



Welcome

The First Sunday of Lent

26 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 2.15-17; 3.1-7, read by Richard

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' ²The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

At the end:

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

Second Reading

Romans 5.12-19, read by Abra

¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned – ¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so the act of righteousness of one leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one person's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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 Matthew (4, 1-11)
All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' ⁴But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' "

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you",

and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

⁷Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; ⁹and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' ¹⁰Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

Priest: As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.*

**Please form a socially distanced
queue to the Altar step.**

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

**Please keep absolute silence during
Communion**

After Communion Mollie Mason-King will sing 'Nella Fantasia' by Ennio Morricone



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 O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.**

**2 O let me feel thee near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.**

**3 O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.**

**4 O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end:
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my friend.**

**5 O let me see thy foot-marks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my friend.**

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve
 the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

‘What’s On’ this week

Wednesday 1 March

9.30am School Eucharist, all welcome

12.00 Sandwich Lunch in Church, *all welcome*

1.10pm Holy Eucharist

Thursday 2 March

Please note that the church and grounds are closed today for a Funeral

Sunday 5 March

11.00 Parish Sung Eucharist, for the Second Sunday of Lent

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