

St Mary of Charity

Parish Church Faversham

Fifth Sunday in Easter

29 April 2018

Welcome to the beautiful church of St Mary of Charity. Please do stay for a drink and fellowship. If you are here for the first time, please make yourself known to one of the clergy.

For our prayers:

- the Benefice of Faversham clergy team and lay ministry and all whose ministry is in Faversham and the Ospringe Deanery;
- Rev Mark Ham and Rev Jo Richards as they prepare to begin work in their new parishes in Dartford and Canterbury, respectively;
- those affected by 'natural disasters' and extreme weather in the world;
- the Rohingya seeking safety;
- those who work in disaster relief;
- those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire;
- those who are homeless or vulnerably housed;
- those who are experiencing financial hardship;
- those who work for the emergency services;
- those who are receiving medical treatment;
- the people of Syria, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan; and
- all who live in fear of violence and aggression.

10.30 am Parish Eucharist (CW)
1.30 pm Baptism: Leeds

Readings:

Acts 8:26-40

John 15:1-8

COLLECT:

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son
Jesus Christ
have overcome death
and opened to us
the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace
going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.
Amen

Next Sunday:

Sixth Sunday in Easter

Acts 8:26-40

John 15:1-8



The Gathering

Hymn: *Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise*
Please stand

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hearts to heaven and voices raise ;
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise :
he who on the cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits
of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield ;
then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine,
from the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen ;
shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain, and dew, and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face ;
that we, with our hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel-hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with thee.

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Saviour,
who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
to the Triune Majesty.

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Greeting

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love You,
and worthily magnify Your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Prayers of Penitence; Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Invitation to confession

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.

Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

cf 1 Corinthians 5.7,8

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gloria Sung to the tune of 'At the name of Jesus' Please stand

**Glory in the highest to the God of heaven;
peace to all your people through the earth be given.
Mighty God and Father; thanks and praise we bring,
singing Alleluia to our heavenly king.**

**Jesus Christ is risen, God the Father's Son;
with the Holy Spirit, you are Lord alone.**

**Lamb once killed for sinners, all our guilt to bear,
show us now your mercy, now receive our prayer.**

**Christ the world's true Saviour, high and holy one,
seated now and reigning from your Father's throne;
Lord and God, we praise you! Highest heaven adores:
in the Father's glory, all the praise be yours!**

The Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us
the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
 you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word; Reading Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
 and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
 so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
 Who can describe his generation?
 For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Song: *Bless the Lord, O my soul Please stand*

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
worship His holy name
sing like never before, O my soul
I 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

Chorus

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

Chorus

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 forever more

Chorus

Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

Please remain standing

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

Alleluia.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament; The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

Alleluia.

cf John 20.19

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**Preparation of the Table;
Taking of the Bread and Wine**

Song: *Speak, O Lord Please stand*

During this hymn a collection will be taken

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
to receive the food of Your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us
all Your purposes, for Your glory.

Teach us Lord full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise
cause our eyes to see,
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, 'til Your church is built
and the earth is filled with Your glory.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Lord is here
His spirit is with us.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away
you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.
**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.
**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

Unknown



Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly is the Lord, ho - ly is the Lord God al - migh - ty. Ho - ly,
ho - ly ho - ly is the Lord, ho - ly is the Lord God al - migh - ty: who was, and
is, and is to come; ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

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 for ever. Amen.**

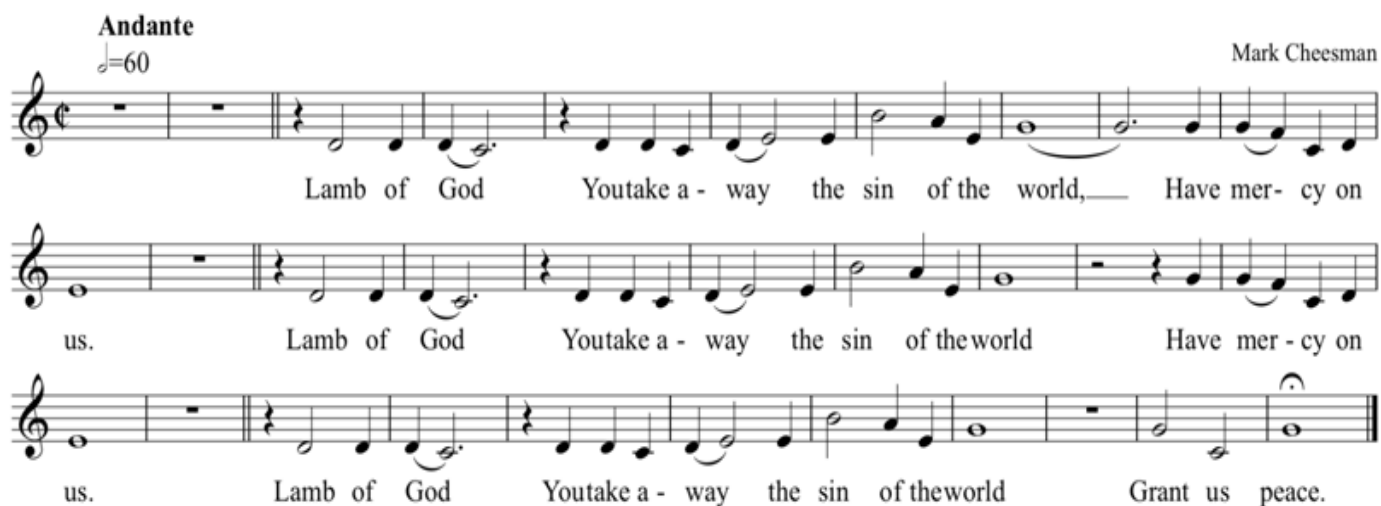
Breaking of the Bread

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.**

Agnus Dei

Andante
♩=60

Mark Cheesman



Lamb of God You take a - way the sin of the world, — Have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God You take a - way the sin of the world Have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God You take a - way the sin of the world Grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Amen.

During the distribution the choir sing The Call; Vaughan Williams. You are then invited to join in with the following songs: Glorious in majesty and Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day. Please remain seated. During the Eucharist healing ministry will be offered in the Trinity Chapel (south of the Chancel).

Glorious in majesty, holy in His praises,

Jesus, our Saviour and our King.

Born a man, yet God of old, let us all adore Him;
filled with His Spirit, let us sing.

*Living is to love Him;
serving Him, to know His freedom
come along with us to join the praise of Jesus.
Come to Jesus now,
go to live His word rejoicing.*

Victory He won for us, freeing us from darkness,
dying and rising from the dead.

Living with the Father now, yet He is among us.
we are the body; He, the head

Chorus

Christians, we live in love, living with each other,
gladly we share each other's pain.

Yet He will not leave us so, soon He is returning,
taking us back with Him to reign.

Chorus

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day:

Christ on the road to Calvary.

Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then
nailed to a cross of wood.

*This, the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath –
we stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh, to see the pain written on Your face,
bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Every bitter thought, every evil deed
crowning Your bloodstained brow.

Chorus

Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath
quakes as its maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life;
'Finished!' the victory cry.

Chorus

Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,
for through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,
won through Your selfless love.

*This, the power of the cross:
Son of God – slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Prayer after Communion

God of Life,
who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son
to the death of the cross,
and by his glorious resurrection
have delivered us from the power of our enemy:
grant us so to die daily to sin,
that we may evermore live with him
in the joy of his risen life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Hymn: *God is love, let heaven adore him Please stand*

God is Love: let heav'n adore him;

God is Love: let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.

He who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heav'ns above,
he who breathes through all creation,
he is Love, eternal Love.

God is Love: and he enfoldeth
all the world in one embrace;
with unfailing grasp he holdeth
every child of every race.

And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

God is Love: and though with blindness
sin afflicts the souls of all,
God's eternal loving-kindness
holds and guides us when we fall.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

Blessing

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.



Richard and Jane Shipman are extremely grateful for the prayers and support they have received in past two months.

He is pleased to say that he is making good progress, albeit slowly, since his recent operation.



Christian Aid week this year runs from Sunday, 13 May to Saturday, 19 May.

If you are able to help with the fundraising in any way, please speak to Val or Keith Tyler.

**Cakes and savouries are available
at the West End of the church, in aid of the Holiday Club.
We hope you brought your pocket money...**

**Notices to Catriona for the June Notice Sheet by
Wednesday, 23 May latest!**

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