LANCASTER PRIORY

St Mary with St George and St John

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

ASCENSION DAY

13 May 2021
7.30pm

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 Canon Paul Warren
Sermon: Mrs Lois Kirtley, Licensed Lay Minister
Setting: Dove
Readers: David Lewis, Nigel Stewart
Intercessor: Gill Jenkinson
Organist: Ian Pattinson FRCO, Priory Organist
Final Voluntary*: Fanfare on 'Rejoice, the Lord is King'* (Willcocks)

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

INTROIT *O God the King of Glory* (Purcell)

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!**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, for forty days we have been celebrating with joyful hearts the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, his bursting from the tomb and his defeat of the power of sin and death. He appeared to his disciples many times and told them about the kingdom of God.
Today we recall how he left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers. Trusting in his reign over all creation, and submitting to his kingly yet loving rule, in this eucharist let us hear the story of his parting.

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 CHOIR SING 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**

THE CHOIR SINGS PSALM 47

Sing praises to God, sing praises to God, the King of all the 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.
He subdued the peoples under us
and the nations under our feet.
He has chosen our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom he loves.

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.

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.

The nobles of the people are gathered together
with the people of the God of Abraham.
For the powers of the earth belong to God
and he is very highly exalted.

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:

Cantor: 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

Deacon: The Lord be with you
and also with you

Deacon: 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 Mrs Lois Kirtley

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

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

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 CHOIR SING 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.

Deacon: Jesus Christ is Lord:
Lord by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world

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.

Looking for the coming of his kingdom, 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.

THE CHOIR SING 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

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 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: *O clap your hands* (Vaughan Williams)

O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.
For the Lord most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth.
God is gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises
For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.
God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.

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 DISMISSAL

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (1.12,13a,14)

Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying. They were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.
(No response is made)

After a period of silence is the priest says:

As we wait in silence,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.
As we listen to your word,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.
As we worship you in majesty,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.
As we long for your refreshing,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.
As we long for your equipping,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.
As we long for your empowering,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

After a period of silence the priest gives

THE BLESSING

God the Father,
who has given to his Son the name above every name,
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.
Amen.
God the Son,
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,
plead for you at the right hand of the Father.
Amen.
God the Holy Spirit,
who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,
make you faithful servants of Christ our King.
Amen.
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Deacon: Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

LANCASTER PRIORY

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.

© The Archbishops' Council Copyright Licence and Music Reproduction Licence number M267952

LANCASTER PRIORY