



Welcome

The Third Sunday of Epiphany

26 January 2025



actorschurch



St. Paul's Covent Garden

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

**Father of mercies, in thy word
what endless glory shines!
For ever be thy name adored
for these celestial lines.**

**2 Here may the blind and hungry
come,
and light and food receive;
here shall the lowliest guest have
room,
and taste and see and live.**

**3 Here springs of consolation rise
to cheer the fainting mind,
and thirsting souls receive supplies,
and sweet refreshment find.**

**4 Here the Redeemer's welcome
voice
spreads heavenly peace around,
and life and everlasting joys
attend the blissful sound.**

**O may these heavenly pages be
5 my ever dear delight,
and still new beauties may I see,
and still increasing light.**

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:*

**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.**

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

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

*The prayer of the day – the **Collect** – is sung*

**Almighty God, whose Son revealed in
signs and miracles the wonder of your
saving presence: renew your people with
your heavenly grace, and in all our
weakness sustain us by your mighty
power; 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

Nehemiah 8.1-3,5-6,8-10, read by Margaret

¹All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'

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

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12.12-31a, read by Arabella

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honour. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts.

At the end:

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

*We stand to sing the **hymn** and turn towards the Gospel book*

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added
unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!**

**2 Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto
you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!**

**3 Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds out from the mouth
of God.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!**

All remain standing (if able) 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 *Luke*
(4, 14-21)

All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

²¹Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

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
Priest	Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We sing a **hymn** as the Altar is prepared for*
*the **Eucharistic Prayer**. A **collection** is taken*
*during the **hymn**. You may prefer to donate by*
card, at the back of church

O thou, who at thy Eucharist didst
pray
that all thy Church might be for ever
one,
grant us at every Eucharist to say
with longing heart and soul, “Thy
will be done:”
O may we all one bread, one body
be,
through this blest sacrament of
unity.

2 For all thy Church, O Lord, we
intercede;
make thou our sad divisions soon to
cease;
draw us the nearer each to each, we
plead,
by drawing all to thee, O Prince of
peace:
thus may we all one bread, one body
be,
through this blest sacrament of
unity.

3 We pray thee too for wanderers
from thy fold;
O bring them back, good shepherd
of the sheep,
back to the faith which saints
believed of old,
back to the Church which still that
faith doth keep:
soon may we all one bread, one body
be,
through this blest sacrament of
unity.

**4 So, Lord, at length when
sacraments shall cease,
may we be one with all thy Church
above,
one with thy saints in one unbroken
peace,
one with thy saints in one unbounded
love:
more blessed still, in peace and love
to be
one with the Trinity in unity.**

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: Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again

The Eucharistic Prayer continues until

Priest ...for ever and ever

All: Amen

The Priest invites us to say:

**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 steps 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.

Please keep absolute silence during Communion

We remain seated to sing the hymn

**May the grace of Christ our Saviour,
and the Father's boundless love,
with the Holy Spirit's favour,
rest upon us from above.**

**2 Thus may we abide in union
with each other and the Lord,
and possess, in sweet communion,
joys which earth cannot afford.**

Post Communion Prayers:

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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***

**Forth in thy Name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labour to pursue;
thee, only thee, resolved to know
in all I think or speak or do.**

**2 The task thy wisdom hath assigned,
O let me cheerfully fulfill;
in all my works thy presence find,
and prove thy good and perfect will.**

**3 Thee may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes mine inmost substance
see,
and labour on at thy command,
and offer all my works to thee.**

**4 Give me to bear thy easy yoke,
and every moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look,
and hasten to thy glorious day.**

**5 For thee delightfully employ
whate'er thy bounteous grace hath
given;
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with thee to heav'n.**

*Priest: Go in peace to love and serve
the Lord*

All: Thanks be to God

‘WHAT’S ON’ THIS WEEK

Today

Please note that the church closes at 12.30pm today

Monday 27 January

8pm

Tuesday 28 January

10.30am Sing Space Choir

Wednesday 29 January

1.10pm Holy Eucharist

1.45pm Tea and Cake – *all welcome*

Friday 31 January

10.00am – 4pm We are. Second life fashion **

6.30pm & 8.30pm Musicals by Candlelight **

Saturday 25 January

10.00am – 4pm We are. Second life fashion**

6.30pm & 8.30pm Musicals by Candlelight **

Sunday 2 February

11.00 Parish Sung Eucharist, for the Feast of Candlemass

*** Tickets for all paid events may be obtained from*

www.actorschurch.org