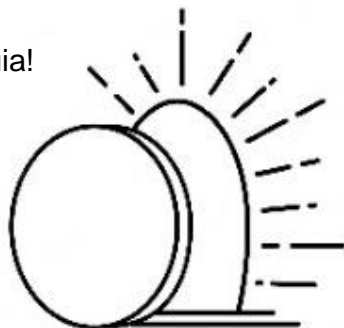
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you,  
those you love and those you pray for this day  
and evermore.

**Amen.**

## ***THE DISMISSAL***

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**



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