

*A Eucharist for the  
Feast of St George*

*St George's Naseby  
April 23, 2025*



# The Feast of St George

## *Opening Hymn: For All The Saints*

For all the saints  
Who from their labours rest,  
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed  
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might,  
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well fought fight  
Thou in the darkness drear their one true Light  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine.  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host;  
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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## Welcome and Gathering

Leader: Christ is risen!

**All: He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

**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,  
so that we may truly love you  
and worthily praise your holy name;  
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
*Amen.***

We are here to celebrate together with God who is love, and who is holy. It is good to pause, then, and consider those things which harm our relationships with each other and with God.

Jesus taught us,  
“A new commandment I give to you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you.”  
**Spirit of God, search our hearts.**

Hear God’s word to all who turn to Christ:  
Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden  
and I will give you rest.

God has promised forgiveness  
to all who truly repent,  
turn to Christ in faith  
and are themselves forgiving.  
In silence we call to mind our sins.

*Silence*

Let us confess our sins.

**Merciful God,  
we have sinned  
in what we have thought and said,  
in the wrong we have done  
and in the good we have not done.  
We have sinned in ignorance:  
we have sinned in weakness:  
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry.  
We repent and turn to you.  
Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake,  
and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Through the cross of Christ,  
God have mercy on you, pardon you, and set you free.  
Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.  
God strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal.  
**Amen.**

*We stand to say together the words of this ancient song of praise:*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's 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.**

*Collect for the Feast of St. George*

Let us pray:

Holy One, Heavenly God, give us the courage of Saint George to stand up for what we believe in. Give us the strength to overcome the dragons in our lives and in the world. And where we see people in distress, give us the compassion to help them. Make us instruments of God's love, through Jesus Christ who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

## Ministry of the Word

Psalm 18: 1-4, 6-7

**You rescued me, O God, because you delighted in me. Hallelujah!**

I love you, Most High, my strength,  
O God, my stronghold, my crag and my haven.  
My God, my rock in whom I put my trust,  
my shield, the horn of my salvation and my refuge,  
you are worthy of praise.

**You rescued me, O God, because you delighted in me. Hallelujah!**

I will call upon God,  
and so shall I be saved from my enemies.  
The breakers of death rolled over me, O God  
and the torrents of oblivion made me afraid.

**You rescued me, O God, because you delighted in me. Hallelujah!**

I called upon the Holy One in my distress  
and cried out to my God for help.  
You heard my voice from your heavenly dwelling  
and my cry of anguish came to your ears.

**You rescued me, O God, because you delighted in me. Hallelujah!**

*Gradual Hymn : He Who Would Valiant Be*

He who would valiant be  
'Gainst all disaster,  
Let him in constancy  
Follow the Master.  
There's no discouragement  
Shall make him once relent  
His first avowed intent  
To be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round  
With dismal stories,  
Do but themselves confound -  
His strength the more is.  
No foes shall stay his might,  
Though he with giants fight,  
He will make good his right  
To be a pilgrim.

Since Lord Thou dost defend  
Us with Thy Spirit,  
We know we at the end  
Shall life inherit.  
Then fancies flee away;  
I'll fear not what men say.  
I'll labour night and day  
To be a pilgrim.

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### *Gospel Reading*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John, Chapter 15, beginning at verse 8.

### **Praise and Glory to God!**

<sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. <sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

12 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

For the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to Christ the Word!**

## **The Legend of Saint George Taming the Dragon**

Voice One

Saint George was a valiant knight in the days of old, who dedicated his life to rescuing people who were beset by many types of evil . He travelled for many months by land and sea until he came to Libya, where he met a poor hermit who told him that everyone in that land was in great distress, for a Dragon had long ravaged the country.

Voice Two

“Every day,” said the old man, “the Dragon demands the sacrifice of a beautiful maiden and now all the young girls in the whole land have been killed. The king's daughter alone remains, and unless we can find a knight who can slay the Dragon she will be sacrificed tomorrow.”

Voice One

When Saint George heard this story, he proclaimed: “I must try to save the princess, and rescue the people of this place!”

### Voice Two

So he rested that night in the hermit's hut, and at daybreak set out to the valley where the Dragon lived. When he drew near he saw a group of people, leading a beautiful girl dressed in pure Arabian silk. The princess Sabra was being taken to the place of death and everyone was weeping.

### Voice One

The knight spurred his horse and overtook the procession. He comforted them with brave words and persuaded the princess to return to the palace. And he urged everyone else to take shelter in their homes. Then he entered the valley, pretending not to be afraid.

### Voice Two

As soon as the Dragon saw Saint George, it rushed from its cave, roaring with a sound louder than thunder. (But the Dragon was afraid, too, because Saint George looked fierce.) The Dragon's head was immense and its tail fifty feet long. But Saint George continued to pretend that he was not afraid. He struck the monster with his spear, hoping he would wound it. Alas, the Dragon's scales were so hard that the spear broke into a thousand pieces, and Saint George fell from his horse. And then the horse ran away.

### Voice One

Fortunately, Saint George rolled under an enchanted orange tree that God had put there, and against which poison could not prevail. Thus, the Dragon's terrible venom could not hurt him. Within a few minutes Saint George had recovered his strength and was able to fight again. He reached for his sword now that his spear had been shattered to pieces.

### Voice Two

Refreshed from having been sheltered under the orange tree, Saint George

rushed on foot at the Dragon with his sword, and pierced the Dragon under one of its wings where there were no scales.

#### Voice One

And as the Dragon fell, knowing that its scales would not suffice to save it from the onslaught of Saint George, the Dragon said: “Now I will breathe fire and finish this bothersome knight off for good.” Then the Dragon tried to take a very deep breath, the kind needed to reach all the way through its body to be able to breathe fire.

But in doing so, the Dragon realized then that it was too painful to take in so much air because of the wound Saint George had caused with his sword.

#### Voice Two

At the same time, Saint George became fearful that the Dragon was going to breathe fire upon him; and he knew that without armor, his sword would be useless to defend himself against the blast of flames. Dropping his sword, he fell to his knees and called upon God to save him and all the people he had tried to protect.

#### Voice One

Then the Dragon, unable to get enough breath to make fire, and witnessing St. George’s loving concern for all the townspeople, knelt down alongside Saint George. At once enlightened, the Dragon raised its one unharmed wing in praise to God, vowing never again to demand a human sacrifice. Now, the other wing where Saint George had wounded the Dragon did eventually heal over, but a scar remained on the inside, rendering the Dragon incapable of ever breathing deadly fire again.

#### Voice Two

When all the people heard that Saint George and the Dragon had made peace with one another, they came out from where they had been sheltered. And they welcomed the Dragon to be part of their community because they

realized that they needed to love the Dragon as one of their own—and to feed it vegetables every day.

### Voice One

Saint George rode off to find other people to rescue, knowing now that it was not by his power alone that he could save people. And the Dragon became the protector of the town. Whenever any harm, whether from other people or from nature approached the town, the Dragon would call upon God's name, and the mere gesture of attempting a very deep breath as part of his prayer frightened any pestilence or evil away.

### *(Brief!) Sermon*

#### *Affirmation of Faith.*

We believe in an Easter God:

**author of new beginnings,  
fresh hope from dark tombs,  
creator of worlds, life and  
endless possibilities.**

We know and experience this God as Love:

**love without limits or strings attached,  
love costly, precious  
love 'here for all'.**

We believe in an Easter Christ:

**bearer of pain, holder of humanity,  
Christ who lives and breathes with us  
in this world.**

We know and experience this Christ as Love:

**love for us and with us,  
love dying and rising, reborn in us,  
love giving us life.**

We believe in an Easter Spirit:  
**moving among us, breathing new hope  
reviving dead bones and  
setting us free.**

We know and experience this Spirit as Love:  
**love winning our hearts and healing our souls,  
love pointing our feet in new directions,  
love giving us courage to forgive and let go.**

We believe in this Easter God of Love:  
**Author,  
Pain bearer,  
Reviver,  
Our Resurrection, Healing and Hope.**

*Andrew Metcalfe, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2007*

### *Intercessions*

As we prepare to enter into a time of prayer, I invite you to take a few moments in silence to ask yourself: What is the Dragon in your life that you wish to see tamed? What trouble, fear or fault do you want to bring before God that needs to be tamed so that you will be made whole?.....

God of love, you know us more deeply than we know ourselves. Tame those things in us which harm our lives and the lives of others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Now, in the silence, tell God about people you know, people you care for, who have their own inner and outer dragons to fight.....

God of love, God of healing, God of peace, come close to those who are struggling with forces that seem too big for them. Give them your strength, give them courage, fill them with faith and hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the silence, tell God about your concerns about the dragons who threaten our world.....

God of love, God of power, God whose Kingdom we pray for – raise up your children of peace and courage to speak wisdom, truth and grace into places of conflict and greed. Strengthen your people to bring food to the hungry, release to the captives, welcome to the displaced, protection to the vulnerable, love to the lonely and outcast. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you Father for stories which may not be completely true in fact, but are true in spirit. We thank you for the heroic people of every age including our own who, armed only with courage and faith, have brought peace to a frightened and vulnerable people. Above all, we thank you for Jesus, the prince of peace, who defeated the dragon of death so that we could be free from its clutches. And so we offer ourselves and all those we love who have died, into the safety of your faithful arms. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

So let's gather all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, in the words that Jesus taught us:

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### **The Peace**

*Please stand*

E te whānau, we are the body of Christ.

**By one Spirit we were baptised into one Body.**

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.**

The peace of God be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*You may pass the peace with each other.*

## Ministry of the Sacrament

### *Offertory Hymn: Lord When the Storms Of Life Arise*

Lord when the storms of life arise  
Be near to keep me yet  
My chosen portion and my prize  
In whom alone my refuge lies  
On whom my hope is set

In God alone securely stand  
His saints for ever blest  
Who shelter safe beneath His hand  
As in a fair and pleasant land  
And in His presence rest

Lord of our life our strength and stay  
Whom yet unseen we love  
Uphold us in the narrow way  
And guide our footsteps night and day  
With wisdom from above

So shall the path of life be shown  
The prayers of faith ascend  
Until we know as we are known  
And sing before the Father's throne  
The songs that never end

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry, Timothy Dudley-Smith

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The Lord is here.

**God's 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 offer thanks and praise.**

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord,  
almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in all places  
to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness;  
through your eternal Word  
you have created all things from the beginning  
and formed us in your own image;  
male and female you created us.  
When we sinned and turned away  
you called us back to yourself  
and gave your Son to share our human nature.  
By his death on the cross,  
he made the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world  
and freed us from the bondage of sin.  
You raised him to life triumphant over death;  
you exalted him in glory.  
In him you have made us a holy people  
by sending upon us your holy and lifegiving Spirit.  
Therefore with the faithful who rest in him,  
with angels and archangels and 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.**

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father;  
on the night before he died  
your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread;  
when he had given you thanks,  
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
Take, eat, this is my body  
which is given for you;  
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;  
when he had given you thanks,  
he gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you,  
for 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,  
to remember me.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ;  
your death we show forth;  
your resurrection we proclaim;  
your coming we await;  
Amen! Come Lord Jesus.**

Therefore loving God,  
recalling your great goodness to us in Christ,  
his suffering and death,  
his resurrection and ascension,

and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life  
and this cup of salvation.

Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving  
which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit  
that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive  
may be to us the body and blood of Christ,  
and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power,  
may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you  
in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, O God,  
in songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,  
here and everywhere,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
**We who are many are one body,  
for we all share the one bread.**

Draw near and receive the body and blood of our Saviour  
Jesus Christ in remembrance that he died for us.  
Let us feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*All are invited to share in communion; none should feel obliged to! If you  
would rather have a blessing, come forward but leave your hands down in  
front of you.*

## Post-Communion and Dismissal

God of legend and chivalry,  
We praise you for George the martyred soldier saint,  
Dragon slayer, rescuer of maidens in distress;  
We thank you for all the idealism his name has inspired.  
Keep us simple, we pray, and faithful.

**Grant that we who have shared this sacrament of our salvation  
May triumph over all that is evil  
And serve you faithfully to the end. Amen.**

### *Blessing*

*Closing hymn: I Will Sing the Wondrous Story (Hyfrydol)*

I will sing the wondrous story  
Of the Christ who died for me;  
How He left the realms of glory  
For the cross on Calvary.  
Yes I'll sing the wondrous story  
Of the Christ who died for me!  
Sing it with His saints in glory,  
Gathered by the crystal sea.

I was lost, but Jesus found me;  
Found the sheep that went astray.  
Raised me up and gently led me  
Back into the narrow way.  
Days of darkness still may meet me,  
Sorrow's path I oft may tread,  
But His presence still is with me,  
By His guiding hand I'm led.

He will keep me till the river  
Rolls its waters at my feet.  
Then He'll bear me safely over  
Made by grace for glory meet.  
Yes I'll sing the wondrous story,  
Of the Christ who died for me!  
Sing it with His saints in glory  
Gathered by the crystal sea.

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Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.  
**Amen! We go in the name of Christ.**



*Please join us at the pub for dinner after the service.*