

ST ANDREWS CHURCH - MOSCOW

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT



A SERVICE OF THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Romans 12: 12

I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness – the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1: 25-27

Processional hymn: 187 – Give to our God immortal praise

WELCOME

Let us pray.

Loving God, we have come to worship you.

**All: Help us to pray to you in faith,
to sing your praise with gratitude,
and to listen to your word with eagerness;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

A brief moment of silence.

**God of mercy,
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong
that we have thought and said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus,
who died for us,
forgive us for all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**All: May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessed is the Lord,

All: for he has heard the voice of our prayer;

therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

All: and in our song will be praise our God.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, creator and redeemer of all;
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the waters of chaos you drew forth the world
and in your great love fashioned us in your image.
Now, through the deep waters of death,
you have brought your people to new birth
by raising your Son to life in triumph.
May Christ your light ever dawn in our hearts
as we offer to you our sacrifice of thanks and praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Hymn: 84 - Christ be with me

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading - Isaiah 43: 16-21

¹⁶ This is what the Lord says – he who made a way through the sea,
a path through the mighty waters,

¹⁷ who drew out the chariots and horses,
the army and reinforcements together,
and they lay there, never to rise again,
extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:

¹⁸ ‘Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.

¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

²⁰ The wild animals honour me, the jackals and the owls,
because I provide water in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland,

to give drink to my people, my chosen,

²¹ the people I formed for myself
that they may proclaim my praise’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.

² Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.
Then it was said among the nations,

‘The LORD has done great things for them.’

³ The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, LORD, like streams in the Negev.

⁵ Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.

⁶ Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Second Reading - Philippians 3: 4b-14

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

¹⁰ I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: 18 – All I once held dear

Gospel Reading - John 12: 1-8

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took about half a litre of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ 'Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages.' ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

⁷ 'Leave her alone,' Jesus replied. 'It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.'

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE BENEDICTUS

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.**
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.**

- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,**
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.**
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**
- 6 Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.**
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.**
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Luke 1.68–79

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

REFLECTION/HOMILY

THE CREED

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.**

**Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.**

**He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,**

**and every voice proclaim
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father.

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For the mission of the Church,
that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel
to the ends of the earth,
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For those preparing for baptism and confirmation
and for their teachers and sponsors,
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For peace in the world
that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow
among nations and peoples,
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer,
for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger;
that they may be relieved and protected,
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For those whom we have injured or offended,
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God,
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

In communion with all those who have walked in the way of holiness
let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

God our Father,
in your love and goodness
you have taught us to come close to you in penitence
with prayer, fasting and generosity;
accept our Lenten discipline,
and when we fall by our weakness,
raise us up by your unfailing mercy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE COLLECT

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Believing the promises of God, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours now and forever. Amen.**

THE PEACE

All stand

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
and also with you

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn: Said Judas to Mary

Said Judas to Mary, "Now what will you do with your ointment so rich and rare?"

"I'll pour it all over the feet of the Lord, and I'll wipe it away with my hair," she said,

"I'll wipe it away with my hair."

"O Mary, O Mary, O think of the poor.
This ointment, it could have been sold;
and think of the blankets and think of the bread
you could buy with the silver and gold," he said,
"You could buy with silver and gold."

"Tomorrow, tomorrow, I'll think of the poor;
tomorrow," she said, "not today;
for dearer than all of the poor in the world
is my love who is going away," she said,
"My love who is going away."

Said Jesus to Mary, "Your love is so deep;
today you may do as you will.
Tomorrow, you say, I am going away,
but my body I leave with you still," he said,
"My body I leave with you still."

"The poor of the world are my body," he said,
"to the end of the world they shall be.
The bread and the blankets you give to the poor
you'll know you have given to me," he said,
"You'll know you have given to me."

"My body will hang from the cross of the world
tomorrow," he said, "and today.
And Martha and Mary will find me again
and wash all the sorrow away," he said,
"And wash all the sorrow away."

ACCLAMATION

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

All: O my God, in you I trust.

You are the God of my salvation;

All: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

In you I hope all the day long.

All: O my God, in you I trust.

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

All: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

O my God, in you I trust.

Offertory Hymn: 353 – Jesus put this song into our hearts

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray the offertory prayer together:

Generous God,

creator, redeemer, sustainer,

at your table we present this money,

symbol of the work you have given us to do;

use it, use us,

in the service of your world

to the glory of your name.

Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER AND DISMISSAL

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**

THE GRACE

We say together:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

be with us all evermore. Amen

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