Church family news

Song O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder..

Closing Prayer

May the mystery of God beckon us; May the wisdom of God direct us; May the forgiveness of God heal us; And may the creative energy of God send us into the world to exercise his justice and love.

Blessing

May God

who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the sky, who leads the lambs to pasture and the deer to water, who multiplied loaves and fishes and brought peace to the storm, lead us, feed us multiply us, and change us to reflect the glory of our Creator now and through all eternity; and the blessing......

Dismissal

We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love, and to reflect God's glory.

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

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St Michael's Church, Highworth

10.15am service — Sunday 23rd February 2025

Welcome

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you and also with you.

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us. Let us rejoice and sing God's praise for ever.

Song The splendour of the King (How great is our God..)

Loving God, open our eyes to the beauty of your holiness; open our ears to the message of your word; open our minds to the challenge of your truth; open our hearts to the power of your love; open our lives to the coming of your Spirit, that we may truly worship you, now and forever.

Amen.

Introduction to the Theme

Children and young people leave for their groups

Confession

Human sin disfigures the whole of creation, which groans with eager longing for God's redemption. (Romans 8: 22,23) Let us come to the healing light of Christ, and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

When all too easily we stray from doing what is good and right in your sight, Lord, forgive us.

When we cover our eyes, and hide our faces, and try to block our ears to the pain of our world and your hurting creation: **Lord, forgive us.**

When we all too easily take our beautiful world for granted and selfishly leave to others our own responsibility to care for it. **Lord, forgive us.**

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When through greed we fail to share the earth's bounty fairly. **Lord forgive us.**

When we doubt and fail to remember the power of your love and grace in our lives which you have promised will never leave us. **Lord, forgive us.**

Absolution

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

First Reading – Genesis 2: 4b-9 (NRSV)
This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Second Reading – Revelation 4 (NRSV)
This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Song Worthy, O worthy are you Lord

Third Reading - Gospel

Hear and See the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Luke 8: 22-25 (NRSV)
Glory to you, O Lord
This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Song "From the highest of heights...." (Indescribable)

The Lord's Prayer
As Jesus our Saviour has 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 forever. Amen.

Breaking of 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.

God's holy gifts
For God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
To the glory of God the Father.

Distribution of Communion

Post Communion Prayer
God, our creator,
by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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

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You sent your Son to live among us, Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child. He suffered on the cross; he died to save us from our sins;

He rose in glory from the dead. You send your Spirit to bring new life to the world, and clothe us with power from on high. And so we join the angels to celebrate and say:

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

Father, on the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He took the bread and thanked you. He broke it, and gave it to them, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.

He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood, the new promise of God's unfailing love.
Do this to remember me.
Jesus Christ is Lord:
Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.

You are the Saviour of the world.

Father, as we bring this bread and wine, and remember his death and resurrection, send your Holy Spirit, that we who share these gifts may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us that we may love one another, work for the healing of the earth, and share the good news of Jesus, as we wait for his coming in glory. For honour and praise belong to you, Father, with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit: one God, for ever and ever:

Amen

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, Source of all being and life, The one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, Who took our human nature, Died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, Who gives life to the people of God And makes Christ known in the world? We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.
This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen

Prayers

The Peace
God will speak peace to his people,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you

Song Be still for the presence of the Lord

Thanksgiving Prayer
The Lord is here
His Spirit is with us.

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 always right to give you thanks, God our Creator, loving and faithful, holy and strong. You made us and the whole universe, and filled your world with life.

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