

# **LANCASTER PRIORY**

**St Mary with St George and St John**

**A WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY,  
SERVING THE PEOPLE OF LANCASTER**



## **ASCENSION DAY**

**21 May 2020 at 7.00 pm**

*A very warm welcome to everyone who is joining us “virtually” through our Facebook page.. It is a great delight to lead worship from our spiritual home of Lancaster Priory for our service today.*

Celebrant: The Revd Canon Chris Newlands, Vicar of Lancaster

Reader: Dr David Cheung

*Please join in saying the words in **bold** type.*

*The priest greets the congregation:*

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.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*The deacon invites us to confess our sins*

Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed into the heavens,  
Jesus the Son of God, let us draw near with a true heart,  
in full assurance of faith, and make our confession to our heavenly Father.

In the wilderness we find your grace; you love us with an everlasting love.  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

There is none but you to uphold our cause;  
our sin cries out and our guilt is great.  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Heal us, O Lord, and we shall be healed;  
restore us and we shall know your joy.  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

*The priest pronounces the*

## **WORDS OF ABSOLUTION**

May the Father of all mercies cleanse you from your sins,  
and restore you in his image to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE GLORIA**

**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. Amen.**

## THE COLLECT

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please sit for ...*

## THE FIRST READING

*A reading from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles*

*(Acts 1.1-11)*

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit." So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Sing praises to God, the King of the whole earth.**

Clap your hands together, all you peoples; O sing to God with shouts of joy. For the Lord Most High is to be feared; he is the great King over all the earth. R/

God has gone up with a merry noise, the Lord with the sound of the trumpet. O sing praises to God, sing praises, sing praises to our King, sing praises. R/

For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with all your skill. God reigns over the nations; God has taken his seat upon his holy throne. R/

**Sing praises to God, the King of the whole earth.**

## THE SECOND READING

*A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians*

*(Ephesians 1.15-23)*

Ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

## THE GOSPEL

*Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation:*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord.

Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

The Lord be with you **and also with you**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord**

*(Luke 24.44-53)*

Jesus said to the disciples, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** The Vicar

## THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.

*And then we sit or kneel for*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*These responses may be used*

*Leader:* Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

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

## *All stand for* THE PEACE

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.  
If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father.' Alleluia.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**and also with you**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace*

## THE OFFERTORY

*The priest prepares the bread and wine*

Word made flesh, life of the world,  
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:  
by your Spirit may we share in your riches. **Amen.**

*(Please remain standing, if you feel able, until after we have recited the Lord's Prayer together and seen the bread broken before us)*

## THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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 and good, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ the King of glory. Born of a woman, he came to the rescue of our human race. Dying for us, he trampled death and conquered sin. By the glory of his resurrection he opened the way to life eternal and by his ascension, gave us the sure hope that where he is we may also be. Therefore the universe resounds with Easter joy and with choirs of angels we sing for ever to your praise:

## THE SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
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**

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.

*Priest:*

This is the mystery of faith

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

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.**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

*(each in our own language)*

**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.**

## **THE 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.**

*Please kneel or sit for ...*

## **THE AGNUS DEI**

**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.**

Priest: 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 COMMUNION

*As an Act of Spiritual Communion, you may wish to give thanks for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus and ask him to be with you now by saying this prayer:*

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given  
me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our Father, you have raised our humanity in Christ  
and have fed us with the bread of heaven: mercifully grant that,  
nourished with such spiritual blessings, we may set our hearts in the  
heavenly places; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## *The priest gives* **THE BLESSING**

Christ our ascended King pour upon you the abundance of his gifts and  
bring you to reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the  
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you  
always. **Amen.**

*Deacon:* Our Eucharist is ended, let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

The Priory is taking a big hit from a  
drop in visitor income, venue income,  
and service collections.  
If your income is keeping up, please  
consider using the barcode to make a  
donation to the work of the Priory.  
We share a great sense of thanksgiving  
for all that God is inspiring around us  
in these difficult times.

