

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
LOWESTOFT



Service of Holy Communion

(Alternative Service)



Sunday 23rd August
Week 5

Summer Sermon Series on the Beatitudes

Deacon: Sarah

Presiding & Preaching: Simon



“Blessed Are the Merciful” - Matthew 5: 7

Theme: *Those who have received mercy become people who extend mercy.*

Sermon focus: *Mercy is kingdom evidence: it reveals that grace has moved from belief into practice.*

WELCOME & Introduction (please remain seated)

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

HYMN 818 To God be the glory

***1 To God be the glory,
great things He has done;
So loved He the world
that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life
an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate
that all may go in.***

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father,
through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory,
great things He hath done.***

***2 O perfect redemption,
the purchase of blood,
To every believer
the promise of God;
The vilest offender
who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus
forgiveness receives.***

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father,
through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory,
great things He hath done.***

**3 Great things He has taught us,
great things He has done,
And great our rejoicing
through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher,
and greater will be
Our wonder, our rapture,
when Jesus we see.**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father,
through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory,
great things He hath done.**

FANNY CROSBY (FRANCES JANE VAN ALSTYNE) (1820-1915)

Prayers of Penitence

We are invited to confess what we have done wrong

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)

This may be omitted or another version used

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

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (please sit)

Introduction to our readings

BIBLE READING

New Testament: Matthew 5: 1-12 (Read by Val)

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN Jesus, be the centre (separate sheet)

***Jesus, be the centre,
be my source, be my light,
Jesus.***

***Jesus, be the centre,
be my hope, be my song,
Jesus.***

***Be the fire in my heart,
be the wind in these sails,
be the reason that I live,
Jesus, Jesus.***

***Jesus, be my vision,
be my path, be my guide,
Jesus.***

***Be the fire in my heart,
be the wind in these sails,
be the reason that I live,
Jesus, Jesus.***



GOSPEL READING (please remain standing)

Matthew 18: 21-35 (Read by Samuel)

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.

“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Simon

Sermon focus:

Mercy is kingdom evidence: it reveals that grace has moved from belief into practice.

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 Jennifer D
(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 - Amazing Grace (My chains are gone)

On a separate sheet

A reminder about the hymn Blessed assurance sung through the eucharistic prayer (During the hymn the altar is prepared)

***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***

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 Above all powers (Separate Sheet) - please remain seated

***Above all powers, above all kings
above all nature and all created things;
above all wisdom and all the ways of man,
you were here before the world began.
Above all kingdoms, above all thrones
above all wonders the world has ever known;
above all wealth and treasures of the earth,
there's no way to measure what you're worth.***

***Crucified, laid behind a stone;
you lived to die, rejected and alone;
Like a rose, trampled on the ground,
you took the fall, and thought of me,
above all.***

REPEAT

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside our sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in Christ
may bring that healing to this broken world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 719 Lord, the light of your love is shining

[Shine Jesus shine]

***1 Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.***

***Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord,
and let there be light.***

***2 Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.***

***Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord,
and let there be light.***

***3 As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory;
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.***

***Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord,
and let there be light.***

GRAHAM KENDRICK (b. 1950)

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.