



Welcome

The Third Sunday of Lent

23 March



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.

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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.**

**5 O may these heavenly pages be
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:*

**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 most dear Son went
not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was
crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking
in the way of the cross, may find it none
other than the way of life and peace;
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

Isaiah 55.1-9, read by James

The LORD says this:

¹Everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that
which is not bread, and your labour for
that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is
good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting
covenant, my steadfast, sure love for
David.

⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not
know, and nations that do not know you
shall run to you, because of the LORD
your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

⁷Let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may
have mercy on them, and to our God, for
he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the
LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the
earth, so are my ways higher than your
ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

At the end:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Philippians 3.17-4.1, read by Andrea

1 Corinthians 10.1-13

I do not want you to be unaware,
brothers and sisters, that our ancestors
were all under the cloud, and all passed
through the sea, ²and all were baptized
into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,
³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and
all drank the same spiritual drink. For they
drank from the spiritual rock that followed
them, and the rock was Christ.

⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with
most of them, and they were struck down
in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples
for us, so that we might not desire evil as
they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as
some of them did; as it is written, 'The
people sat down to eat and drink, and
they rose up to play.' ⁸We must not
indulge in sexual immorality as some of
them did, and twenty-three thousand fell
in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ
to the test, as some of them did, and were
destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not
complain as some of them did, and were
destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These
things happened to them to serve as an
example, and they were written down to
instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages
have come. ¹²So if you think you are
standing, watch out that you do not fall.
¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not
common to everyone. God is faithful, and
he will not let you be tested beyond your
strength, but with the testing he will also
provide the way out so that you may be
able to endure it.

At the end:

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

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

**Bread of heaven, on thee we feed,
for thy flesh is meat indeed;
ever may our souls be fed
with this true and living bread;
day by day with strength supplied
through the life of him who died.**

**2 Vine of heaven, thy blood supplies
this blest cup of sacrifice;
Lord, thy wounds our healing give,
to thy cross we look and live:
Jesus may we ever be
grafted, rooted, built in thee.**

*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
Luke (13, 1-9)

All Glory to you, O Lord.

1 There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

6 Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7 So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" 8 He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."

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***

Priest Do you believe and trust in
God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

**All We believe and trust in
him.**

Priest Do you believe and trust in
God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

**All We believe and trust in
him.**

Priest Do you believe and trust in
God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of
God and makes Christ known
in the world?

**All We believe and trust in
him.**

Priest This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.
We believe and trust in
one God, Father, Son and
Holy Spirit.
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.*

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his
wounds,
and drives away his fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary rest.

Dear name! the rock on which I
build,
my shield and hiding-place,
my never ending treasury filled
with boundless stores of grace.

Jesus! my shepherd, brother, friend,

my prophet, priest, and King,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.

Till then would I thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of thy name
refresh my soul in death.

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**

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. We remain seated to sing the **hymn***

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
‘Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast:’
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
‘Behold I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live:’
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul
revived,
and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say
‘I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright:’
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk
till travelling days are done.

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 Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou mayest smile at all thy foes.

2 See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage:
grace which, like the Lord the giver,
never fails from age to age?

3 Round each habitation hovering,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering,
showing that the Lord is near.
Thus they march, the pillar leading,
light by night and shade by day;
daily on the manna feeding
which he gives them when they pray.

4 Saviour, since of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
all his boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Zion's children know.

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve
the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

‘What’s On’ this week

Today

5.30pm Soprano Songbird Concert **

Tuesday 25 March

10.30am Sing Space Choir

Wednesday 26 March

1.10pm Holy Eucharist

Thursday 27 March

1pm Lunchtime Concert

Friday 28 March

1pm Lunchtime Concert

7.30pm A requiem for water **

Saturday 29 March

10.45am West End Mums’ in Concert **

6.30pm & 8.30pm Musicals by Candlelight **

Please note that the clocks go forward one hour tonight!

Don’t be late for church!!!!

Sunday 30 March

11.00 Parish Sung Eucharist, for Mothering Sunday

Please make a special effort to invite someone for Mothering Sunday, especially if you know someone who might be lonely on that day.

We are collecting food for the Westminster Food Bank. If you are able to donate non-perishable items, we would be most grateful. We also, as you know, donate clothes to local homeless folk. Again, if you are getting rid of items, please bring them into church. Many thanks.

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