

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
LOWESTOFT



Service of Holy Communion

(Alternative Service)



Sunday 10th August 2025
8th Sunday after Trinity

Before the start of the service

Song: Amazing Grace (My Chains are gone)

*Amazing grace
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm 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*

*My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace*

*The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures*

*My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace*

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, Who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.*

*My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace*

WELCOME & Introduction (please remain seated)

Preacher Sarah
Presiding Canon Simon

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

HYMN 650 - *Great is thy faithfulness*

**1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

**2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

T.O. Chisholm © 1951 Hope Publishing Co.

Prayers of Penitence

We are invited to confess what we have done wrong using these words:

We come to God from whom no secrets are hidden,
and ask for forgiveness and peace.

Therefore, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

Confession (please sit or kneel)

Father, you come to meet us when we return to you:

Restore us when we are lost.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, you died on the cross for our sins:

Forgive us when our lives don't reflect your love.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Spirit, you give us life and peace:

Free us from the turmoil of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE PERUVIAN GLORIA (please stand)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father!
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father!

To Him be glory for ever!
To Him be glory for ever!

Alleluia. Amen.
Alleluia. Amen. Alleluia. Amen. Alleluia. Amen.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to Christ Jesus...
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to Christ Jesus...

To Him be glory for ever!
To Him be glory for ever!

Alleluia. Amen.
Alleluia. Amen. Alleluia. Amen. Alleluia. Amen.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to the Spirit...
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to the Spirit...

To Him be glory for ever!
To Him be glory for ever!

Alleluia. Amen.
Alleluia. Amen. Alleluia. Amen. Alleluia. Amen.

THE COLLECT (prayer of the week - found on the pew sheet)

Lord God,
your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride,
when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (please sit)

all age talk Sarah

BIBLE READING

New Testament: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Read by Kathryn

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as many as the stars of

heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.' All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 373 - *Purify my heart.*

***1 Purify my heart,
let me be as gold and precious silver.
Purify my heart,
let me be as gold, pure gold.
Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire
is to be holy, set apart for you, Lord.
I choose to be holy,
set apart for you, my Master,
ready to do your will.***

***2 Purify my heart,
cleanse me from within and make me holy.
Purify my heart
cleanse me from my sin, deep within.
Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire
is to be holy, set apart for you, Lord.
I choose to be holy,
set apart for you, my Master,
ready to do your will.***

Brian Doerksen (b. 1965)

GOSPEL READING Luke 12:32-40

(please remain standing)

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ‘Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. ‘But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Sarah

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (please stand)

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?
We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?
We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Led by Rev Jim (please sit or kneel)

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

At the end:

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

NOTICES AND TIME OF SHARING

THE PEACE (please stand)

Deep peace be in your hearts,
Deep peace with God's good earth,
Deep peace with friend and stranger,
Deep peace with God - Creator, Redeemer and life-giving Spirit.
The deep peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN 757 - *One more step along the world I go.*

(During the hymn the bread & wine are brought forward & the altar prepared)

**1 One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go,
From the old things to the new
Keep me travelling along with you.
*And it's from the old I travel to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you.***

**2 Round the corners of the world I turn,
more and more about the world I learn.
All the new things that I see
you'll be looking at along with me.
*And it's from the old I travel to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you.***

**3 As I travel through the bad and good
Keep me travelling the way I should.
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know.
*And it's from the old I travel to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you.***

**4 Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough,
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me travelling along with you.
*And it's from the old I travel to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you.***

**5 You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me.
Ever old and ever new,
keep me travelling along with you.
*And it's from the old I travel to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you.***

Sydney Carter ©1971 Stainer & Bell Ltd

With this bread that we bring,
we shall remember Jesus.

With this wine that we bring,
we shall remember Jesus.

Bread for his body, wine for his blood,
gifts from God to his table we bring.
We shall remember Jesus.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (please sit or kneel)

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.

Almighty God, good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.
In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.

Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in heaven's song:

***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.***

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from
heaven.

To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

Sing

***Blessèd assurance, Jesus is mine:
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation purchase of God;
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood:***

***This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour, all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour, all the day long.***

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food.
He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.
Do this in remembrance of me.
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
He took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Sing

***Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.***

***This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour, all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour, all the day long.***

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.
May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Sing

***Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love***

***This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour, all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour, all the day long.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER

United as one body we pray for the coming of God's Kingdom in heaven and on earth, using the words our Saviour taught us:

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 forever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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 is sung:

***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.***

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.

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.

HYMN (please remain seated)

146 - *Jesus Christ, I think upon your sacrifice.*

***1 Jesus Christ, I think upon your sacrifice;
you became nothing, poured out to death.
Many times I've wondered at your gift of life
and I'm in that place once again,
I'm in that place once again.
And once again I look upon
the cross where you died.
I'm humbled by your mercy
and I'm broken inside.
Once again I thank you,
once again I pour out my life.***

***2 Now you are exalted to the highest place,
King of the heavens, where one day I'll bow.
But for now I marvel at this saving grace
and I'm full of praise once again,
I'm full of praise once again.
And once again I look upon
the cross where you died.
I'm humbled by your mercy
and I'm broken inside.
Once again I thank you,
once again I pour out my life.***

***3 Thank you for the cross,
thank you for the cross,
thank you for the cross, my friend.
Thank you for the cross,
thank you for the cross,
thank you for the cross, my friend.***

***And once again I look upon
the cross where you died.
I'm humbled by your mercy
and I'm broken inside.
Once again I thank you,
once again I pour out my life.***

Matt Redman (b.1974)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Said by a minister and found on the weekly pew sheet.

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word
be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love
shine with the light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed with your body
be refreshed with the fullness of your life;
glory to you for ever.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Lord, we have broken your bread
and received your life.

By the power of your Spirit,
keep us always in your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

HYMN 595 - Be thou my vision.

***1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me save that thou art;
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.***

***2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
Be thou ever with me and I with thee Lord;
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.***

***3 Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.***

***4 Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:
Be thou mine inheritance now and always;
Be thou, and thou only, the first in my heart;
O sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art!***

***5 High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright son,
O grant me its joys after victory is won;
Great heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.***

(Irish 8th century)

Translated by MARY ELIZABETH BYRNE (1880-1931)

Versified by ELEANOR HENRIETTA HULL (1860-1935)

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious to us.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon us and grant us peace.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be upon us and remain with us,

be upon those we love,

pray for and care for

now and for evermore.

Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

or

By the power of the Spirit, we take into our community the peace
and love of God.

In the name of Christ. Amen.



BEFORE YOU GO

We're so glad that you decided to join us today.

If you are new to the church
and would like us to keep in touch,
or to arrange a time when we can visit you,
please leave your details with us.

You are very welcome to join us for refreshments
in the church centre following the service.

**May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you.
May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.**

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