



St EDWARD

KING & MARTYR

10 March 2024 / Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)

Welcome to St. Edward's!

We hope you are blessed by your time with us and we look forward to seeing you again. There is an Induction Loop in the Nave for those using a hearing aid and wheelchair access available at the West door. The toilet is available in the vestry, with an additional parent and child area for those with infants and toddlers if needed. Children are always welcome in service and will find books and activities in the back of the church.

Hymn 365 – God Is Love (*We stand to sing*)

Welcome & Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

(We have a moment of silence)

Preparation (*Please kneel or sit*)

Hear the words of comfort our Saviour Christ says to all who truly turn to him:

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (*Matthew 11.28*)

God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life . (*John 3.16*)

Hear what Saint Paul says:

This saying is true, and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. (*1 Timothy 1.15*)

Hear what Saint John says:

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins. (*1 John 2.1, 2*)

Confession

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Against you, you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

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 Collect

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson (Numbers 21.4-9)

4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. 5 The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' 6 Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' 9 So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Psalm 34.11-20 *(Please remain seated as the psalm is sung)*

11 Come, my children, and listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

12 Who is there who delights in life and longs for days to enjoy good things?

13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from lying words.

14 Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and his ears are open to their cry.

16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.

17 The righteous cry and the Lord hears them and delivers them out of all their troubles.

18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and will save those who are crushed in spirit.

19 Many are the troubles of the righteous; from them all will the Lord deliver them.

20 He keeps all their bones, so that not one of them is broken.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever. Amen.

Gospel (*We stand as we welcome the Gospel*)

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John (3.14-21). **Glory to you, O Lord.**

14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 17 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. 20 For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 21 But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

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

Sermon 'Risking Mercy in a World of Avarice' – Mark Scarlata

Nicene Creed (*We stand to declare our faith together*)

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 (*Please sit or kneel for our intercessions*)

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace *(We stand to share the peace)*

Since we are justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace. *(Romans 5.1, 2)*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Offertory Hymn 157 – Breathe On Me, Breath Of God

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.**

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 forever praising you and singing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, 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.

Christ is the bread of life. **When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**

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.**

The Lord's Prayer *(Please kneel or sit)*

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

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 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.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

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.

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.

Giving of Communion *(All baptised believers are invited to receive communion here. Those who do not receive communion are invited to come forward for a blessing, with their hands downwards on the rail. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please raise one finger.)*

Prayer after Communion

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 394 – Lord Of All Hopefulness *(Please stand)*

Notices

Blessing

May Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Notices

Upcoming Services:

Friday 15 March - 10.30am BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 17 March - 11am Holy Communion

StED Talk: Our next StED Talk will take place this Wednesday 13 March at 5pm in the church. Prof. David Fergusson, the University of Cambridge's current Regius Professor of Divinity, will be speaking on the topic of 'Providence and the Christian Life'. The talk will be followed by a Q&A and a drinks reception. Please sign-up for a free ticket on our Eventbrite page - all are welcome!

Volunteering: Opportunities to serve the church through prayer, reading, and hospitality will be shared via our weekly church email/blog, in addition to the sign-up sheet by the west door. Please do consider whether you can contribute to our Sunday services in any of these ways.

Parish Giving: We are grateful for all of your gifts! Offerings may be given during the services or for Standing Orders, via BACS (Sort Code: 20-17-19 / Account Number: 30851477 / Account Name: St Edwards Church). There is also a SumUp machine by the door of the church for contactless giving: Power on, enter an amount, and tap your card.

Contact Details

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Church Staff

Vicar-Chaplain: Revd Dr Mark Scarlata
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