



Welcome

The First Sunday of Lent

18 February



actorschurch



St. Paul's Covent Garden



@actorschurch

Please switch off all mobile phones.

BEWARE: We do occasionally suffer from theft: take care of your belongings

Accessibility

Large Print versions of the Order of Service are available.

Gluten free wafers are available.

Hearing loop installed; collect a receiver from the back of church.

info@actorschurch.org 020 7836 5221 www.actorschurch.org

We stand as the Altar Party enters and sing the hymn

1 Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled:

2 sunbeams scorching all the day;
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

3 Shall not we thy sorrows share,
and from earthly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
glad with thee to suffer pain?

4 And if Satan, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
thou, his vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.

5 So shall we have peace divine;
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us too shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.

6 Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

The Priest goes to the lectern and says:

Priest In the name of the Father, and of
the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Priest The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

The priest introduces the service and then leads the congregation in prayer:

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.

The priest invites the congregation to seek God's mercy and grace. We say together:

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us and restore to us the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We sing the Kyrie, which you will find on the separate music sheet.

*The Priest announces the **Absolution** to which all reply: **Amen**.*

*The prayer of the day – the **Collect** – is said.*

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ
fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without
sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in
obedience to your Spirit; and, as you
know our weakness, so may we know
your power to save; 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.**

*We sit for the **first** and **second readings**.*

First Reading

Genesis 9.8-17, read by Alex

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' ¹²God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' ¹⁷God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

At the end:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Peter 3.18-22, read by Tony

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,

²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

At the end:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God

*We stand to sing the **hymn***

**1 Father of heaven, whose love
profound
a ransom for our souls hath found,
before thy throne we sinners bend,
to us thy pardoning love extend.**

**2 Almighty Son, incarnate Word,
our prophet, priest, Redeemer, Lord,
before thy throne we sinners bend,
to us thy saving grace extend.**

**3 Eternal Spirit, by whose breath
the soul is raised from sin and death,
before thy throne we sinners bend,
to us thy quickening power extend.**

**4 Thrice Holy! Father, Spirit, Son;
mysterious Godhead, three in one,
before thy throne we sinners bend,
grace, pardon, life to us extend.**

*All remain standing as the **Gospel** is read*

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Priest Hear the Gospel of our Lord
Jesus Christ according to
Mark (1, 9-15)

All Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

At the end:

Priest This is the Gospel of the
 Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

*We sit for the **Sermon***

*We stand to say the **Creed***

**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 of 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.**

*The **Prayers of Intercession** follow*

At the end:

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

*The Priest introduces the **Peace**:*

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with
 you always
All And also with you

*We sing a **hymn** as the Altar is prepared for
the **Eucharistic Prayer**. A **collection** is taken
during the **hymn**, but you may prefer to make a
contactless payment, at the back of church.*

**1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice,
which is more than liberty.**

**2 There is no place where earth's
sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's
failings
have such kindly judgement given.**

**3 There is grace enough for
thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.**

**4 For the love of God is broader
than the measure of man's mind;
and the heart of the eternal
is most wonderfully kind.**

**5 But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he will not own.**

**6 If our love were but more simple,
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be all sunshine
in the sweetness of our Lord.**

Priest 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 for ever**
Priest 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 our spiritual drink
All **Blessed be God for ever**

Priest Pray my sisters and brothers
that our sacrifice may be
acceptable to God the
Almighty Father
All **May the Lord accept the
sacrifice at your hand, for
the praise and glory of his
name, for our good and
the good of all his Church.**

*The Priest adds the prayer over the gifts to which
we reply* **Amen**

Priest The Lord be with you
All **And also with you.**
Priest Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**
Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord
our God.
All **It is right to give thanks
and praise...**

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues until we sing
the **Sanctus** and **Benedictus** from the
music sheet. The **Eucharistic Prayer**
continues until...*

Priest: Great is the mystery of faith
All: **Dying you destroyed our
death
Rising you restored our
life
Lord Jesus come in glory.**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues until
Priest ...for ever and ever
All: **Amen**

The Priest introduces the Lord's Prayer
**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**

Priest 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**

*We sing the **Agnus Dei** from the music
sheet.*

Priest Jesus is 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.**

*The congregation approaches the altar to receive
Communion.*

*All those who are in good standing with their
own Church are invited to receive Communion.*

*Those who prefer to ask for a Blessing are
invited to bow their heads at the Altar rail, or
bring this booklet as a sign to the Priest.*

**If you do not wish to receive the
Sacrament in wine, please return to
your seat after receiving the Host.**

**Please receive Communion (in one
kind) in your hand ONLY.**

**Please keep absolute silence during
Communion**

Post Communion Prayers:

Lord God, you have renewed us with the
living bread from heaven; by it you nourish
our faith, increase our hope, and
strengthen our love: teach us always to
hunger for him who is the true and living
bread, and enable us to live by every word
that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

We say together:

**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.**

Any Banns of marriage and notices are given.

Priest The Lord be with you

All And also with you

*The **Blessing** is given to which all reply: **Amen***

*We sing the **hymn** and turn to face the West
End for the **dismissal***

**I All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he
guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.**

2 Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
Is my temple and my tower.

3 God's great goodness aye
endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

4 Daily doth th'Almighty Giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

5 Still from man to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all
ye who follow shall not fall.

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve
 the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

‘What’s On’ this week

Tonight

6.30pm Songs I’ll never sing **

Tuesday 20 February

2pm Memorial Service for the late Tony Priestly RIP

Wednesday 21 February

12.00 Sandwich Lunch in Church, *all welcome*

1.10pm Holy Eucharist

7.30pm Classical Reflection **

Thursday 22 February

6.30pm & 8.30pm Musicals by Candlelight **

Friday 23 February

Please note that the church office is closed this afternoon

1pm Everybody Can!

6.30pm & 8.30pm Musicals by Candlelight

Saturday 24 February

6.30pm & 8.30pm Musicals by Candlelight

Sunday 25 February

11.00 Parish Sung Eucharist, *for the Second Sunday of Lent*

Please note that there is a ‘fun run’ in Central London and you might need to adjust your route to church!

***Tickets for all paid events may be booked at www.actorschurch.org*