



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LAURENCE LUDLOW



SUNDAY 23 MARCH 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

PARISH EUCHARIST 10am

Revd Preb Kelvin Price *President*

Caroline Culley *Preacher*

Michael Oakley *Director of Music*

Robert Green *Organist*

The Choir of St Laurence's

WELCOME

We warmly welcome you to St Laurence's, especially if you are a visitor or newcomer to our congregation. Please be aware that this service will be live-streamed and the recording will be available on YouTube afterwards.

During communion all are welcome to come forward to receive if you have been baptised in any Christian church, all others are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please note communion will be offered in both kinds. Intinction by individuals is not permitted, following the hygiene guidance issued by the Church of England.

St Laurence's is an inclusive church, and everyone is welcome. If you need any assistance accessing our services, please ask one of the stewards.

Children are always welcome in St Laurence's and there is a children's area in the North aisle with toys, games and art materials available for use at any time.

A toilet, including facilities for people with disabilities, is in the North aisle of the Church.

No Photography or Recording is allowed during this service.

A donation to support the work of this church including gift aid envelopes can be placed in the basket either before the service begins or as you leave; donations made before the service will be presented at the appropriate point; your contribution is greatly appreciated. You can also donate by text, by sending STLL22 (add amount) to 70070, eg to donate £5, text STLL22£5 to 70070.

Thank you for your support



If you use a hearing aid please switch to the 'T' position and you will be tuned into the induction loop system.

St Laurence's is an inclusive church in which all are welcome

Picture on front cover: *Parable from the Barren Fig Tree fig tree*
by Abel Grimmer c.1570 - c.1620
Museum Plantin-Moretus, Antwerp

THE GATHERING

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

New every morning is the love
our wakening and uprising prove;
through sleep and darkness safely brought,
restored to life and power and thought.

2. New mercies, each returning day,
hover around us while we pray;
new perils past, new sins forgiven,
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

3. If on our daily course our mind
be set to hallow all we find,
new treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.

4. The trivial round, the common task,
will furnish all we ought to ask,
room to deny ourselves, a road
to bring us daily nearer God.

5. Only, O Lord, in thy dear love,
fit us for perfect rest above;
and help us, this and every day,
to live more nearly as we pray.

John Keble 1792-1866

MELCOMBE

THE GREETING

In the name of the ☩ Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Please sit

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

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

**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.**

KYRIE ELEISON

The image displays two staves of musical notation for the Kyrie Eleison. The first staff is divided into four sections: 'Solo' (Ky - ri-e), 'Choir and congregation' (e - le-i-son), 'Solo' (Chri - ste), and 'Choir and congregation' (e - le-i-son). The second staff is divided into two sections: 'Solo' (Ky - ri-e - e - le-i-son) and 'Choir and congregation' (Ky-ri-e e - e - le-i-son). The notation includes treble clefs, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and various rhythmic values such as quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, along with rests and repeat signs.

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

Plainsong Mass XVIII

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.**

If you are able, please stand

Let us pray

COLLECT

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
 mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Please sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 55.1-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
 come to the waters;
 and you that have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
 Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
 and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
 Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
 Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Choir sings

PSALM 63.1-9 *Deus, Deus meus*

- O God, thou art my God: early will I seek thee.
2. My soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh also longeth after thee: in a barren and dry land where no water is.
3. Thus have I looked for thee in holiness: that I might behold thy power and glory.
4. For thy loving-kindness is better than the life itself: my lips shall praise thee.
5. As long as I live will I magnify thee on this manner: and lift up my hands in thy Name.
6. My soul shall be satisfied, even as it were with marrow and fatness: when my mouth praiseth thee with joyful lips.
7. Have I not remembered thee in my bed: and thought upon thee when I was waking?
8. Because thou hast been my helper: therefore under the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.
9. My soul hangeth upon thee: thy right hand hath upholden me.

NEW TESTAMENT READING
I Corinthians 10.1-13

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If you are able, please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1st time Choir

2nd time Choir & Congregation



Praise to you, O Christ, King of e - ter - nal glo - ry.

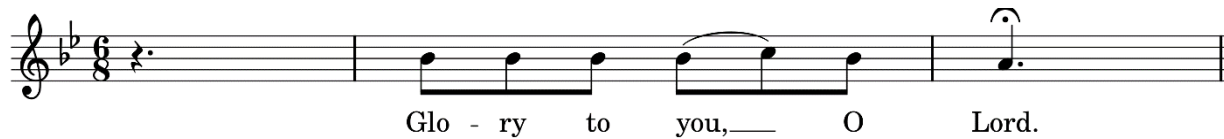
Choir

I am the light of the world, says the Lord,
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Repeat Praise to you

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke



At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Please sit

SERMON

Silence is kept

If you are able, please stand

**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.

Please sit

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The response after each bidding

Lord in your mercy or
Hear our prayer

Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us

And at the end

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand

THE PEACE

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN

In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time:
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

2. When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me;
lo! it glows with peace and joy.

3. When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more luster to the day.

4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.

5. In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

John Bowring 1792-1872

LOVE DIVINE

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

God of our journey,
as we walk with you on your path of obedience,
sustain us on our way and lead us to your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

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,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word;
through him you have created all things from the beginning,
and formed us in your own image.
Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin,
giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross;
you raised him from the dead
and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us
your holy and life-giving Spirit,
and made us a people for your own possession.
And now we give you thanks
because you give us the spirit of discipline,
that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace,
as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery
with mind and heart renewed.

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:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

Solo Choir and congregation-----

Sanc-tus,-- sanc-tus,-- sanc-tus Dom-in-us De-us Sa-ba-oth. Ple-ni-sunt coe-li-et-ter-ra
glo-ri-a-tu - a - Ho-san-na-in ex-cel-sis
Be-ne-dic-tus qui ve-nit in nom-in - e Dom-in - i Ho-san - na in ex - cel - sis

Holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Plainsong Mass XVIII

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Please sit

Silence is kept

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup,
**we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

AGNUS DEI

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Agnus Dei. The first staff is labeled 'Solo' and 'Choir and congregation'. The second staff is also labeled 'Solo' and 'Choir and congregation'. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Solo Choir and congregation

Ag-nus-De - i qui-tol-lis-pec-ca-ta mun-di mi-se-re-re no - bis

Solo Choir and congregation

Ag-nus-De - i qui tol-lis pec-ca-ta mun-di do-na no-bis pa-cem

*Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us
Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, grant us peace*

Plainsong Mass XVIII

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The people receive communion.

*To the words of distribution the communicant replies **Amen.***

Communicant members of any Christian Church are welcome to receive communion here. All others are invited to come for a blessing, holding this service sheet.

The Choir sings

ANTHEM

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks
so longeth my soul after thee,
O God
My soul is athirst for the living God
yes, even for the living God.
When shall I come to appear
before the presence of God?
My tears have been my meat day and night,
while they daily say unto me
Where, where is now thy God?
My tears have been my meat day and night.
My meat day and night.
Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks
So longeth my soul after thee,
O God.
My soul is athirst for God,
Yea, for the living God.
When shall I come to appear
before the presence...
the presence of God?

Herbert Howells 1892-1983

Silence is kept

**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**

If you are able, please stand when directed

THE DISMISSAL

THE BLESSING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

May God the Father,
who does not despise a broken spirit,
give you a contrite heart.
Amen.

May Christ,
who bore our sins in his body on the tree,
heal you by his wounds.
Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
who leads us into all truth,
speak to you words of pardon and peace.
Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ
Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Disposer supreme, and Judge of the earth,
who chooseth for thine the meek and the poor;
to frail earthen vessels, and things of no worth,
entrusting thy riches which ay shall endure;

2. Those vessels soon fail, though full of thy light,
and at thy decree are broken and gone;
thence brightly appeareth thy truth in its might,
as through the clouds riven the lightnings have shone.

3. Like clouds are they borne to do thy great will,
and swift as the winds about the world go:
the Word with his wisdom their spirits doth fill;
they thunder, they lighten, the waters o'erflow.

4. Their sound goeth forth, 'Christ Jesus the Lord!'
then Satan doth fear, his citadels fall;
as when the dread trumpets went forth at thy word,
and one long blast shattered the Canaanite's wall.

5. O loud be their trump, and stirring their sound,
to rouse us, O Lord, from slumber of sin:
the lights thou hast kindled in darkness around,
O may they awaken our spirits within.

6. All honour and praise, dominion and might,
to God, Three in One, eternally be,
who round us hath shed his own marvellous light,
and called us from darkness his glory to see.

Jean de Santeul 1630-1697
tr. Isaac Williams 1802-1865

OLD 104TH

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Kyrie, Gott heiliger Geist BWV 671

JS Bach 1685-1750

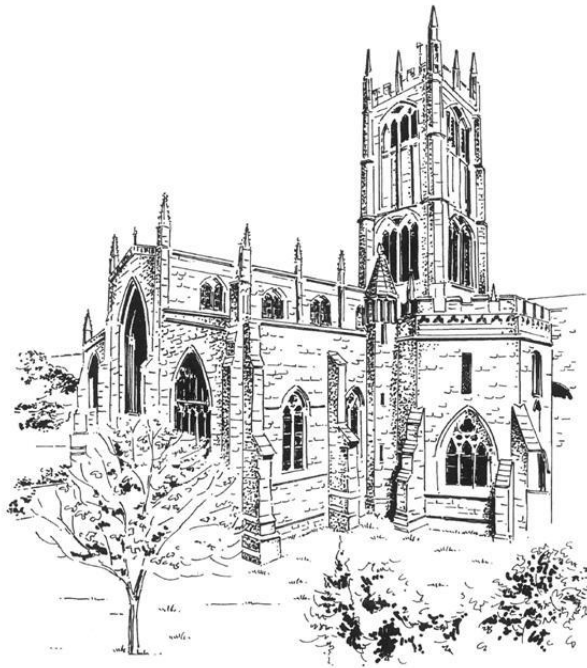
Please join us for coffee after the service

Today at 6pm Celtic Prayer

Next Sunday's Services

8.15am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Benefice Eucharist – at St John's



An inclusive church welcoming everyone



St Laurence's is committed to the goals of a Fairtrade Church. We use fairtrade communion wine, tea, coffee, sugar and other products where possible. We hold regular Fair Trade stalls and events promoting Fairtrade

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