

# St Mary's Church, Walkley



**The Church on the Road:**  
*Inclusive, Eucharistic, a safe place to be with God*

## **The Third Sunday of Lent Eucharist**

**23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**

**Welcome to St Mary's Church, Walkley**

**President: The Revd Canon Dr Alan Billings  
Preacher: Joe, Reader at St Mary's  
Churchwarden on duty: Vicky**

## **The Gathering and Opening Hymn**

*We stand and we sing the opening hymn.*

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

*All* **Amen.**

## **The Greeting**

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

*All* **and also with you.**

## **The Prayer of Preparation**

*All* **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.**

## **The Confession and Absolution**

*Minister* Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led  
by the Spirit into the wilderness,  
where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.  
Let us confess our sins, remembering before God the times  
when we have fallen from temptation into sin.

*We keep a time of silence.*

*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 neighbours 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.**

*We sing the Kyrie eleison, led by the cantor.  
It is sung through twice.*

*Cantor*   Kyrie eleison,  
*All*           **Kyrie eleison.**

*Cantor*   Christe eleison,  
*All*           **Christe eleison.**

*Cantor*   Kyrie eleison,  
*All*           **Kyrie eleison.**

*President* May the God of love  
bring us back to himself,  
forgive us our sins,  
and assure us of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*           **Amen.**

### **The Collect**

*President* Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Eternal God,  
give us insight  
to discern your will for us,  
to give up what harms us,  
and to seek the perfection we are promised  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*           **Amen.**

*We sit.*

**The Reading:** 1 Corinthians 10. 1 - 13

*Reader* A reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

*Reader* This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*We remain seated as we say the psalm. We keep a brief pause at the diamond and between each verse.*

**The Psalm:** 63. 1 - 9

*President* O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; ♦  
my soul is athirst for you.

*All* **My flesh also faints for you, ♦  
as in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.**

*President* So would I gaze upon you in your holy place, ♦  
that I might behold your power and your glory.

*All* **Your loving-kindness is better than life itself ♦  
and so my lips shall praise you.**

*President* I will bless you as long as I live ♦  
and lift up my hands in your name.

*All* **My soul shall be satisfied, as with marrow and fatness, ♦  
and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips,**

*President* When I remember you upon my bed ♦  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night.

*All* **For you have been my helper ♦  
and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.**

*President* My soul clings to you; ♦  
your right hand shall hold me fast.

*We stand.*

### **The Gospel Reading: Luke 13. 1 - 9**

*Minister* Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.  
Blessed are those who have endured temptation;  
they have stood the test and will receive the crown of life.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

*Psalm 95.3, 8*

*Minister* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

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

## **The Sermon**

*We stand.*

## **The Creed**

*President* Let us declare our faith in God,

*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.**

*We sit or kneel.*

## **The Prayers of Intercession**

*Intercessor* Lord of compassion,  
*All* **in your mercy hear us.**

*Or another response is used.*

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

*We stand.*

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

*President* 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*

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

*Minister* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We remain in our seats, sharing the peace through waves to those around us.*

### The Offertory Hymn

*We stand and we sing as the altar is prepared. If you would like to support St Mary's, donations can be made after the service at the back of church using the collection plate or contactless card giving station. If you would like to give regularly to St Mary's please speak to the Treasurer, or one of the Churchwardens.*



## The Eucharistic Prayer

*President* The Lord is here.

*All* **His Spirit is with us.**

*President* Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*President* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*President* 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 saying:

*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.**

*President* 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;

*President* 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.

*All* **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

*President* 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.

*All* **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

*President* 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.

*Minister* Jesus Christ is Lord:

*All* **Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

*President* 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.

*All* **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

*President* 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:

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

*We sit or kneel.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*President* Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom  
and teach us to 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**

*President* Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup

*All* **we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**

*The Agnus Dei may be said as the bread is broken.*

*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.**

### **The Giving of Communion**

*President* Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed 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.**

*All* **Most merciful Lord,  
your love compels us to come in.  
Our hands were unclean,  
our hearts were unprepared;  
we were not fit  
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.  
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,  
and share your bread with sinners.  
So cleanse and feed us  
with the precious body and blood of your Son,  
that he may live in us and we in him;  
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,  
may sit and eat in your kingdom.  
Amen.**

*The president will give instructions on how to come forward for communion and on returning to our seats. All are welcome to come to front for the bread and wine or a blessing. If you would like a blessing please keep your arms folded across your chest at you approach the front.*

*We are now able to receive the wine as well as the bread. The president will dip the wafer in the wine before giving it to you. Gluten free wafers are available, please ask at the altar.*

*During the distribution we sing.*

## **The Prayer after Communion**

*President* Let us pray.

Merciful Lord,  
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations  
of the world, the flesh and the devil,  
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **God of our pilgrimage,  
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.  
Refresh and sustain us  
as we go forward on our journey,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## **The Notices**

*We stand.*

## **The Blessing**

*President* Christ give us grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow him;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Closing Hymn

*We remain standing and we sing during which we turn to face the back of church as the robed ministers process.*

## The Dismissal

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

***Refreshments are served after the service.***

For more information: [stmaryswalkley.co.uk](http://stmaryswalkley.co.uk)

