

ST MARK AND ALL SAINTS, READING

*Whoever you are,
wherever you are on life's journey
you are welcome here.*

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL 2026

THE FEAST OF ST MARK

THE GATHERING

*All the words are in this service sheet. Please join in with the words printed in **bold type**.*

ENTRANCE HYMN

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord for the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt you,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us-
self on the cross, and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

THE GREETING

✠ In the name of the Father,
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The priest welcomes us and introduces the theme of the service.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

The saints were faithful unto death
and now dwell in the heavenly kingdom for ever.
As we celebrate their joy,
let us bring to the Lord our sins and weaknesses,
and ask for his mercy.

We say together

**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.**

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.**

The children's choir sing the gloria

THE GLORIA

*Gloria Gloria in excelsis deo
Gloria Gloria in excelsis deo*

Lord God heavenly King peace you bring to us
We worship you ,we give you thanks, we sing a song of praise

Jesus Saviour of all Lord God Lamb of God
You take away our sins, O Lord have mercy on us all

At the Father's right hand Lord receive our prayer
For you alone are the holy one & you alone are Lord

Glory Father & Son, glory Holy Spirit
To you we raise our hands up high, we glorify your name.

The priest invites us to pray silently and then prays the collect:

Almighty God,
who enlightened your holy Church
through the inspired witness
of your evangelist Saint Mark:
grant that we, being firmly grounded
in the truth of the gospel,

may be faithful to its teaching
both in word and deed;
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

FIRST READING

Ephesians 4.7-16

Each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said,

'When he ascended on high he made captivity
itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.'

(When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

As we sing the Gospel Book is carried into the midst of the congregation, reflecting God's coming among us in Christ. Please turn to face it.

**In our day of thanksgiving
one psalm let us offer
for the saints who before us
have found the reward;
when the shadow of death
fell upon them, we sorrowed,
but now we rejoice
that they rest in the Lord**

**In the morning of life,
and at noon, and at evening,
they were gathered to heav'n
from our worship below;
but not till God's love,
at the font and the altar,
had clothed them with grace
for the way they should go.**

**These stones that have echoed
their praises are holy
and dear is the ground
where their feet have once trod;
yet here they confessed
they were strangers and pilgrims,
and still they were seeking
the city of God.**

**Sing praise, then, and thanks
that God's love here has found them
whose journey is ended,
whose perils are past;
they believed in the light;
and its glory is round them
where the clouds of earth's sorrows
are lifted at last.**

THE GOSPEL
Mark 13.5-13

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

I have called you friends, says the Lord,
for all that I have heard from my Father
I have made known to you.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus began to say to the disciples, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

As for yourselves, beware; for they will hand you over to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

THE SERMON

A brief period of silence may follow for us to reflect on the address and the readings today, then the priest invites

us to stand to declare our faith.

THE CREED

**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.**

Sit or kneel to pray

THE INTERCESSIONS

At the end of the prayers we may say

**Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,**

our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand

THE PEACE

May the God of peace sanctify you:
may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness
that you may be blameless before him
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with his saints.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

As we sing a collection will be taken for the work of the church.

**Let us build a house
where love can dwell
And all can safely live,
A place where
saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
Rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions;
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.***

**Let us build a house where prophets speak,
And words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
And a symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
*All are welcome ...***

**Let us build a house where love is found
In water, wine and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground,
Where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
Is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
*All are welcome ...***

When the altar is prepared and the offerings received the president leads the offertory prayers

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:

through your goodness we have this bread
to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Generous God, as we gather around your table called and welcomed by Christ we present this
money, symbol of all the gifts you give to us.

**use it, use us, in the service of your world
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

Almighty God, good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.
In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.
Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in heaven's song:

**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.**

Father of all, we give you thanks
for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

This is his story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross
on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

This is his story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.
May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.**

Amen.

We kneel or sit as silence is kept before the Lord's Prayer.

**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 priest breaks the consecrated bread, saying

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 priest invites the people to receive Communion, and says

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.

**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 your peace.**

COMMUNION HYMN

**Will you come and follow me
I but call your name?**

**Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?**

**Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?**

**Will you leave your self behind
if I but call your name?**

**Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?**

**Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare,
will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?**

**Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?**

**Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?**

**Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?**

**Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?**

**Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.**

**Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.**

**In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.**

**Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Once communion has been shared we stand when the priest invites us to pray.

Almighty God,
who on the day of Pentecost
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:

by the power of the same Spirit
strengthen us to witness to your truth
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

**God of gentleness and love
draw near to us as we draw near to you.
Dwell in every heart and conversation.
Fashion in us the likeness of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Help us to discern together
all that you are calling us to be
and all that you are calling us to do.
Assist us by your Spirit to become a more contemplative, more compassionate
and more courageous Church,
for the building of your kingdom
and the glory of your Son.
Amen**

THE DISMISSAL

Stand

The Lord be with you
And also with you

God give you grace to follow his saints
in faith and hope and love;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

THE BLESSING

**All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.**

**Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tow'r and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tow'r.**

God's great goodness aye endureth,

CLOSING HYMN

**deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore, from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.**

**Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done.
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.**

At the end of the hymn we turn and face The Statue of Mary, the mother of Christ, to sing the Easter Carol, then turn back to the priest for the words of dismissal

EASTER CAROL

**Joy to thee, O Queen of heaven, alleluia!
he whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluia!
as he promised hath arisen, alleluia!
pour for us to God thy prayer. Alleluia!**

**Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!
For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!**

O God, who by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have brought joy to the whole world,
grant that with his Mother,
the Blessed Virgin Mary,
we may obtain the joys of everlasting life,
through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

**With the risen Christ within us, let us go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Thanks be to God.
Alleluia, Alleluia.**