

# ST ANDREWS CHURCH - MOSCOW

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### 11<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2025



#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;  
break forth, O mountains, into singing!  
For the Lord has comforted his people,  
and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

*(Isaiah 49.13)*

**Processional Hymn:** 744 – Ye servants of God

#### **THE GREETING**

*The president greets the people:*

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

#### **PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

**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.**

## **PRAYERS OF PENITENCE** *(All Sit or Kneel)*

### **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

In baptism we died with Christ, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, we might walk in newness of life. Let us receive new life in him as we confess our sins in penitence and faith. *(cf Romans 6.4)*

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,  
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,  
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.  
We have lived by our own strength,  
and not by the power of your resurrection.  
In your mercy, forgive us.

**Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,  
as faithless and not believing.  
In your mercy, forgive us.

**Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world alone,  
and doubted our home in heaven.  
In your mercy, forgive us.

**Lord, hear us and help us.**

### **ABSOLUTION**

May the God of love and power forgive *you* and free *you* from *your* sins,  
heal and strengthen *you* by his Spirit, and raise *you* to new life in Christ our  
Lord. **Amen.**

## **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS** *(All Stand)*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **THE COLLECT**

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:  
teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command,  
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,  
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

### **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD** (*All Sit*)

#### **First Reading: Acts 9: 36-43**

<sup>36</sup> In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. <sup>37</sup> About that time she became ill and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. <sup>38</sup> Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, 'Please come at once!'

<sup>39</sup> Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood round him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. <sup>40</sup> Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning towards the dead woman, he said, 'Tabitha, get up.' She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. <sup>41</sup> He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. <sup>42</sup> This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup> Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

<sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**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 – Revelation 7: 9-17**

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice:

‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’

<sup>11</sup> All the angels were standing round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, <sup>12</sup> saying: ‘Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!’

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders asked me, ‘These in white robes – who are they, and where did they come from?’

<sup>14</sup> I answered, ‘Sir, you know.’

And he said, ‘These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day

and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. <sup>16</sup> “Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,” nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup> For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd; “he will lead them to springs of living water.” “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn:** 432 – Loving Shepherd of thy sheep

**GOSPEL READING: John 10: 22-30**

*(All Stand)*

Alleluia, alleluia. Jesus said, ‘All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.’ *(John 6.40)*

**Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup> Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon’s Colonnade. <sup>24</sup> The Jews who were there gathered round him, saying, ‘How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.’

<sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, ‘I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me, <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** (*All Sit*)

**THE CREED** (*All Stand*)

**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 from 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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (*All sit or kneel*)

*This response is used:*

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

*And at the end*  
Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers**  
**for the sake of your Son,**  
**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

### **THE PEACE** (*All Stand*)

Alleluia. Christ has been raised from the dead. *(1 Corinthians 15.20)*  
The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you. Alleluia.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**Offertory Hymn:** 141 – Father, hear the prayer we offer

### **PRAYERS AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.  
In your loving care you spread before us the table of life  
and give us the cup of salvation to drink.  
Keep us always in the fold of our Saviour and our Shepherd,  
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

### **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right,  
it is our duty and our joy,  
at all times and in all places  
to give you thanks and praise,

holy Father, heavenly King,  
almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word;  
through him you have created all things from the beginning,  
and formed us in your own image.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin,  
giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross;  
you raised him from the dead  
and exalted him to your right hand on high.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Through him you have sent upon us  
your holy and life-giving Spirit,  
and made us a people for your own possession.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

But chiefly are we bound to praise you  
because you raised him gloriously from the dead.  
For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us,  
and has taken away the sin of the world.  
By his death he has destroyed death,  
and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.  
Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,



and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,

inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Rejoicing in God's new creation, let us pray with confidence as our  
Saviour has taught us:

**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.**

### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

### **THE AGNUS DEI**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

## **GIVING OF COMMUNION**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## **THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS**

**We do not presume  
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us.  
Amen.**

*The president and people receive communion.*

*Authorized words of distribution are used and the communicant replies **Amen**. All who would normally receive Communion in another Christian Church are welcome to do so here today. If you prefer, you may receive only BREAD. **Please do not INTINCT (dip your wafer in the wine)**. If you do not wish to receive Communion, we invite you to come forward to receive a blessing; please carry your service sheet or keep your hands folded in front of you so that the minister will know that is your desire. Please follow the directions of the stewards as you come forward.*

**Hymn during Communion:** 576 – See the holy table, spread for our healing

## **CONCLUSION**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Silence is kept.*

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**

## **NOTICES**

**Closing Hymn:** 171 – Forth in the peace of Christ we go

### **THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

The God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep,  
make you perfect in every good work to do his will;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen,**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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