

LANCASTER PRIORY

St Mary with St George and St John

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



PRIORY EUCHARIST

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

2 May 2021

at 10.00 am

A very warm welcome to all our visitors, especially if you are visiting us for the first time. There will be many of our church family who will not yet feel able to worship with us in church—though they continue to join us on the live-stream. To ensure the safety of all who are present in the Priory it is still mandatory to wear face masks unless exempt for medical reasons.

Please use the pews marked green and respect social distancing regulations when you take your seat.

Unfortunately, as singing is not yet permitted there will be no hymns, though we are able to appreciate the organ and the choir. The collection plate will be at the back of Church or you can make an electronic payment, or join our Planned Giving Scheme.

Holy Communion will be given (only in one kind) at the chancel step, please follow the direction of the stewards, and keep social distancing as you line up and return via the side aisles to your seat.

Current restrictions mean we are still not allowed to socialise after the service. We are grateful for your patience as we work through this challenging time together as the people of God in this place.

President: The Revd Dr Gary Bowness, Hon. Associate Priest
Sermon: The Revd Canon Brenda Harding, Hon Associate Priest
Readers: Nigel Stewart, Bella Leong-Smith
Intercessor: Hilary Hopwood, Peter Hopwood
Organist: Ian Pattinson FRCO, Priory Organist
Introit: Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr (Krebs)
Offertory: Interlude on 'Now the green blade riseth' (W.S. Lloyd Webber)
Final Voluntary: *Tuba Tune* (Lang)
Choir setting: Orgelsolo Mass (Mozart)

11.30am Baptism. Officiant: The Revd Tim Evans, Hon Associate Priest

4.00pm Family Service

6.30pm Choral Evensong (BCP)

Officiant: Mrs Lois Kirtley, Licensed Lay Minister

Services next Sunday 9 May—Sixth Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion

President: The Revd Dr Gary Bowness, Hon. Associate Priest

10.00am Priory Eucharist

President: The Revd Canon Paul Warren, Hon. Associate Priest

Sermon: The Revd Canon John Roff, Hon. Associate Priest

11.30am Baptism—The Revd Canon Paul Warren, Hon Associate Priest

6.30pm Choral Evensong (BCP)

Officiant: The Revd Anna Walker, Ordinand in Training

THE WELCOME and Notices –

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

We stand at the entry of the ministers

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

Blessed are you, sovereign God of all;
you lead us from death to life.

In baptism you create a new people, cleansing us from sin,
consecrating us to service, and transferring us from the dominion
of darkness into the kingdom of your beloved Son.

Before you we confess our sin:

**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.

THE CHOIR SINGS THE KYRIE

*Lord have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us,
Lord have mercy upon us.*

The priest pronounces the

WORDS OF ABSOLUTION

Lord Christ, true light of the world, have mercy upon you, shine in
your hearts, and banish all darkness from your lives that you might
see the Way that leads to eternal life, and follow without
stumbling for evermore. **Amen.**

THE CHOIR SINGS 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

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, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unit 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 8. 26-end)

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.

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

THE CHOIR SINGS PSALM 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord shall praise him; their hearts shall live
forever.

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
For the kingdom is the Lord's
and he rules over the nations.

How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship,
or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?
He has saved my life for himself; my descendants shall serve him;
this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.
They shall come and make known his salvation, to a people yet
unborn, declaring that he, the Lord, has done it.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

THE SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of John

1John 4.7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we

in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

THE GOSPEL

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation:

Cantor: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**
Jesus revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Deacon: The Lord be with you. **And also with you**

Deacon: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord

(John 15.1-8)

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 Revd Canon Brenda Harding

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.

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**

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.

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

Deacon: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

THE OFFERTORY

The Gifts are brought to the Altar.

The priest prepares the bread and wine.

The congregation responds to each petition:

Blessed be God for ever.

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, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.
For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

THE CHOIR SINGS THE SANCTUS

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing

before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Deacon:

This is the mystery of faith

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

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.
(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 as

THE CHOIR SINGS 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.

The priest invites the congregation to receive communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

All Christians who are members in good standing of their own denominations are invited to receive Holy Communion (only the Bread). Please follow directions from the stewards and maintain social distancing as you line up. Holy Communion is received from the priest at the chancel step, as the communion wafer is placed on your palm. If you would prefer to receive a Blessing, please bring this order of service with you. If you require a gluten free wafer please bring a green card which you can find near the entrance to the church.

*During the Communion the choir sings the anthem: If ye love me (Talis)
Rejoice in the Lord alway: And again I say, rejoice. Let your softness be known unto all men. The Lord is e'en at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in all prayer and supplication let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks. And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way,
the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

The priest gives

THE BLESSING

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

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

In this period until a new vicar is appointed, the churchwardens
(Pauline Fielding & Andrew Nicholson)
will try to address any concerns you may have.
You can contact them by emailing: office@lancasterpriory.org or ring 01524 65338.



A Prayer during the Vacancy at Lancaster Priory

**Almighty God,
in the company of your saints,
in the footsteps of those who have worshipped here before us,
we, your pilgrim people of Lancaster Priory
wait upon your Spirit in calling a priest to your service here.
Bless our Patrons and Patronage Committee,
our PCC and all concerned for this appointment.
With those who feel drawn to serve you in this place,
help us to discern your purpose,
nourish our hopes for our new life together,
prepare us afresh for witness to our Lord and Saviour Jesus 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 QR code 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.

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