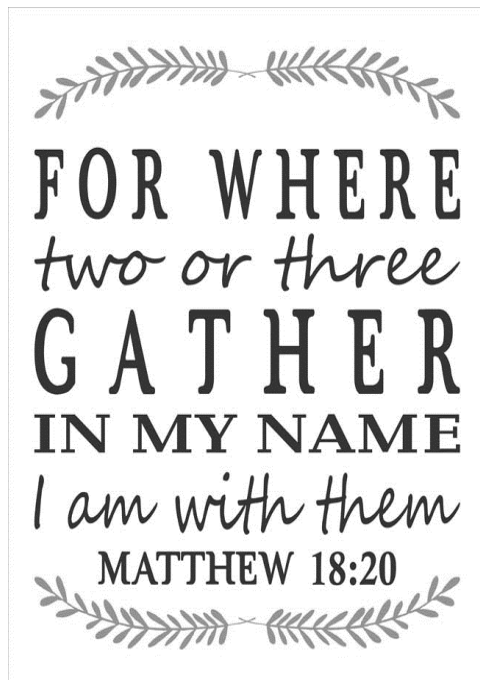


**Welcome to St Lawrences Church
Over Peover.**



**Celebrating the witness of
St Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist**

The Gathering

The Minister: + 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.**

St Matthew Day Acclamation

The Minister: Jesus said, 'I am with you always, to the
end of the age.' *Matthew 28.20*

All: **His Spirit is here.**

Hymn

**All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voices, let us sing:
alleluia, alleluia!
Bright burning sun and golden beams,
pale silver moon that gently gleams,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**All you with mercy in your heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
alleluia, alleluia!
All you that pain and sorrow bear,
praise God, and cast on God your care:
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**And even you, most gentle death,
waiting to hush our final breath,
O sing now, alleluia!
You lead back home the child of God,
for Christ our Lord that way has trod:
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Let all things their creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness,
alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One:
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

The Prayers of Penitence (*please sit or kneel*)

The Minister: We run the race set before us, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Therefore let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which clings so closely, By bringing them to Jesus 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 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.**

The Absolution

The Minister: 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 *(Please Stand)*

All: 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 *(Please sit or kneel)*

The Minister: Almighty God, whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist: Give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive love of riches that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. All: **Amen**

The Epistle Reading

The Epistle Reading is taken from 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

**Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord, and precious,
Binding all the Church in one,
Holy Zion's help for ever,
And our confidence alone.**

**To this temple, where we call You,
Come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come, with all your loving-kindness;
Hear Your people as we pray,
And Your fullest benediction
Shed within these walls today.**

**Here bestow on all Your servants
What they seek from you to gain;
What they gain from You, forever
With the blessed to retain;
And hereafter in Your glory
Evermore with You to reign.]**

**Praise and honour to the Father,
Praise and honour to the Son,
Praise and honour to the Spirit,
Ever three and ever one,
One in might and one in glory
While unending ages run.**

Gospel Reading (Please Remain Standing)

The Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

According to Matthew 9:9-13

All: Glory to you O Lord.

The Calling of Matthew:

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner ^[a] in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting ^[b] with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' ¹² But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

At the end: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon (Please be seated)

The Creed (*Please Stand*)

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.

Prayers of Intercession *(Please sit or kneel)*

United in the company of all the faithful and looking for the coming of the kingdom, let us offer our prayers to God, the source of all life and holiness.

Merciful Lord, strengthen all Christian people by your Holy Spirit, that we may live as a royal priesthood and a holy nation following in the footsteps of our Messiah Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Bless Mark and Sam our bishops and all ministers of your Church, especially Fr Murray our priest and Ann our licensed minister as they serve you across the benefice; we ask that by that faithful proclamation of your word we all may be built on the foundation of Matthew, the other apostles and the prophets, into a holy temple where your Holy Spirit has his way and your love is shown to all.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Give to the world and its peoples the peace that comes from above, that they may find Christ's way of freedom and life. Praying especially for Afghanistan at this time.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Hold in your embrace all who witness to your love in the service of the poor and needy; all who minister to the sick and dying; and all who bring light to those in darkness. We hold before you all our key and front-line workers at this time asking your blessing on them and upon our entire NHS.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Touch all who suffer in body mind or spirit. And heal all those whose lives are scarred by the harshness of the world that, raised from death to life in Christ, their sorrow may be turned to eternal joy.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Remember in your mercy all those gone before us who now rest in your nearer presence. Preserve in your faith your servants on earth, guide us all to you and grant us your peace at the end of our lives in your eternal heavenly kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father as we remember St Matthew and his example to all your church. We ask that through us we may serve you in hastening the day when many will come from east and west, from north and south, and sit at your kingdoms table of grace and love.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

All: Merciful Father, Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ Amen

The Peace: (Please Stand)

Minister: We are fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God, through Christ our Lord, who came and preached peace to those who were far off and those who were near. *Ephesians 2.19,17*

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

All: and also with you.

The Offertory prayers: (Please or Kneel)

Minister: 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.

Minister: 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.

Minister: Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All: May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and for the good of all his holy Church.

The Sursum Corda (*The call to "lift up ones heart"*)

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

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

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right and good
that we should give you thanks, praise and glory,
almighty and everlasting God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
For after his resurrection
he sent out his apostles and evangelists
to preach the gospel to all nations
and lead us in the way of truth.
Himself the chief cornerstone,
he founded his Church upon the apostles
firmly to stand for ever
as a sign of your holiness upon earth
and a living witness to all
of the way that leads to heaven.
And so with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
we lift our voices
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

The Sanctus

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!

The Minister recalls the Last Supper with the prayers of consecration.

Minister: 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.

Minister: Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died:

Christ is risen!:

Christ will come again!

Minister: 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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Oswald, St Lawrence and all the saints, may praise and glorify you forever, 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. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

**All: 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 Fraction: (Breaking of the Bread)

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.

The 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.**

Giving of Communion

Minister: Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper. John 1:29 Rev 19:9

**All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say
the word, and I shall be healed.** Matt 8:8

The Minister offers the invitation to Communion.

Minister: 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.

The Minister and People receive Holy Communion or a Blessing. If you wish to receive a Blessing rather than the bread and the wine, please indicate this to the ministers by coming forward holding your service booklet.

The Post Communion Prayers

Minister: 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. *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.**

The Final Blessing (*Please Stand*)

Minister: The Lord be with you:

***All:* And also with you.**

Minister: God, who has prepared for you a city with eternal foundations, bring you, with all the saints, to the eternal and triumphant joy of that city;

+ And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, remain with you and all those you love, this day and forever more. *All:* **Amen.**

The Final Hymn *(Please Stand)*

**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 of 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 him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:
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 Sending Out

The Minister: Inspired by the witness of St Matthew,
St Lawrence and all the Saints let us go in peace to love
and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.