



Welcome

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

3 May



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.

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We stand as the Altar Party enters and sing the Hymn

**For all Thy saints, O Lord,
Who strove in Thee to live,
Who followed Thee, obeyed, adored,
Our grateful hymn receive.**

**2. For Thy dear saints, O Lord,
Who strove in Thee to die,
Who counted Thee their great
reward,
Accept our thankful cry.**

**3. Thine earthly members fit
To join Thy saints above,
In one communion ever knit,
One fellowship of love.**

**4. Jesus, Thy Name we bless
And humbly pray that we
May follow them in holiness
Who lived and died for 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.

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, who through your only-
begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome
death and opened to us the gate of
everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace
going before us you put into our minds good
desires, so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect; through
Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Amen.

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

First Reading

Acts 7.55-60, read by Jennifer

Standing before the high priest and the
council, ⁵⁵Stephen, filled with the Holy
Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory
of God and Jesus standing at the right
hand of God. ⁵⁶'Look,' he said, 'I see the

heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.

At the end:

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

Second Reading

1 Peter 2.2-10, read by James

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation – ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: ‘See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’ ⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner’, ⁸and ‘A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.’ They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out

of darkness into his marvellous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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*

**Christ is our corner-stone,
On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone
The courts of heaven are filled:
On His great love
Our hopes we place
Of present grace
And joys above.**

**2. O then with hymns of praise
These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise
The three in one to sing;
And thus proclaim
In joyful song,
Both loud and long,
That glorious name.**

**3. Here, gracious God, do Thou
For evermore draw nigh;
Accept each faithful vow,
And mark each suppliant sigh;
In copious shower
On all who pray
Each holy day
Thy blessings pour.**

**4. Here may we gain from heaven
The grace which we implore;
And may that grace, once given,
Be with us evermore,
Until that day
When all the blest
To endless rest
Are called away.**

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 14.1-14)

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own.

Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I

have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

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***

**Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a way as gives us breath
Such a truth as ends all strife;
Such a life as killeth death.**

**2. Come, my Light, my Feast, my
Strength:**

**Such a light as shows a feast;
Such a feast as mends in length;
Such a strength as makes his guest.**

3. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

**Such a joy as none can move;
Such a love as none can part;
Such a heart as joys in love.**

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***

*The priest will invite you to the altar, using
these or other suitable words*

Priest Jesus is the Lamb of God who
takes away the sin of the
world, blessed are those who
are called to his supper.

To which we all reply

**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.*

*After Communion we remain seated to sing the
hymn*

**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-failing Treas'ry filled
With boundless stores of grace!**

**4. Jesus! my Shepherd, Husband,
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 I would Thy love
proclaim
With every fleeting breath,
And may the music of Thy name
Refresh my soul in death.**

Post Communion Prayers:

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the
way, the truth, and the life: grant us to
walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life; who is alive and
reigns, 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.

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***

**Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,
My daily labour to pursue;
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know
In all I think or speak or do.**

**2. The task Thy wisdom hath assigned,
O let me cheerfully fulfill;
In all my works Thy presence find,
And prove thy good and perfect will.**

**3. Thee may I set at my right hand,
Whose eyes mine in-most substance
see,
And labour on at Thy command,
And offer all my works to Thee.**

**4. For Thee delightfully employ
What e'er Thy bounteous grace hath
giv'n;
And run my course with even joy,
And closely walk with Thee to heav'n.**

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

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

‘What’s On’ this week

Monday 4 May

Bank Holiday – Church and grounds closed all day

Tuesday 5 May

5.30pm Tuesdays@Actors’Church

Wednesday 6 May

1.10pm Holy Eucharist

1.45pm Tea and Cake – all welcome

Thursday 7 May

Please note, St. Paul’s Church is being used as a polling station today and there is NO access to church.

Saturday 9 May

1pm Missouri Baptist University Chorale (Free Lunchtime Concert)

Sunday 10 May

11pm Sung Eucharist

12pm Puppet Service

12.45 - 5pm The May Fayre and Puppet Festival

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

Notice - Ascension Day Service, 14th May

Please note that there will be a service for Ascension Day at 6pm on Thursday 14th May.

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.

Notice - Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), 31st May

The APCM will be held on Sunday 31st May 2026 immediately after the morning service. Please do try your best to attend.