

THE PARISH OF
WITNEY



St Mary
the Virgin



The Eucharist
Holy Cross Day
Sunday 15 September 2024
10.45am

**We warmly welcome everyone
to Saint Mary's Church
in the Parish of Witney.**

We are an inclusive church embracing a hospitable Christianity. Everyone is welcome at this service. If you usually receive communion please join us – or please come forward to receive a blessing.

We are six Church of England churches, some large and some small, serving the town of Witney and the villages round about.

We are here to worship God and to help each other to grow in faith.

We are committed to living our lives in the love, joy and hope of the risen Christ.

You can find us in church, in schools, in hospitals, village halls, supermarkets, nursing homes, up late with the Street Pastors, at the toddler group... wherever people are.

If you are interested in becoming a part of what is happening through the church please speak to one of the welcomers afterwards.

The Procession

As the sacristy bell sounds all stand for the first hymn.

We sing the praise of Him who died,
Of Him who died upon the Cross;
The sinner's hope let men deride,
For this we count the world but loss.

Inscribed upon the Cross we see
In shining letters, God is love!
He bears our sins upon the tree,
He brings us mercy from above.

The Cross: it takes our guilt away;
It holds the fainting spirit up;
It cheers with hope the gloomy day,
And sweetens every bitter cup.

It makes the coward spirit brave,
And nerves the feeble arm for fight;
It takes its terror from the grave,
And gilds the bed of death with light:

The balm of life, the cure of woe,
The measure and the pledge of love,
The sinner's refuge here below,
The angels' theme in heav'n above.

Words: Thomas Kelly,
(an Irish Dissenter who preached the gospel in Ireland)
Music: BOW BRICKHILL, S.H. Nicholson, 1875-1947

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

The service is introduced.

Prayers of Penitence

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**All Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
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.

All Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

We sing together:

**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

Let us pray:

Almighty God,
who in the passion of your blessed Son
made an instrument of painful death
to be for us the means of life and peace:
grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ
that we may gladly suffer for his sake;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

We sit for the First Reading, Numbers 21.4-9.

At the end:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Psalm

Remain seated.

The choir sings this response, we repeat, also between verses:

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22: 8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24



My God, my God, why have you a-bandoned me?

Music: © 2015 Royce Nickel. Licensed in the Creative Commons by-nc-nd 3.0

We sit for the Second Reading, Philipians 2.6-11.

At the end:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

We stand as the choir sings the Gospel Alleluia, and we repeat:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

5
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

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The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

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

John 3.13-17

At the end
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

We sit for the sermon

The Creed

Let us declare before God the faith of the Church,
in which we pray we may all find grace to grow:

**All 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.

Intercessions

The Intercessor may use the following responses:

Lord in your mercy
All Hear our prayer.

Or

Lord, hear us
All Lord, graciously hear us.

After the prayer for the departed

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord
All and let light perpetual shine upon them.

May they rest in peace
All and rise in glory. Amen.

Most Merciful God

**All Accept these prayers
For the sake of your Son
Our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen**

All stand

The Peace

Christ is our peace.
He has reconciled us to God
in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Offertory Hymn

We stand as the Offertory Hymn is sung and the gifts of bread and wine are placed upon the Altar.

You can give to the work of the Church by signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme, or by using these bank details - Witney PCC, Sort Code 20-97-48, Account Number 00971626. There is also a card reader by the North Door. The bread, wine and money are all gifts from God and our offering of them back to God is a sign of the offering of our lives in the Lord's service.

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him King of glory now;
'tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

At his voice creation sprang at once to sight:
all the angel faces, all the hosts of light,
thrones and dominations, stars upon their way,
all the heavenly orders in their great array.

Humbled for a season, to receive a name
from the lips of sinners, unto whom he came;
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious when from death he passed;

Bore it up triumphant, with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures, to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast,
filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue
all that is not holy, all that is not true.
crown his as your Captain, in temptations' hour;
let his will enfold you in its light and power.

Surely, this Lord Jesus shall return again,
with his Father's glory with his angel train;
for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him King of glory now.

Words: Caroline M Noel, 1817-1877
Music: EVELYNS, W.H. Monk, 1823-1889

Preparation of the Table

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.

All 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

All Blessed be God for ever.

Prayer over the Gifts

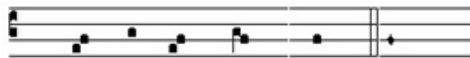
Merciful God,
through the death of your beloved Son
you transformed an instrument of shame
into a sign of hope and glory.
Receive all we bring before you this day,
and renew us in the mystery of his love;
through the same Jesus Christ,
the Lord of glory.

All Amen.

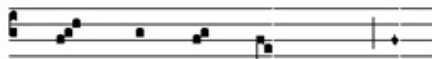
Eucharistic Prayer



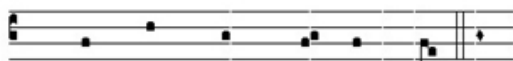
The Lord be with you



And al-so with you.



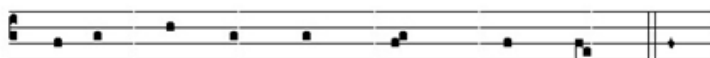
Lift up your hearts.



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 our Lord.
Today we celebrate with songs of praise
the cross, the victory-sign of Christ.
Once through the fruit of the forbidden tree we fell,
now through this tree our Saviour cancels all our sin.
An instrument of shameful death
has become for Christ a throne of glory.
The power of the life-giving cross
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world
and the triumph of Christ crucified.

And so, with choirs of angels
and with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending hymn of praise:

**All 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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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.

Great is the mystery of faith
All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Mary the Mother of God,
and all the saints,

may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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 for ever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated host

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

All **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.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world;
happy are those who are called to his supper

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word
and I shall be healed.**

*We break the bread for the whole world. We invite all who seek God
and are drawn to Christ, and all who walk the way of faith to come
forward and receive the body and blood of Christ, as directed by the
Sidesperson.*

*Or you are warmly invited to come forward for a blessing – please
carry this booklet and bow your head. Gluten free wafers are available
on request.*

The Communion Hymn

Draw nigh and take the body of the Lord,
and drink the holy blood for you outpoured.

Saved by that body and that holy blood,
with souls refreshed, we render thanks to God.

Salvation's giver, Christ, the only Son,
by his dear cross and blood the victory won.

Offered was he for greatest and for least,
himself the victim, and himself the priest.

Approach ye then with faithful hearts sincere,
and take the pledges of salvation here.

Words: Bangor Antiphoner c.690
Music: SONG 46 Orlando Gibbons, 1583-1625

After a period of silence, we stand with the Priest to pray

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray

Faithful God,
whose Son bore our sins in his body on the tree
and gave us this sacrament to show forth his death until he
comes:
give us grace to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
for he is our salvation, our life and our hope,
who reigns as Lord, now and for ever.

All Amen

All **Almighty God,**
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.

We sit for the notices

The Notices

The Blessing

Please stand for the Blessing

All The Lord be with you
and also with you

Christ crucified draw you to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sins forgiven;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

The Recessional Hymn

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul and sing
Of Him Who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

Crown him the Virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,
whose arms those crimson trophies won
which now his brow adorn:
fruit of the mystic Rose,
as of that Rose the Stem;
the Root whence mercy ever flows,
the Babe of Bethlehem.

Crown Him the Lord of love!
Behold His hands and side—
those wounds, yet visible above
In beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends His burning eye
At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of peace!
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise:
his reign shall know no end,
and round his piercèd feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of years!
the Potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres
ineffably sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou has died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

Words: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894
Music: DIADEMATA, G.J. Elvey, 1816-1893

Let us bless the Lord
All Thanks be to God

***Everyone is welcome to stay for coffee
after the Eucharist.***

Join Us

Please support Saint Mary's Witney.

Your contributions make possible our ministry in liturgy and worship, community outreach, schools, learning, late night cafe, street pastors, visiting nursing homes and hospitals and other pastoral care. For more information please speak to one of the Ministry Team or Wardens.

Saint Mary's is profoundly grateful to the priests, lay leaders, volunteers, DCC members and friends whose unparalleled energy and determination make thousands of annual services, programmes and events possible. Please visit the parish website and twitter feed to stay in touch.