

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
LOWESTOFT



Service of Holy Communion



for Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 27th September 2026

Mass Setting: St Thomas (D. Thorne)

Presiding – Canon Simon

Guest Speaker - Amanda Wisher – Fishermen's Mission

Deacon - Sue



WELCOME and Introduction

Please remain seated.

We gather at Harvest Thanksgiving to rejoice in God's goodness, to give thanks for the gifts of creation, and to dedicate ourselves afresh to generous and careful stewardship of the earth and sea.

The earth and sea have yielded their harvest; God, our God, has blessed us. You visit the earth and water it; you make it very plenteous. You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

This is the day that the Lord has made:

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

HYMN 282 Come ye thankful people come

During the hymn Harvest gifts are placed around the font

**1. Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all be safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.**

**2 All the world is God's own field
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown
unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
grant , O harvest Lord, that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**3 For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall purge away
all that doth offend, that day,
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.**

**4 Then, thou Church triumphant, come
raise the song of harvest home;
all be safely gathered in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in God's garner to abide:
come, ten thousand angels come,
raise the glorious harvest home!**

HENRY ALFORD (1810-1871)

Prayer of blessing over the gifts

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Deacon God has filled the earth with beauty and abundance, yet we confess that we have not always received these gifts with gratitude, shared them with justice, or cared for creation with reverence.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Please sit or kneel

You delight in creation, its colour and diversity; yet we have misused the earth and plundered its resources for our own selfish ends.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You have brought order out of chaos, light in darkness, and good out of evil; yet we have chosen darkness in words and deeds which dishonour your holy name.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You have showered us with blessings; yet we have been grudging towards others and lacking in generosity in word and deed.

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 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.

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.

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

Creator God,
you made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest,
may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit. All-age talk – Canon Simon

BIBLE READING 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 *Read by Helen*

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 639 Give thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, 'I am strong!'

Let the poor say, 'I am rich!'

because of what the Lord has done for us.

And now let the weak say, 'I am strong!'

Let the poor say, 'I am rich!'

because of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, 'I am strong!'

Let the poor say, 'I am rich!'

because of what the Lord has done for us.

And now let the weak say, 'I am strong!'

Let the poor say, 'I am rich!'

because of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks.

GOSPEL READING John 5:1-15

Please remain standing

Alleluia, alleluia! God has spoken to us through his Son, through whom he created the worlds. Alleluia!

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Sometime later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie - the blind, the lame, the paralysed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

"Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat." But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?" The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Amanda Wisher – Fishermen's Mission

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 Read by Kathryn

Please sit or kneel.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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

NOTICES AND TIME OF SHARING

THE PEACE

If you would like to, please stand.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. 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 284 For the fruits of his creation

During the hymn the bread and wine are brought forward and the altar is prepared.

***1 For the fruits of all creation,
Thanks be to God;
For the gifts to every nation,
Thanks be to God;
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
Silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safe keeping,
Thanks be to God.***

***2 In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
In the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
In our world-wide task of caring
For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.***

***3 For the harvests of his Spirit,
Thanks be to God;
For the good we all inherit,
Thanks be to God;
For the wonders that astound us,
For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us,
Thanks be to God.***

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

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, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise, almighty Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. In him you have created all things and called them good; through the turning of the seasons you renew the face of the earth; by seedtime and harvest you provide for your children and teach us to trust in your generous love.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious 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.



Great is the mystery of faith.

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

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world, rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in company with all your saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As children of the God who gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater, and trusting the Father who knows our needs before we ask, let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom, 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 for ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION

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 if you please 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 at the Chancel step.

An anthem may be sung by the choir, followed by a hymn 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 still for the presence of the Lord - Evans

HYMN 287 Praise and thanksgiving

***1 Praise and thanksgiving,
Father, we offer,
For all things living
you have made good;
Harvest of sown fields,
fruits of the orchard
Hay from the mown fields,
blossom and wood.***

***2 Bless thou the labour
we bring to serve thee,
That with our neighbour
we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling,
we would work with thee;
Harvesting, milling,
for daily bread.***

***3 Father, providing
food for thy children,
They wisdom guiding
teaches us share
One with another,
so that, rejoicing,
with us our brother
may know thy care.***

***4 Then will thy blessing
reach every people;
Freely confessing
Thy gracious hand:
Where thy will reigneth
no one will hunger;
Thy love sustaineth;
fruitful the land.***

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord of the harvest,
with joy we have offered thanksgiving
for your love in creation
and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom:
by your grace plant within us a reverence
for all that you give us
and make us generous and wise stewards
of the good things we enjoy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

**May God who clothes the lilies
and feeds the birds of the sky,
who leads the lambs to pasture
and the deer to water,
who multiplied loaves and fishes
and changed water into wine,
change us to reflect the glory of our Creator
through all eternity. Amen**

HYMN 290 We plough the fields and scatter

**1 We plough the fields, and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand;
he sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.**

**All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above,
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
for all his love.**

**2 He only is the Maker
of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star;
The winds and waves obey him,
by him the birds are fed;
much more to us, his children,
he gives our daily bread.**

**All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above,
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
for all his love.**

**3 We thank thee, then, O Father,
for all things bright and good,
the seed time and the harvest,
our life, our health, and food.
Accept the gifts we offer,
for all thy love imparts,
and, what thou most desirest,
our humble, thankful hearts.**

**All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above,
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
for all his love.**

MATTHIAS CLAUDIUS (1740-1815)

translated by JANE MONTGOMERY CAMPBELL (1817-1878)

THE BLESSING

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessing upon all things created,
and upon you his children
that you may use them to his glory
and the welfare of all peoples;

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

Freely you have received, freely give.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

