



Welcome

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

17 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.

Adults: Hail the day that sees him rise,
Young People: Alleluia!

Adults: To his throne above the skies;
Young People: Alleluia!

Adults: Christ, the lamb for sinners
given,

Young People: Alleluia!

Adults: Enters now the highest heaven.
Young People: Alleluia!

2. There for him high triumph waits;
Young People: Alleluia!

Lift your heads, eternal gates!

Young People: Alleluia!

He hath conquered death and sin;

Young People: Alleluia!

Take the King of glory in!

Young People: Alleluia!

3. Lo, the heaven its Lord receives,
Young People: Alleluia!

Yet he loves the earth he leaves;

Young People: Alleluia!

Though returning to his throne,

Young People: Alleluia!

Still he calls mankind his own.

Young People: Alleluia!

4. See! He lifts his hands above;

Young People: Alleluia!

See! He shows the prints of love;

Young People: Alleluia!

Hark! His gracious lips bestow,

Young People: Alleluia!

Blessings on his Church below.

Young People: Alleluia!

5. Still for us he intercedes,

Young People: Alleluia!

His prevailing death he pleads;

Young People: Alleluia!

Near himself prepares our place,

Young People: Alleluia!

He the first-fruits of our race.

Young People: Alleluia!

6. Lord, though parted from our sight,
Young People: Alleluia!

Far above the starry height,

Young People: Alleluia!

Grant our hearts may thither rise,

Young People: Alleluia!

Seeking thee above the skies.

Young People: Alleluia!

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.*

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, 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

Acts 1.6-14, read by Abra / Meriel

⁶When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.

¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

At the end:

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

Second Reading

1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11, read by Jim

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

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*

**What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit!
O what needless pain we bear!
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.**

**2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In his arms he'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.**

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 (17.1-11).
All	Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Jesus looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So

now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.'

At the end:

Priest	This is the Gospel of the Lord.
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All	Praise to you, O Christ.
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*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*

**Lord, the light of your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining:
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us;
Set us free by the truth you now bring
us-
Shine on me, shine on me:**

Refrain
**Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your word, Lord,
And let there be light.**

**2. Lord, I come to your awesome
presence,
From the shadows into your radiance;
By your blood I may enter the
brightness:
Search me, try me, consume all my
darkness-
Shine on me, shine on me:
Refrain**

**3. As we gaze on your kingly
brightness
So our faces display your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory:
Mirrored here, may our lives tell your
story-
Shine on me, shine on me:
Refrain**

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

**O for a heart to praise my God,
A heart from sin set free;
A heart that always feels thy blood
So freely spilt for me:**

**2. A heart resigned, submissive,
meek,
My dear Redeemer's throne;
Where only Christ is heard to speak,
Where Jesus reigns alone:**

**3. A heart in every thought renewed,
And full of love divine;
Perfect, and right, and pure, and
good,
A copy, Lord, of thine.**

**4. Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart,
Come quickly from above;
Write thy new name upon my heart,
Thy new best name of love.**

Post Communion Prayers:

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all
the world to preach the gospel of his
kingdom: confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we
proclaim; 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***

I danced in the morning
When the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
And the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven
And I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth:
Refrain
Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may
be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

2. I danced for the scribe
And the Pharisee,
But they would not dance
And they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
For James and John —
They came with me
And the Dance went on:
Refrain

3. I danced on the Sabbath
And I cured the lame;
The holy people
Said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
And they hung me on high,
And they left me there
On a Cross to die:
Refrain

4. I danced on a Friday
When the sky turned black —
It's hard to dance
With the devil on your back.
They buried my body
And they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance,
And I still go on:
Refrain

5. They cut me down
And I leap up high;
I am the life
That'll never, never die;
I'll live in you
If you'll live in me —
I am the Lord Of the Dance, said he:
Refrain

Priest.	Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia
All	Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia

‘What’s On’ this week

Sunday 17 May

7pm Songs I'll Never Sing**

Monday 18 May

4pm Happy Voices - Swedish Choir – *free admission*

Wednesday 20 May

1.10pm Holy Eucharist

Thursday 21 May

7pm Concert of the Chapel Choir of St Edmund's School (Surrey) – *free admission*

Friday 22 May

1pm NLCS (Singapore) in Concert – *free admission*

Saturday 23 May

7pm & 9pm Musicals by Candlelight**

Sunday 24 May

I I am Parish Sung Eucharist

for the Feast of Pentecost...please remember to wear something Red!

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.

Notice - Trustee Nominations

If you are interested in nominating yourself to be a Trustee, please speak to the Priest/Churchwardens for a nomination form before the APCM on 31st May.

Notice - Tea and Cake in the Garden (in aid of Breast Cancer Now) - Saturday 13th June

If you would like to donate any homemade bakes or to volunteer to help out on the day, please contact laura@actorschurch.org

****Tickets available from www.actorschurch.org**