



ST LAURENCE CHURCH CATFORD

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

10th September 2023, 10am



Welcome to St Laurence's this morning. .

The bible readings for this service can be found in the centrefold of this booklet

As the clergy and servers enter church, we stand to sing the first hymn

Morning has broken
like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing,
Praise for the morning,
Praise for them springing
Fresh from the Word.

Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight,
mine is the morning,
born of the one light
Eden saw play.
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day.

Entrance antiphon

*You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.*

Greeting and confession

In the name of the ✠ Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit:

ALL: Amen

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The priest welcomes everyone to St Laurence's
and introduces the theme of the service.

We are invited to call to mind whatever
we have done wrong in the sight of God.

After a moment of silence:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against each other
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.

Our sins forgiven, we sing the song of the
angels:

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.

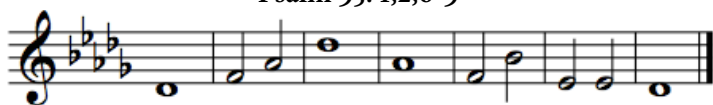
Please remain standing while the priest prays
the opening prayer:

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,
that those who believe in Christ
may receive true freedom
and an everlasting inheritance.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, God for ever and ever **Amen**

Then everyone sits to listen to the Old Testament reading (the readings are printed out in the *Centrefold* of this booklet).

Psalm 95: 1,2,6-9



O COME, let us sing un|to the |Lord:
let us heartily rejoyce in the | strength of | our
sal|vation.

Let us come before his | presence . with |
thanksgiving:
and shew ourselves | glad in | him with | psalms.

O come, let us worship | and fall | down:
and kneel be| fore the | Lord our | Maker.

For he is the | Lord our | God:
and we are the people of his pasture, and the |
sheep | of his | hand.

To-day if ye will hear his voice, harden | not your | hearts:
as in the provocation, * and as in the day of
temp|tation | in the | wilderness.

When your fathers | tempted | me:
proved | me, and | saw my | works.

Please remain seated for the New Testament reading, and then turn to face the reader for the Gospel acclamation and Gospel (Matthew 18:15-20)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Your word is truth, O Lord,
consecrate us in the truth

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you:
And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew:

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

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

After the Gospel, please be seated for the sermon.

Afterwards, everyone stands for 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.

We all sit or kneel for the prayers.

Please stand for the peace

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

You are welcome to smile at or wave or bow to
your neighbour.

The offertory

Gifts of bread and wine are brought up to the
altar. A collection is taken for the life and
work of this church. If you already give to the
church through your bank or on-line, as most
of the congregation do, or have no cash on you,
just pass the alms plate along as it comes past.
If you'd like to give by card ask one of the
churchwardens at the end of the service.

We stand to sing the offertory hymn:

God is working his purpose out
as year succeeds to year,

God is working his purpose out
and the time is drawing near;

Nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,

When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

From utmost east to utmost west
where'er man's foot hath trod,

By the mouth of many messengers
goes forth the voice of God:

'Give ear to me, ye continents,
ye isles, give ear to me,

That the earth may be filled with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.'

What can we do to work God's work,
to prosper and increase
The brotherhood of all mankind,
the reign of the Prince of Peace?
What can we do to hasten the time,
the time that shall surely be,
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea?

March we forth in the strength of God
with the banner of Christ unfurled,
That the light of the glorious gospel of truth
may shine throughout the world;
Fight we the fight with sorrow and sin,
to set their captives free,
That the earth may be filled with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

All we can do is nothing worth
unless God blesses the deed;
Vainly we hope for the harvest-tide
till God gives life to the seed;
Yet nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea..

A.C Ainger 1841-1919

The prayer over the gifts

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace,
graciously grant that, through this offering,
we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty
and, by partaking of the sacred mystery,
we may be faithfully united in mind and heart
Through Christ our Lord Amen

**The priest invites the people to join in the
eucharistic celebration, the Great Thanksgiving:**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

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:

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 & 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 Laurence 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 **Amen.**



Remaining standing, we sing together the Lord's prayer:

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

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.

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.

Please kneel. While the bread is broken, we sing:
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.

Behold the Lamb of God
who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

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

The priest will say to all: The body of Christ and everyone who intends to receive communion replies together: *Amen*.

All who are prepared and are accustomed to receiving holy communion are invited to join with us this morning. Please follow the guidance of the churchwardens, who will invite you to the front of the church to receive if you wish.

Please receive the host standing. Reception of the Chalice is optional. If you wish to receive the Blood of Christ, please drink directly from the Cup. If you choose not to receive the chalice, please pause to acknowledge the Blood of Christ (e.g. by a slight bow).

During communion, the choir will sing an anthem, and then all join in the communion hymn(s).

Anthem

Ave, Ave verum corpus natum ex Maria Virgine,
vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine.

Cuius latus perforatum unda fluxit et sanguine
esto nobis proegustatum in mortis examine.

Edward Elgar

(Hail, true body, born of the Virgin Mary, which truly suffered, crucified for humankind; from whose wounded side water and blood flowed; be our nourishment in the trials of death.)

Communion hymns

God of mercy, God of grace,
show the brightness of thy face;
shine upon us, Saviour, shine,
fill thy Church with light divine;
and thy saving health extend
unto earth's remotest end.

Let the people praise thee, Lord;
be by all that live adored;
let the nations shout and sing
glory to their Saviour King;
at thy feet their tribute pay,
and thy holy will obey.

Let the people praise thee, Lord;
earth shall then her fruits afford;
God to man his blessing give,
man to God devoted live;
all below, and all above,
one in joy and light and love.

H F Lyte (1793-1847)



THOU didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown
When thou camest to earth for me:
But in Bethlehem's home there was found no room
For thy holy nativity:

*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
there is room in my heart for thee.*

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
Proclaiming thy royal degree;
But in lowly birth didst thou come to earth,
And in great humility:

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word
That should set thy people free;
But with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn
They bore thee to Calvary:

When all heaven shall ring, and her choirs shall sing,
At thy coming to victory,
Let thy voice call me home, saying, 'Yet there is room,
There is room at my side for thee.'



Communion Antiphon

*Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul
is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God,
the living God*

Prayer after Communion

Grant that your faithful. O Lord,
whom you nourish and endow with life
through the food of your Word and heavenly
Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's
great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life.

After this prayer, please be seated for the Church notices.

Please stand for God's blessing

Go in the peace of Christ:

Thanks be to God.

Everyone sings the last hymn as the clergy and servers leave the church.

Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,

My daily labour to pursue;

Thee, only thee, resolved to know,

In all I think or speak or do.

The task thy wisdom hath assigned

O let me cheerfully fulfil;

In all my works thy presence find,

And prove thy good and perfect will.

Preserve me from my calling's snare,

And hide my simple heart above,

About the thorns of choking care,

The gilded baits of wordly love.

Thee may I set at my right hand,

Whose eyes in my inmost substance see,

and labour on at thy command,

And offer all my works to thee.

Give me to bear thy easy yoke,

And every moment watch and pray,

And still to things eternal look,

And hasten to thy glorious day;

For thee delightfully employ

Whate'er thy bounteous grace hath given,

And run my course with even joy,

And closely walk with thee to heaven.

Charles Wesley 1707-88

Organ Voluntary

Please remain in your seat until the organist has finished playing the voluntary.

After the service, you are warmly invited to go through to the Church Hall for coffee or tea, which today is the gift of Ijeoma Nwajiobi and family on the occasion of the birthday of Mercy, her mother who died last year.

The Nwajiobi family have donated in Mercy's memory a new pyx that will be used for the first time at mass, this morning.

Church Notices

Welcome back to St Laurence's to our choir, after their summer holiays. We look forward to some wonderful music this term.

This week

Monday: Centre Management Committee meet 10.30am.

Wednesday: mass at 10.30am, followed by refreshments

Thursday: mass at 9.45am, followed by 'knit and natter' in the choir vestry from 10.30am

Nigeria Day, October 1st

Plans are coming on well for our celebration of Nigeria Day. There will be a great celebration at 10am, followed by a lunch in the church hall, to which all are welcome where-ever you come from! Do come and celebrate our joyful diversity.

Sadly, Bishop Karowei is not very well at present – do keep him in your prayers. If he cannot be with us on the day, Bishop Precious, who celebrated our Easter Eve liturgy in 2021, has graciously agreed to be in reserve. Bp Precious works at Lambeth Palace as the Archbishop of Canterbury's special representative on conflict in sub-Saharan Africa, and is an experienced and able communicator and preacher.

Community Fair

Sat 7th October – Harvest Festival & Car Boot. Only a month away. If you'd like to book a table / parking space, please contact Richard in the parish office (020 8698 9706). Meanwhile, do put the date in your diary now, and come and support this community event.

Wednesday Morning Coffee:

We have restarted coffee after Mass on a Wednesday morning. If you would be interested in being part of a rota please speak to Robert or Grace.

Giving to the Church

To give quickly and easily, just scan this QR, or to make a credit card donation, ask the churchwardens



Parish E-Newsletter

We're restarting the e-newsletter this coming week, if you would like to have the news of the parish straight to your inbox, sign up via the website.

For your prayers

among the sick: Bishop Karowei, Myrna Perkins, Beverley & John Lashley, Taleta Haye, Minette Stevens, Sarah Cole, Bridgit Sam-Bailey, Marcia Sanderson, Ottis Edwards, Elaine Stanislaus, Marcia Wilson, Robert Green, Roy Brown, Kayla Brown, Ros Ovbiovbio, Marva Mayne, Natasha Joseph, Degus Vassell, Anita Greenidge, Thelma Corbin, Beverley Willacy, Ernie Brown, Kevin Counihan, Charles Gasa, Josette Owens, Everton White, Elaine Thompson-Dixon, Everton Bend, Annette Cox-Simmons, Selena Goodyear, Ron & Kay Lanston, Esme Francis, Girda Carty, Cheyne Reid, Verna Cox, Daphne Moore, Leon Haynes, Elizabeth Halfpenny, Tanya Muchanyuka, Mason White, David Staples, Fran Chappell.

anniversaries: 10th Ray Trickey; 11th Charles Hall; 14th Winifred Orchard; 15th Winifred Abbott, Trixie Carey, Joyce French; 16th Louisa Smith, Viola Edwards

recently departed: Goldwyn Johnson

Today's chalice team:

Gabriel, Ijeoma

Today's Sidesperson team:

Beverley Chin, Margaret Greaves, Jeni Griffith, Annette Howard

Contact us

Parish Clergy: Fr Charles: 020 8698 2871,

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