

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
LOWESTOFT



Service of Holy Communion

Service One



Sunday 13th September 2026
15th Sunday after Trinity

Week 8 of the Beatitudes

*Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted
Because of Righteousness*

Mass Setting: St. Thomas (D. Thorne)

**Deacon Sarah
Presiding & Preaching Canon Simon**



WELCOME & Introduction (please remain seated)

Theme: *Faithful kingdom living may bring opposition, but Jesus promises belonging, joy and reward.*

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 out to their own activities

HYMN 569 - The Kingdom of God

***1 The kingdom of God is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.***

***2 The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,
the captives are freed, the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened instead of despair.***

***3 The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.***

***4 God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,
and all things cry 'Glory!' to God all in all.***

Bryn Rees (1911–1983)

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 or kneel)*

**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)*

Lord God,
defend your Church from all false teaching
and give to your people knowledge of your truth,
that we may enjoy eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD *(Please sit)*

BIBLE READING

New Testament: Acts 5: 27-42 (Read by Samuel)

The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings! The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead - whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Saviour that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honoured by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men

alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”

His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 775 Seek ye first

***1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you;***

Allelu-, alleluia:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu-, alleluia!

***2 Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
seek and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you;***

Allelu-, alleluia:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu-, alleluia!

***3 We shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord;***

Allelu-, alleluia:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu-, alleluia!

Karen Lafferty (b.1948)

GOSPEL READING Matthew 5: 1-12

(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.

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Simon

Sermon Focus:

Persecution does not mean God's blessing has failed; it can confirm faithful identification with Jesus.

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 Gerda

(Please sit or kneel)

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

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 Bless the Lord, O my soul (10,000 reasons)

See Separate Sheet

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

***Bless the Lord oh my soul, Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before, Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name***

***The sun comes up
It's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass
And whatever lies before me
Let me be singing
When the evening comes***

***Bless the Lord oh my soul, Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before, Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name***

***You're rich in love
And You're slow to anger
Your name is great
And Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness
I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons
For my heart to find***

***Bless the Lord oh my soul, Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before, Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name***

*And on that day
When my strength is failing
The end draws near
And my time has come
Still my soul will
Sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years
And then forevermore
Forevermore*

*Bless the Lord oh my soul, Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before, Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name
I'll worship Your Holy name
Yes, I'll worship Your Holy name*

Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman © 2011 Thankyou Music

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 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: Be thou my vision - Chilcott

HYMN 629 Father, hear the prayer we offer

***1 Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength, that we may ever
live our lives courageously.***

***2 Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be ;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.***

***3 Not forever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.***

***4 Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wanderings be our Guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.***

LOVE MARIA WILLIS (1824-1908)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy;
and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall,
keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful,
and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation;
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 678 In Christ alone!

***1 In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.***

***2 In Christ alone! — who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.***

***3 There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine
bought with the precious blood of Christ.***

***4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!***

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

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.