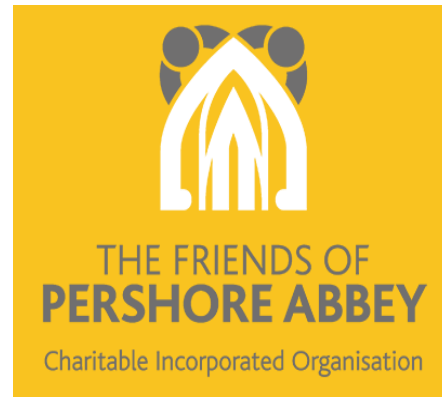
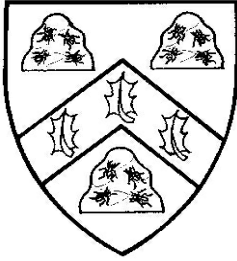


THE ABBEY CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
PERSHORE



Patronal Festival

WITH THE FRIENDS OF PERSHORE ABBEY

Holy Cross Day, 14 September, 2025
at 1030

A warm welcome to Pershore Abbey this morning
for our Patronal Festival

We welcome the Friends of the Abbey

This service is being livestreamed to the Abbey's YouTube Channel

To find the recording visit **www.youtube.com** and search for

Pershore Abbey Community

[Pershore Abbey Community on YouTube](#)

If you have any queries or concerns please do speak to a sidesperson or churchwarden

The Gathering

(Crucifer)

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
Till all the world adore his sacred name.*

Come, let us follow where our Captain trod,
our King victorious, Christ the Son of God:

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us unto thee:

Let every race and every language tell
of him who saves our souls from death and hell:

From farthest regions let their homage bring,
and on his cross adore their Saviour King:

Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace.

For thy blest cross which doth for all atone
creation's praises rise before thy throne:

[George W Kitchin, 1827-1912 & Michael R Newbolt, 1874-1956]

The Greeting

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

*The Book of The Friends of Pershore Abbey is presented and
laid out on the altar*

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

God shows his love for us in that,
while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us then show our love for him
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Romans 5.8

All **Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
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.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

All **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.**

The Collect for Holy Cross Day

Almighty God,
who in the passion of your blessed Son
made an instrument of painful death
to be for us the means of life and peace:
grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ
that we may gladly suffer for his sake;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

A reading from the Book of Numbers

The Israelites left Mount Hor by the road to the Sea of Suph, to skirt the land of Edom. On the way the people lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of the unsatisfying food.' At this, God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people; and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

(Numbers 21:4-9)

For the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(Philippians 2:6-11)

For the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

(The Servant King)

1. From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;
not to be served, but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

2. There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will, but yours,' He said.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

3. Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.

4. So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

[Graham Kendrick b. 1950]

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

All **Alleluia!**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to Nicodemus, 'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.'

(John 3:13-17)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Revd Canon Claire Lording

The Creed

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

Let us pray to the Father through his Son,
who suffered on the cross for the world's redemption.

We give thanks for the faithful witness of this Abbey
down through the centuries.

We give thanks for The Friends of Pershore Abbey,
for their dedication and constant support.

Fill with your Spirit Christ's broken body, the Church.
Give to Christian people everywhere a deep longing
to take up the cross and to understand its mysterious glory.
By the Saviour's cross and passion,

All **Lord, save us and help us.**

Bless those who lead the Church's worship.
In the preaching of the word
and the celebration of the sacraments,
draw your people close to you.
By the Saviour's cross and passion,

All **Lord, save us and help us.**

Give your grace to those who preach your word to the nations.
Help us to witness to the faith we have received
by our words and in our deeds,
and daily conform us more and more to Christ,
that we may glory in his cross.
By the Saviour's cross and passion,

All **Lord, save us and help us.**

Look in your mercy upon the world you loved so much
that you sent your Son to suffer and to die.
Strengthen those who work to share
the reconciliation won at such a cost upon the cross.
By the Saviour's cross and passion,

All **Lord, save us and help us.**

Bring healing by the wounds of Christ
to all who are weighed down by pain and injustice.
Help the lonely and the betrayed, the suffering and the dying,
to find strength in the companionship of Jesus,
and in his passion to know their salvation.
By the Saviour's cross and passion,

All **Lord, save us and help us.**

Welcome into paradise all who have left this world in
your friendship.
According to your promises,
bring them with all your saints
to share in the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection.
By the Saviour's cross and passion,

All **Lord, save us and help us.**

**Holy God, holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Christ is our peace.
He has reconciled us to God
in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

(Harewood)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Christ is our corner-stone,
on him alone we build;
with his true saints alone
the courts of heaven are filled:
on his great love
our hopes we place
of present grace
and joys above. | 3. Here, gracious God, do thou
for evermore draw nigh;
accept each faithful vow,
and mark each suppliant sigh;
in copious shower
on all who pray
each holy day
thy blessings pour. |
| 2. O then with hymns of praise
these hallowed courts shall ring;
our voices we will raise
the Three in One to sing;
and thus proclaim
in joyful song,
both loud and long,
that glorious name. | 4. Here may we gain from heaven
the grace which we implore;
and may that grace, once given,
be with us evermore,
until that day
when all the blest
to endless rest
are called away. |

[John Chandler, 1806-1876]

Preparation of the Table

Merciful God,
through the death of your beloved Son
you transformed an instrument of shame
into a sign of hope and glory.
Receive all we bring before you this day,
and renew us in the mystery of his love;
through the same Jesus Christ,
the Lord of glory.

The Eucharistic 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 indeed right and good,

our duty and our joy,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today we celebrate with songs of praise

the cross, the victory-sign of Christ.

Once through the fruit of the forbidden tree we fell,

now through this tree our Saviour cancels all our sin.

An instrument of shameful death

has become for Christ a throne of glory.

The power of the life-giving cross

reveals the judgement that has come upon the world

and the triumph of Christ crucified.

And so, with choirs of angels

and with all the heavenly host,

we proclaim your glory

and join their unending hymn of praise:

All **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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord;

and as we obey his command,

send your Holy Spirit,

that broken bread and wine outpoured

may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

All Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

All Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All **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.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The Agnus Dei

All **Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for
you and feed on him in your hearts,
by faith with thanksgiving.

During the distribution the choir will sing "God So Loved the World" - Sir John Stainer

The President and people receive communion

(Caithness)

O Cross of Christ, immortal tree
on which our Saviour died,
the world is sheltered by your arms
that bore the Crucified.

From bitter death and barren wood
the tree of life is made;
its branches bear unfailing fruit
and leaves that never fade.

O faithful Cross, you stand unmoved
while ages run their course;
foundation of the universe,
creation's binding force.

Give glory to the risen Christ
and to his Cross give praise,
the sign of God's unfathomed love,
the hope of all our days.

(Community of Stanbrook Abbey)

Prayer after Communion

Faithful God,
whose Son bore our sins in his body on the tree
and gave us this sacrament
to show forth his death until he comes:
give us grace to glory in the cross
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
for he is our salvation,
our life and our hope,
who reigns as Lord,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

**All 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.**

(Lux Eoī)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Church of God, elect and glorious,
holy nation, chosen race;
called as God's own special people,
royal priests and heirs of grace:
know the purpose of your calling,
show to all his mighty deeds;
tell of love which knows no limits,
grace which meets all human needs. | 3. Once you were an alien people,
strangers to God's heart of love;
but he brought you home in mercy,
citizens of heaven above.
Let his love flow out to others,
let them feel a Father's care;
that they too may know his welcome
and his countless blessings share. |
| 2. God has called you out of darkness
into his most marvellous light;
brought his truth to life within you,
turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you
that God's name is glorified;
and all find fresh hope and purpose
in Christ Jesus crucified. | 4. Church of God, elect and holy,
be the people he intends;
strong in faith and swift to answer
each command your master sends:
royal priests, fulfil your calling
through your sacrifice and prayer;
give your lives in joyful service —
sing his praise, his love declare. |

[James Seddon (1915-1983)]

The Dismissal

Christ crucified draw you to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sins forgiven;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary—Sonata 3 in A major - Felix Mendelssohn

The congregation are invited to remain seated and listen to the voluntary

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England,
material from which is included in this service,
is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000,

Common Worship: Festivals material
from which is included in this service is copyright:
© The Archbishops' Council 2008.

Scripture readings are taken from *The New Revised Standard Version (Anglicized Edition)*, copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

CCLI Licence Number 46441