

**Holy Communion - Fifth Sunday of Lent
22nd March 2026
Raising of Lazarus**

Welcome & Notices

Gathering Prayer

**We have come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.
Amen.**

Opening Hymn Love Divine All Loves Excelling

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;
All thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit,
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
Let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return and never,
Never more thy temples leave.**

**Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish, then, thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
'Til in heaven we take our place,
'Til we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788) alt.

Collect for Purity:

**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.**

Lenten Liturgy

Each week throughout Lent we place on the Lenten Cross a symbol to remind us of the story of our Lord's journey to the cross, climaxing in his death and resurrection.

The symbol of the Lenten Cross is a whip. Jesus was flogged with a whip before he was crucified. We hear the story read to us from the Bible.

Bible Reading:

Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. *(Mark 15:15).*

[whip is placed at the foot of the cross]

Prayer:

We thank you Lord that you were willing to suffer pain and humiliation for us. You were willing to die in the place of Barabbas. We thank you that you laid down your life for your friends. Help us receive all the benefits of your passion and death for us and live in friendship with you. Amen

Song of Response: Such Love Pure as the Whitest Snow

**Such love, pure as the whitest snow,
Such love, weeps for the shame I know,
Such love, paying the debt I owe,
O Jesus, such love.**

**Such love, stilling my restlessness,
Such love, filling my emptiness,
Such love, showing me holiness,
O Jesus, such love.**

**Such love, springs from eternity,
Such love, streaming through history,
Such love, fountain of life to me,
O Jesus, such love.**

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Introduction to the Confession based on Psalm 130 1-4, 7

Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord. Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. If you, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

Let us put our hope in the Lord, for with him is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

Confession

Let us return to the Lord our God and say to him:

**Father,
we have sinned against heaven and against you.
We are not worthy to be called your children.
We turn to you again.
Have mercy on us,**

**bring us back to yourself
as those who once were dead
but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

cf Luke 15

We receive God's Forgiveness:

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive you your sins
and make you holy to serve him in the world
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

Reading: John 11: 1-45 *(Linda & Peter)*

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

[this will be a dramatic reading because it is a very long! In that case no words on screen.]

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

Sermon - Joy

Gradual Hymn As the Deer Pants

**As the deer pants for the water
So my soul longs after you
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship you**

***You alone are my strength, my shield
To you alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship you***

**I want you more than gold or silver
Only you can satisfy
You alone are the real joy giver
And the apple of my eye**

***You alone are my strength, my shield
To you alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship you***

**You're my friend and you are my brother
Even though you are a king
I love you more than any other
So much more than anything.**

***You alone are my strength, my shield
To you alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship you***

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Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.**

**We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:**

**saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.**

**So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end.**

The Peace

He who raised Jesus from the dead, will give life to our mortal bodies.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Intercessions (*Andrew*)

Responses

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our Prayer

Merciful Father:

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

Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

**Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Offertory Hymn Just as I am

**Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou biddest me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings within and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind;
Yes, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)

Offertory Prayer:

Yours, Lord, is the greatness,
the power, the glory,
the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

Amen

Eucharistic Prayer (E)

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

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
to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father
through Jesus Christ, your Son.

For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds
we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels
for ever praising you and **singing**:

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

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.**

The Lord's Prayer: (sung)

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 forever.
Amen.**

Breaking of 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.**

Prayer of humble access

**We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.
Amen.**

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink
in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

Instrumental During administration

Post Communion Prayer

**Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Opportunity for Sharing

Final Hymn Take My Life

**Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in endless praise.**

**Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my voice and let me sing,
Always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
Every power as thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will and make it thine,
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own,
It shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee.**

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)

Blessing

May you find in Christ crucified
A strength in times of darkness,
A support in times of weakness,
And the assurance that life is eternal;
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 peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ: Amen

Please stay for refreshments and prayer ministry