



Welcome

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

26 April



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

**Come, worship God who is worthy of honour,
enter his presence with thanks and a song!**

**He is the rock of his people's salvation,
to whom our jubilant praises belong.**

**2. Ruled by his might are the heights of the mountains,
held in his hands are the depths of the earth;**

**his is the sea, his the land, for he made them,
king above all gods, who gave us our birth.**

**3. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture,
he is our maker and to him we pray;
gladly we kneel in obedience before him
great is the God whom we worship this day!**

**4. Now let us listen, for God speaks among us,
open our hearts and receive what he says:
peace be to all who remember his goodness,
trust in his word and rejoice in his ways!**

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
and also with you.

Priest Alleluia, Christ is Risen

**All He is Risen indeed.
Alleluia.**

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, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he 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

Acts 2.42-47, read by Richard

Many were baptized and were added to the community. ⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

At the end:

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

Second Reading

1 Peter 2.19-25, read by Amanda

Brothers and sisters: ¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that,

free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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*

**Loving shepherd of thy sheep,
keep thy lamb, in safety keep;
nothing can thy power withstand,
none can pluck me from thy hand.**

**2. Loving Saviour, thou didst give
thine own life that we might live,
and the hands outstretched to bless
bear the cruel nails' impress.**

**3. I would praise thee every day,
gladly all thy will obey,
like thy blessed ones above
happy in thy precious love.**

**4. Loving shepherd, ever near,
teach thy lamb thy voice to hear;
suffer not my steps to stray
from the straight and narrow way.**

**5. Where thou leadest I would go,
walking in thy steps below,
till before my Father's throne
I shall know as I am known.**

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
(John 10.1-10)

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the Pharisees: ¹‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.’

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**

**Faithful Shepherd, feed me
in the pastures green;
faithful Shepherd, lead me
where thy steps are seen.**

**2. Hold me fast, and guide me
in the narrow way;
so, with thee beside me,
I shall never stray.**

**3. Daily bring me nearer
to the heav'nly shore;
may my faith grow clearer,
may I love thee more:**

**4. Hallow ev'ry pleasure,
ev'ry gift and pain;
be thyself my treasure,
though none else I gain.**

**5. Day by day prepare me
as thou seest best,
then let angels bear me
to thy promised rest.**

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
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**

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**

*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 for the
Priest. After Communion we remain seated to
sing the **hymn***

**Thine for ever! God of love,
hear us from thy throne above;
thine for ever may we be
here and in eternity.**

**2. Thine for ever! O how blest
they who find in thee their rest!
Saviour, guardian, heavenly friend,
O defend us to the end.**

**3. Thine for ever! Lord of life,
shield us through our earthly strife;
thou the life, the truth, the way,
guide us to the realms of day.**

**4. Thine for ever! Thou our guide,
all our wants by thee supplied,
all our sins by thee forgiven,
lead us, Lord, from earth to heaven.**

Post Communion Prayers:

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus
Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his
love for us to lay down his life and rise
again: keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
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***

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

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

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

**4. Jesus! my shepherd, brother, friend,
my prophet, priest, and King,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
accept the praise I bring.**

**5. 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.**

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

Priest. Go in peace to love and
 serve the Lord, Alleluia,
 Alleluia

**All Thanks be to God,
 Alleluia, Alleluia.**

‘What’s On’ this week

*Please note that Simon is now on study leave until Tuesday 7 July.
All enquiries should be directed to the church office on
info@actorschurch.org.*

Monday 27 April

10am Community Art Club – *all welcome*

Tuesday 28 April

5.30pm Tuesdays@Actors’ Church

Wednesday 29 April

1.10pm Holy Eucharist

1.45pm Tea and Cake – *all welcome*

Friday 1 May

1pm Songs From Movies & Musicals

(Free Lunchtime Concert, booking recommended)

Saturday 2 May

3pm & 7pm London Show Choir LIVE**

Sunday 3 May

11am Parish Sung Eucharist

for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Notice - Revision of the Electoral Roll

The current roll is displayed in the foyer. If you wish your name to remain, do nothing. If you would like your name added, please ask a sidesman for a form before 17th May 2026.

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