St Nicholas Church, Shepperton

Parish Eucharist

13th September 2026

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Celebrant & Preacher: Rev Sue Wood

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In the name of the Lord Jesus we welcome you to St Nicholas Shepperton today. It is wonderful that you have chosen to worship here today. For centuries, people have gathered on this site to support each other, to laugh and cry together, to sing and pray and to come before God and be nourished and sustained at the altar. It is our hope that you will leave here today having been given a glimpse of God's kingdom.
Please join in where indicated in bold.

Opening Hymn 304

I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here.

Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one.

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

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

Words of Welcome and Introduction

Invitation to confession
My sisters and brothers to prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries let us call to mind our sins:

We hold a moment or two of silence

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

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**

*As we sing the Gloria, the children are invited, if they wish to do so, to join the SNAP team in the Parish Centre where they will be able to take part in a bible story through the use of Godly Play. They will rejoin us in the service as Communion is distributed***.**

Gloria
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

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.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest,

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.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest,

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.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

The Collect
Let us pray:
Lord God,
defend your Church from all false teaching
and give to your people knowledge of your truth,
that we may enjoy eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading - A Reading from Exodus 14: 19-31

Israel saved by Moses parting the waters

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.'

Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Second reading - A Reading from Romans 14. 1-12

Do not judge, for we are all accountable to God

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.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn 437

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love
Where there is injury your pardon, Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love, with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness only light,
and where there's sadness ever joy.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all men that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Gospel Reading
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
"Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?"
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hear the holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord

Matthew 18.21-35 *Seventy seven times forgiveness? The unforgiving servant*
Then Peter came and said to him, '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.'

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

Sermon

The Creed
Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
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

We offer our prayers with and for the People of God in every place.

Lord hear us
Lord Graciously hear us

At the end of our prayers
Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to him through faith, heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn 70

A collection for the mission and ministry of the parish will be taken during this hymn. Many people give regularly by standing order so do not put a gift into the bag each Sunday, but we hope that everyone will contribute to the life of the church according to their own means. Thank you for your generosity.

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me, save that thou art,
thou my best thought in the day and the night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord,
thou my great Father, and I thy true heir;
thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
Be thou my armour, and be thou my might,
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I need not, nor all the world's praise,
thou my inheritance through all my days
thou, and thou only, the first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art!

High King of heaven, when battle is done,
grant heaven's joys to me, O bright heav'n's sun;
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

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.
Blessed be God for ever.

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.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

The priest prays the Eucharistic prayer and we join together to sing ..

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

Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Please sit or kneel

The priest recalls the Last Supper….

Great is the mystery of faith
Christ has died
Christ is Risen
Christ will come again

The Lord's Prayer

Looking for the coming of his kingdom, as our Saviour has taught us let us 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.

Breaking of the 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.

Agnus Dei
We all join together to sing:
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
God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father

You are warmly invited to feast at the Lord's table. If you are baptised and regularly take communion in your own church you are welcome to receive here at St Nicholas. Holy Communion is offered in both kinds, bread and wine, but you are free to receive in one kind only. If you wish to receive in both kinds, please do not dip the Eucharistic wafers into the wine. You are invited to receive a blessing if you do not take communion. If you wish to receive a blessing, please keep your head bowed.

Choir Anthem

Hymn *(Tune: Franconia)*
Christ bids us break the bread
and share the cup he gave,
in token of the blood he shed
for those he died to save.

It was for us he came,
to bear, by human birth,
a crown of thorn, a cross of shame,
for every child of earth.

The Saviour crucified
in glory rose again:
we here remember him who died,
ascended now to reign.

Our hearts his word obey,
in thankfulness and love:
we feed on Christ by faith today
and feast with him above.

O Christ, once lifted up
that we might be forgiven,
we take the bread and drink the cup
and share the life of heaven.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

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. **Amen**

We join together to say

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.

NOTICES BEFORE THE FINAL HYMN.

Hymn 252

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
Hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong Deliverer, Strong Deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield,
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises, Songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

Please remain standing for the final Blessing

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Blessing

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. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

You are invited to join us for coffee in the Parish Centre after the 10.00am service.