

UNIVERSITY
CHURCH

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sung Eucharist

Sunday 13 September 2026

10.30am

Please take this booklet away with you

Welcome to the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford. We are delighted that you have joined us today. This Order of Service will guide you through the Eucharist. Please join in singing the hymns, as well as in saying together the words printed in bold type. Invitations to sit, stand, or kneel are only suggestions; please worship in whatever posture is best for you. If you need holy communion in your seat, please inform a Steward. The service is live-streamed, and the central nave area may be visible on camera. To avoid appearing on camera, please sit in the Gallery.

The Revd Naomi Gardom, Assistant Curate, is presiding and the Revd Canon Dr William Lamb, Vicar, is preaching.

The Mass Setting is by Geoffrey Webber (b.1959) and is sung by the congregation. The Organist is James Brown.

CHILDREN AT ST MARY'S

We are delighted to have children worshipping with us and you are welcome to breastfeed and bottle-feed in church. A selection of toys and books are available in the Newman Room (behind the glass brick wall) next to the baby change. Saplings takes place on the first and third Sundays of the month in the Old Library for children aged 3-10 years and their families.

INFORMATION ABOUT ST MARY'S

For over 1,000 years, this church has served the city of Oxford as a place of inspiration, worship, and Christian witness. The University of Oxford began within the precincts of this building. Today it is the home of a vibrant and diverse community, and offers a particular welcome to those who feel on the edges of faith or society. We hope that you will enjoy being here with us today and that we will see you again very soon. If you are new and would like to receive our weekly e-newsletter about events and services at St Mary's, sign up at universitychurch.ox.ac.uk/content/keeping-touch. Toilets, including accessible and baby change facilities, are situated at the back of Church behind the glass brick wall.



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THE GATHERING

INTROIT HYMN

Please stand



At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him King of Glory now.
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning was the mighty Word:
At his voice creation sprang at once to sight,
all the angel faces, all the hosts of light,
thrones and dominations, stars upon their way,
all the heavenly orders in their great array.
Humbled for a season, to receive a name
from the lips of sinners unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious when from death he passed.
Bore it up triumphant with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast;
filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.
In your hearts enthrone him, there let him subdue
all that is not holy, all that is not true:
he is God the Saviour, he is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshipped, trusted and adored.

Words: Caroline Noel (1817-1877)

Tune: EVELYNS, William H Monk (1823-1889) NEH 338

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

President The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Words of welcome may be offered.

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.**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Deacon As we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ in word and sacrament, let us call to mind and confess our sins.

Please sit or kneel

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour
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.**

President 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.**

Please stand

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Organ



Glo - ry to_ God in the high - est, and peace

_ to his people on earth. Lord God, heav'nly King, al - mighty God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we_ give you thanks, we praise you for your

glo - ry. Lord Je sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



THE COLLECT

President Let us pray.

We remain standing as we pray in silence

President God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people may be fervent
in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you,
they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;
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.

All Amen.

Please sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Romans 14.1-12

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions.. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader For the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GRADUAL HYMN



**New every morning is the love
Our waking and uprising prove;
Through sleep and darkness safely brought,
Restored to life, and power, and thought.**

**New mercies, each returning day,
Hover around us while we pray;
New perils past, new sins forgiven,
New thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.**

**If on our daily course our mind
Be set to hallow all we find,
New treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.**

**The trivial round, the common task,
Would furnish all we ought to ask,
Room to deny ourselves, a road
To bring us daily nearer God.**

**Only, O Lord, in thy dear love
Fit us for perfect rest above;
And help us this and every day
To live more nearly as we pray.**

Words: John Keble (1792-1866)

Tune: MELCOMBE, Samuel Webbe the elder (1740-1816) NEH 238

Please turn to face the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Deacon Alleluia! Alleluia! Speak Lord for your servant is listening,
you have the words of eternal life.

All Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 18.21-35

Deacon Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Peter came and said to Jesus, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.

So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

Deacon This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON The Revd Canon Dr William Lamb

Please sit

THE NICENE 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

President In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

Please kneel or sit

All Lord, in your mercy: *or* Lord, hear us.
hear our prayer. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE PEACE

Please stand

President God is love, and those who live in love, live in God,
and God lives in them.

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

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

All may exchange a sign of peace by saying 'Peace be with you!'

OFFERTORY HYMN

*During the hymn a cash collection is taken, and the altar is prepared.
To donate electronically, please see page 15.*



**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.**

**O sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!**

**Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.**

**Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm!**

Words: John Whittier (1807-1892)
Tune: REPTON, C. H. Parry (1848-1918) (NEH 353)

Please remain standing

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

President Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation, through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made, it will become for us the bread of life.

All **Blessed be God forever.**

President Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation, through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become for us the cup of salvation.

All **Blessed be God forever.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

President The Lord be with you.

All **and also with you.**

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 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 singing:





President 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.

Deacon Great is the mystery of faith.

All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

President 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,
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.

All Amen.

Please sit or kneel

THE LORD'S PRAYER

President 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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The President breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

President 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.**

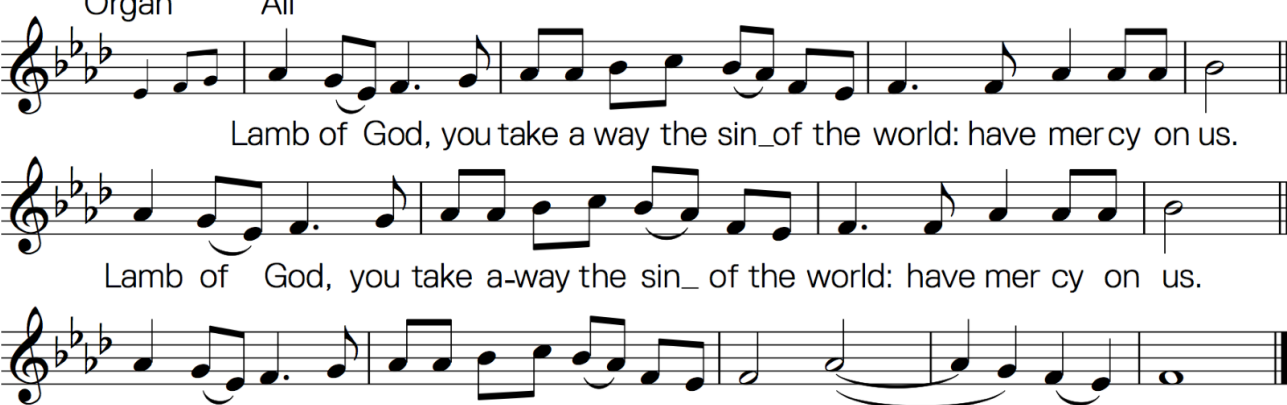
GIVING OF COMMUNION

President Behold 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.**

AGNUS DEI

Organ 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.

All who seek to follow Christ are invited to receive Holy Communion. When directed by the stewards, please go forward. The priest will place the sacrament into your hands with the words 'the Body of Christ'. You should consume the Host immediately and then you will be offered the Chalice with the words 'the Blood of Christ'. To each you respond 'Amen'. Please do not intinct (dip) the Host in the Chalice. If you need to receive a gluten-free wafer (20 parts per million gluten), please tell the priest at the Nave Altar. To receive a prayer of blessing, please fold your arms across your chest.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

President Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy;
and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall,
keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful,
and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

**All Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word
be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your praise
be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the
tokens of your love shine with the light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed with your body
be refreshed with the fullness of your life;
glory to you for ever.
Amen.**

Please stand

POST-COMMUNION HYMN



**O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame;
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!**

**Return, O holy Dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
And drove thee from my breast.**

**The dearest idol I have known,
Whate'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from thy throne,
And worship only thee.**

**So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb.**

Words: William Cowper 1731-1800

Tune: CAITHNESS Melody from the *Scottish Psalter* 1635, NEH 414

THE DISMISSAL

Please be seated

THE NOTICES

Please stand

THE BLESSING

President Christ, who has nourished us with himself the living bread,
make you one in praise and love,
and raise you up at the last day;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Fugue on BACH
- Gustav Merkel (1827-1885)

**Please join us for refreshments
in the De Brome Chapel after the service**

Announcements

FESTAL CHORAL EVENSONG | Today | 5.00pm | St Cross

There is a special choral evensong at St Cross Church, Holywell, at 5pm today to celebrate the feast of the Holy Cross. The Church of St Cross is in the historic parish of St Mary's, next to Hollywell cemetery, and now houses the historic collections for Balliol College. The Revd Canon Prof William Whyte will preach at the service.

LECTURE BY THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH | 17 September | 5.00pm | Nave

We are delighted to be welcoming his All Holiness Bartholomew I, Archbishop of Constantinople and Ecumenical Patriarch, to give a lecture at the University Church: *Religious Liberty in Contested Ecosystems: Law, Religion and Foreign Policy in a New International Order*. This lecture is open to all, please sign up on Eventbrite.

HARVEST FESTIVAL COLLECTION | 4 October

This Harvest we will be making a retiring cash collection for Christian Aid's Africa food crisis appeal; providing emergency support to communities devastated by conflict, disease and climate change. You can find out more in the coming weeks over coffee. We will also be collecting donations of goods for the Community Emergency Foodbank (please place on the Adam DeBrome tomb before the 10.30am service on 4th October). They are particularly in need of: tinned meat, vegetables and fruit, toiletries, tinned/packet puddings, jams/spreads, long-life milk, cereal, biscuits, coffee/hot chocolate.

THE PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING | 4 October | 12noon | Old Library

St Mary's Green Team will be hosting a special Sunday forum with a showing of 'The People's Emergency Briefing' with a discussion on the climate crisis and considering how we, as individuals & as a community, can respond. All are welcome.

GEMMA RUNS THE OXFORD HALF MARATHON | 11 October | Oxford

This October, Gemma Wilson is completing the Oxford Half Marathon to raise money for the Eve appeal. The Eve Appeal has supported Gemma through her own cancer journey and she is running to fundraise to help them continue their vital work supporting others. Details about how to donate are on the church website.

VICAR'S SLEEPOUT FOR THE HOMELESS | 8 October

On Thursday 8 October, the Vicar will be participating in the sleepout organised by the Oxfordshire Homelessness Movement (OHM). 75% of all donations will go to the Oxford Winter Night Shelter. The aim is to raise over £1,000. Please give generously. There is a poster with a QR Code at the back of church.

CHARITABLE GIFTS AND DONATIONS



The University Church donates 10% of the cash and direct debits given by worshippers at this service to charity. If you are unable to make a cash donation, please consider using the contactless card machines by the door. Alternatively, you can donate online by using the QR code. Thank you for your generosity.

This Week

Sunday	8.30	Holy Eucharist	<i>Chancel</i>
	10.30	Sung Eucharist	<i>Nave</i>
	17.00	Festal Choral Evensong	<i>St Cross</i>
Monday <i>Holy Cross Day</i>	9.00	Morning Prayer	<i>Chancel</i>
	12.15	Eucharist	<i>Chancel</i>
	15.30	Wedding	<i>Nave</i>
Tuesday <i>Cyprian, 258</i>	9.00	Morning Prayer	<i>Chancel</i>
	12.15	Eucharist	<i>Chancel</i>
	12.45	Churches Together Meeting	<i>Old Library</i>
Wednesday <i>Ninian, c.432</i>	9.00	Morning Prayer	<i>Chancel</i>
	12.15	Eucharist	<i>Chancel</i>
Thursday <i>Hildegard, 1179</i>	9.00	Morning Prayer	<i>Chancel</i>
	12.15	Eucharist	<i>Chancel</i>
	13.00	Lunchtime Recital (Free)	<i>Nave</i>
	17.00	Lecture: The Ecumenical Patriarch	<i>Nave</i>
Friday	9.00	Morning Prayer	<i>Chancel</i>
	12.15	Eucharist	<i>Chancel</i>
Saturday	9.30	PCC Away Day	<i>Old Library</i>

Next Sunday

Sunday 20 September The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.30	Holy Eucharist <i>Preacher: The Revd Naomi Gardom</i>	<i>Chancel</i>
10.30	Sung Eucharist <i>Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr Peter Groves</i>	<i>Nave</i>
15.30	Evening Prayer (said)	<i>Chancel</i>

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