



Welcome

Sexagesima

8 February



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

**1 Angel-voices ever singing
round thy throne of light,
angel-harps for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless thee
and confess thee
Lord of might.**

**2 Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that thou regardest
songs of sinful man?
Can we know that thou art near us,
and wilt hear us
Yea, we can.**

**3 Yea, we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise design;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure
all combine.**

**4 In thy house, great God, we offer
of thine own to thee;
and for thine acceptance proffer
all unworthily
hearts and minds and hands and
voices
in our choicest
psalmody.**

**5 Honour, glory, might and merit
thine shall ever be,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
blessed Trinity!
Of the best that thou hast given
earth and heaven
render thee.**

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**. The **Gloria** is sung from the
separate music sheet.*

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

**Almighty God, you have created the
heavens and the earth and made us in
your own image: teach us to discern your
hand in all your works and your likeness in
all your children; through Jesus Christ
your Son our Lord, who with you and the
Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever. Amen.**

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

First Reading

Genesis 1.1-2.3, read by Noel

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' ²¹So God

created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

²⁷So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' ²⁹God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

At the end:

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

Second Reading

Romans 8.18-25, read by Max

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, ²¹in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

**Morning has broken,
Like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken
Like the first bird;
Praise for the singing,
Praise for the morning,
Praise for them springing
Fresh from the Word.**

**2 Sweet the rain's new fall,
Sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall
On the first grass;
Praise for the sweetness,
Of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness
Where his feet pass.**

**3 Mine is the sunlight,
Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light
Eden saw play;
Praise with elation,
Praise every morning,
God's re-creation
Of the new day.**

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 (6, 25-34)
All Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: "I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

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**.*

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our
eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the
ancient of days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name
we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as
light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest
in might;
thy justice like mountains high
soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of
goodness and love.

3 To all life thou givest, to both great
and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of
all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on
the tree,
and wither and perish; but naught
changeth thee.

4 Great Father of glory, pure Father
of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling
their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us
to see 'tis only the splendour of light
hideth thee.

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
Priest **Blessed be God for ever**
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
Priest **Blessed be God for ever**
Pray my friends 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
Priest **And also with you.**
Priest Lift up your hearts.
All
Priest **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
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**

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

The Agnus Dei is sung 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.

Post Communion Prayers:

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; 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.
and then the Priest says:*

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***

**O worship the King all glorious
above;
O gratefully sing his power and his
love;
our shield and defender, the ancient
of days,
pavilioned in splendour and girded
with praise.**

**2 O tell of his might, O sing of his
grace,
whose robe is the light, whose
canopy space;
his chariots of wrath the deep
thunder clouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of
the storm.**

**3 Thy bountiful care what tongue can
recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the
light;
it streams from the hills, it descends
to the plain,
and sweetly distils in the dew and the
rain.**

**4 Frail children of dust and feeble as
frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to
fail;
thy mercies how tender, how firm to
the end!
Our maker, defender, Redeemer,
and friend.**

**5 O measureless might, ineffable
love,
while angels delight to hymn thee
above,
thy ransomed creation, though
feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to thy
praise.**

Priest. Go in peace to love and serve
the Lord

All Thanks be to God

‘What’s On’ this week

Today

4pm Choral Evensong, *with the choir of St. Paul’s*

Monday 9 February

10.00 Art Club – *all welcome*

4pm Play reading group – *all welcome*

Tuesday 10 February

5.30pm Tuesday@Actorschurch – *all welcome*

Wednesday 11 February

1.10pm Holy Eucharist

1.45pm Tea and Cake – *all welcome*

Thursday 12 February

7pm Ceilidh Evening **

Friday 13 February

1pm Lunchtime Concert

Saturday 14 February

6.30pm & 8.30pm Valentine’s Day by Candlelight

Sunday 15 February

Quinquagesima

11.00 Sung Eucharist

Please return your Palm Crosses from last year, so that they may be burned to make the ash for the Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes.

***Tickets for all paid events at St. Paul’s can be obtained via our website*

www.actorschurch.org