

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH  
LOWESTOFT



# Holy Communion



For Pentecost Sunday

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Deacon Sarah  
Presiding & Preaching Canon Simon**

**Mass Setting: Thorne**



## WELCOME & Introduction

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The fire of God is coming!  
**Sing praises to God**

The wind of God is blowing!  
**Sing praises to God**

The joy of the Spirit is here!  
**Sing Praises to God**  
**Sing praises all the earth!**

**Faith Seekers go out at the end of the hymn**

**HYMN 238 Come down, O love divine.**

**1 Come down, O love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**

**2 O let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**

**3 Let holy charity  
mine outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;  
true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.**

**4 And so the yearning strong,  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace,  
till we become the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.**

Bianco Da Siena (d.1434)

*Translated by* Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890)

This is the day when the church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit. It's a day of celebration and a day of challenge. It's a day of praise and a day of prayer. Let us imagine we are gathered with the first followers of Jesus.

They were all together in one place, praying and waiting, and so let us wait and pray, and together confess our sins to Almighty God:

God of wind and flame

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:

**fill us with your Spirit.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:

**fill us with your Spirit.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:

**fill us with your Spirit.**

May the God of wind and flame forgive *us* and strengthen *us* to live in the power of the Spirit all *our* days. **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.***

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

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,  
ignite in us your holy fire;  
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,  
revive your Church with the breath of love,  
and renew the face of the earth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD *(please sit)***

### **READING**

**New Testament: Acts 2: 1-21**

***Read by Samuel (in English) & Richard (in French)***

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs - in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.' But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 258 - *O thou who camest from above.***

***1 O thou who camest from above  
the fire celestial to impart,  
kindle a flame of sacred love  
on the mean altar of my heart.***

***2 There let it for thy glory burn  
with inextinguishable blaze,  
and trembling to its source return  
in humble prayer and fervent praise.***

***3 Jesus, confirm my heart's desire  
to work and speak and think for thee;  
still let me guard the holy fire  
and still stir up the gift in me.***

***4 Ready for all thy perfect will,  
my acts of faith and love repeat,  
till death thy endless mercies seal,  
and make the sacrifice complete.***

CHARLES WESLEY (1707-1788)

Please remain standing for the **GOSPEL READING**  
**John 20: 19-23**

Alleluia, alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love.

**Alleluia.**

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

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

It was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**SERMON Canon Simon**

*We stand to affirm our Faith*

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 Vivian**

*Please sit or kneel*

*These responses may be used*

Lord of wind and flame

**Receive our prayer**

*at the end*

Merciful Father

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

***Faith Seekers to return***

***Notices and time of sharing***

### **THE PEACE (*please stand*)**

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. 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 598 - *Before the throne of God above.***

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

***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.***

Charitie Lees De Chenez (1841–1923)\*

Blessed be God, who feeds the hungry,  
**Blessed be God, who raises the poor,**

Blessed be God, who fills our praise.  
Blessed be God for ever.

## **EUCCHARISTIC 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.*

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord.

This day we give you thanks because in fulfilment of your promise you pour out your Spirit upon us, filling us with your gifts, leading us into all truth, and uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith.

Your Spirit gives us grace to call you Father, to proclaim your gospel to all nations and to serve you as a royal priesthood.

Therefore we join our voices with angels and archangels, and with all those in whom the Spirit dwells, to proclaim the glory of your name, 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:

***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 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. **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,  
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 forever.**

**Amen.**

## THE 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

*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.*

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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.

An anthem is usually sung by the Choir and then a **HYMN** is also sung during Communion. (Please remain seated)

**Anthem:** Holy Spirit, truth divine (Wynn Jones)

**HYMN 747 - O God, you search me and you know me.**

**1 O God, you search me and you know me.**

**All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.**

**When I walk or lie down you are before me:**

**ever the maker and keeper of my days.**

**2 You know my resting and my rising.**

**You discern my purpose from afar,**

**and with love everlasting you besiege me:**

**in every moment of life and death, you are.**

**3 Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,**

**you have known its meaning through and through.**

**You are with me beyond my understanding:**

**God of my present, my past and future, too.**

**4 Although your Spirit is upon me,**

**still I search for shelter from your light.**

**There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:**

**even the darkness is radiant in your sight.**

**5 For you created me and shaped me,**

**gave me life within my mother's womb.**

**For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:**

**safe in your hands, all creation is made new.**

BERNADETTE FARRELL (b. 1957) based on Psalm 139

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

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

Faithful God,

who fulfilled the promises of Easter

by sending us your Holy Spirit

and opening to every race and nation

the way of life eternal:

open our lips by your Spirit,

that every tongue may tell of your glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **THANKSGIVING PRAYER**

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **HYMN 264 - *The Spirit lives to set us free.***

***1 The Spirit lives to set us free,  
walk, walk in the light;  
he binds us all in unity,  
walk, walk in the light.  
Walk in the light,  
walk in the light,  
walk in the light,  
walk in the light of the Lord.***

***2 Jesus promised life to all,  
walk, walk in the light;  
the dead were wakened by his call,  
walk, walk in the light.  
Walk in the light,  
walk in the light,  
walk in the light,  
walk in the light of the Lord.***

***3 He died in pain on Calvary,  
walk, walk in the light;  
to save the lost like you and me,  
walk, walk in the light.  
Walk in the light,  
walk in the light,  
walk in the light,  
walk in the light of the Lord.***

**4 We know his death was not the end,  
walk, walk in the light;  
he gave his Spirit to be our friend,  
walk, walk in the light.  
Walk in the light,  
walk in the light,  
walk in the light,  
walk in the light of the Lord.**

**5 By Jesus' love our wounds are healed,  
walk, walk in the light;  
the Father's kindness is revealed,  
walk, walk in the light.  
Walk in the light,  
walk in the light,  
walk in the light,  
walk in the light of the Lord.**

**6 The Spirit lives in you and me,  
walk, walk in the light;  
his light will shine for all to see,  
walk, walk in the light.  
Walk in the light,  
walk in the light,  
walk in the light,  
walk in the light of the Lord.**

Damian Lundy (1944–1996)

**Following the hymn the choir will process to the back of the  
Church**

**The minister pauses at the paschal candle and says:**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, overflowing in love.  
With Pentecost dawns the age of the Spirit.  
Now the flame of heaven rests on every believer.  
The young receive visions, the old receive dreams.  
With the new wine of the Spirit we proclaim your amnesty of love.  
Amid the birth pangs of the new creation the way of light is made known.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit will you dare to walk into God's future trusting Him to be your guide?

**By the Spirit's power, we will.**

Will you dare to embrace each other and grow together in love?

**We will.**

Will you dare to share your riches in common and minister to each other in need?

**We will.**

Will you dare to pray for each other until your hearts beat with the longings of God?

**We will.**

Will you dare to carry the light of Christ into the world's dark places?

**We will.**

*The Paschal Candle is extinguished.*

*The minister goes to the font at the back of the church*

May the Spirit, who hovered over the waters when the world was created, breathe into you the life he gives. **Amen.**

May the Spirit, who overshadowed Mary when the eternal Son came among us, make you joyful in the service of the Lord. **Amen.**

May the Spirit, who set the Church on fire upon the day of Pentecost,  
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father,  
the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia**

***Thank you for worshipping with us today, please join us for refreshments in the church hall.***

