



Welcome

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

22 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

The royal banners forward go,
the cross shines forth in mystic glow,
where he in flesh, our flesh who
made,
our sentence bore, our ransom paid.

2 O tree of beauty, tree of light,
O tree with royal purple dight
elect on whose triumphal breast
those holy limbs should find their
rest!

3 On whose dear arms, so widely
flung,
the weight of this world's ransom
hung,
the price of humankind to pay
and spoil the spoiler of his prey.

4 O cross, our one reliance, hail!
So may thy power with us prevail
to give new virtue to the saint,
and pardon to the penitent.

5 To thee, eternal three in one,
let homage meet by all be done:
whom by thy cross thou dost
restore,
preserve and govern evermore.
Amen.

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.

*The Priest announces the **Absolution** to which
all reply: **Amen.** The **Kyrie** is sung from the
separate music sheet.*

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

Most merciful God, who by the death and
resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world: grant that
by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his
victory; 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

Ezekiel 37.1-14, read by Arabella

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.'

⁴Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.

⁹Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.'

At the end:

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

Second Reading

Romans 8.6-11, read by Margaret

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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*

**In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time,
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.**

**2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me:
Lo! It glows with peace and joy.**

**3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way:
from the cross the radiance
streaming
adds more lustre to the day.**

**4 Bane and blessing, pain and
pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified:
Peace is there that knows no
measure,
joys that through all time abide.**

**5 In the cross of Christ I glory;
towering o'er the wrecks of time,
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.**

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 John
(11, 1-45)

All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' ⁸The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' ⁹Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.'

¹¹After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' ¹²The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.

²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

²¹Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' ²³Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' ²⁵Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' ²⁷She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'

³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' ³⁷But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.' ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?'

⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.'

⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in 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

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***

**It is a thing most wonderful,
almost too wonderful to be,
that God's own Son should come
from heaven,
and die to save a child like me.**

**2 I sometimes think about the cross,
and shut my eyes, and try to see
the cruel nails and crown of thorns,
and Jesus crucified for me.**

**3 It is most wonderful to know
his love for me so free and sure;
but 'tis more wonderful to see
my love for him so faint and poor.**

**4 And yet I want to love thee, Lord!
O light the flame within my heart,
and I will love thee more and more,
until I see thee as thou art.**

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 **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
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**

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.

We remain seated to sing the hymn

**I just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee,
O lamb of God, I come.**

**2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O lamb of God, I come.**

**3 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O lamb of God, I come.**

**4 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse,
relieve:
because thy promise I believe,
O lamb of God, I come.**

**5 Just as I am (thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down),
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O lamb of God, I come.**

**6 Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth, and
height to prove,
here for a season, then above,
O lamb of God, I come.**

Post Communion Prayers:

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our
brothers and sisters we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all, and gave up
your life and died for us, but are alive and
reign, 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.
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***

**When I survey the wondrous cross,
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me
most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**3 See from his head, his hands, his
feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**4 His dying crimson like a robe,
spreads o'er his body on the tree;
then am I dead to all the globe,
and all the globe is dead to me.**

**5 Were the whole realm of nature
mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Priest. Go in peace to love and serve
the Lord

All Thanks be to God

‘What’s On’ this week

Monday 23 March

10.00 Art Club – *all welcome*

4pm Play reading group – *all welcome*

Tuesday 24 March

7.30pm Musica Sancta Concert **

Wednesday 25 March

9.45am School Eucharist

1.10pm Holy Eucharist

3pm Funeral of the late Lady Helen Maclellan RIP

Thursday 26 March

7.30pm London Lawyers concert **

Friday 27 March

1pm Lunchtime Concert

3.30pm Memorial Service for the late Matz Skoog RIP

Saturday 28 March

Please note that the clocks go forward one hour tonight

Sunday 29 March

PALM SUNDAY

The beginning of Holy week.

11.00 Sung Eucharist.

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