

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
LOWESTOFT



Service of Holy Communion

Service One

Sunday 8th February 2026
2nd Sunday before Lent



Mass Setting:
St. Thomas (D. Thorne)



**Deacon Gerda
Preacher Rev Jim
Presiding Canon Simon**

WELCOME & Introduction [please remain seated]

We meet in the presence of God
who knows our needs, feels our pain,
and shares our joy.
This is the day that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Faith seekers go to their activity during this hymn

HYMN 754 - O worship the King.

***1 O worship the King, all glorious above!
O gratefully sing his power and his love!
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.***

***2 O tell of his might! O sing of his grace!
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
his chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.***

***3 The earth, with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old,
hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.***

***4 Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.***

***5 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end!
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!***

***6 O measureless might, ineffable love,
while angels delight to hymn thee above,
thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.***

ROBERT GRANT (1779 – 1838) based on Psalm 104

Prayers of Penitence

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

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.
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*)

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

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 GLORIA

(If you are able, 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.***

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

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

(Please sit)

BIBLE READING

New Testament: Romans 8: 18-25 Read by Augustine

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 42 - Longing for light

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

***Longing for truth, we turn to
you.***

***Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.***

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

**Your word alone has power to save
us.**

Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

3 Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

**Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.**

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

**Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.**

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

**5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.**

**Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.**

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

BERNADETTE FARRELL (b. 1957)

GOSPEL READING Matthew 6: 25-end

(Please remain standing)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
one God, who was, and who is, and who is to come, the Almighty.

Alleluia!

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you - you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Rev Jim

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(If you would like to, please stand as we affirm our faith)

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Led by Sarah

(Please sit)

Lord, in your mercy,
Receive our prayer.

At the end:

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

Faith Seekers return and show what they have been doing

CALLING OF BANNS OF MARRIAGE, NOTICES AND TIME OF SHARING

THE PEACE

(If you would like to, please stand)

We are the body of Christ,
by one spirit we were all baptised into one body.
Let us pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common
life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Deacon: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN 575 - When I needed a neighbour

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

***1 When I needed a neighbour,
were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter,
were you there?***

***2 I was hungry and thirsty,
were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty,
were you there?
And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter
were you there?***

***3 I was cold, I was naked,
were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter
Were you there?***

***4 When I needed a shelter,
were you there, were you there?
When I needed a shelter, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter
Were you there?***

***5 When I needed a healer,
were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter
Were you there?***

***6 Wherever you travel,
I'll be there, I'll be there,
wherever you travel, I'll be there.
And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter
I'll be there***

SYDNEY CARTER (1915-2004)

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)
[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!

Lord of all life,
you created the universe
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth
to discover and to cherish.

You sent your Son to live among us,
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.
He suffered on the cross;
he died to save us from our sins;
he rose in glory from the dead,

and we share his risen life.
You send your Spirit
to bring new life to the world,
and clothe us with power from on high.
And so we join the angels
to celebrate and sing:

***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, on the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.
He took the bread and thanked you.
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.



After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood, the new promise of God's unfailing love.
Do this in remembrance of me.



Father, as we bring this bread and wine,
and remember his death and resurrection,
send your Holy Spirit,
that we who share these gifts

may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us
that we may love one another,
work for the healing of the earth,
and share the good news of Jesus,
as we wait for his coming in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith.

***Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.***



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. 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.

An anthem is usually sung by the Choir and then a Hymn is also sung during communion (please remain seated)

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 Forth in the name of Christ (Ogden)

Hymn 249 - Holy Spirit, 249 - Holy Spirit, come abide within.

***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

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

God our creator,
by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart
of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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!***

THOMAS O. CHISHOLM (1866 – 1960)

THE BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, be upon those you 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.

