

ST ANDREWS CHURCH - MOSCOW

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

27th JULY, 2025.



A SERVICE OF THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Bible tells us that "we love because he first loved us." (*1 John 4:19*)

It is the love of God that enables us to love Him and one another. "Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love." (*1 John 4:8*)

Good morning and welcome in the name of Christ.

Let us pray:

Loving God, we have come to worship you.

**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.**

We begin our worship by singing:

Opening Hymn: 155 – Fill your hearts with joy and gladness

To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him: neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws which he set before us.

(Daniel 9.9, 10)

Silence is kept.

May your loving mercy come to me, O Lord,
and your salvation according to your word:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light to my path.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

O let your mercy come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**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.**

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

Let us say the Collect together:

**Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love toward you that we,
loving you in all things and above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading – Genesis 18: 20-32

²⁰ Then the LORD said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous ²¹ that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.” ²² The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

²⁶ The LORD said, “If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.” ²⁷ Then Abraham spoke up again: “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, ²⁸ what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?”

“If I find forty-five there,” he said, “I will not destroy it.” ²⁹ Once again he spoke to him, “What if only forty are found there?” He said, “For the sake of forty, I will not do it.” ³⁰ Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?” He answered, “I will not do it if I find thirty there.” ³¹ Abraham said, “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?” He said, “For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it.” ³² Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?”

He answered, “For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 138

- ¹ I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart;
before the “gods” I will sing your praise.
² I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name
for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,
for you have so exalted your solemn decree that it surpasses your fame.
³ When I called, you answered me; you greatly emboldened me.
⁴ May all the kings of the earth praise you, LORD,
when they hear what you have decreed.
⁵ May they sing of the ways of the LORD, for the glory of the LORD is great.
⁶ Though the LORD is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly;
though lofty, he sees them from afar.
⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life.
You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes;
with your right hand you save me.
⁸ The LORD will vindicate me; your love, LORD, endures forever—
do not abandon the works of your hands.

**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 – Colossians 2:6-15

- ⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and

overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. ⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: 704 – We love the place, O God

Gospel reading - Luke 11:1-13

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” ² He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.’”

⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ ⁷ And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need. ⁹ So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the

door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹ “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION/HOMILY

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.**

**He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.**

The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.

**He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come. Amen.**

Hymn: 415 – Lord, teach us how to pray aright

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

This response is used:

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

At the end:

Merciful Father

**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Believing the promises of God, 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 and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

THE PEACE (*All stand.*)

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn: 480 – O God of Bethel, by whose hand

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray 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.**

ACCLAMATION

The Word of life which was from the beginning
we proclaim to you.

The darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining;
the Word of life which was from the beginning.

That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes, and touched with our hands,
we proclaim to you.

For our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**The Word of life which was from the beginning
we proclaim to you.**

NOTICES

Closing Hymn: 679 – Thy kingdom come!

CLOSING PRAYER AND DISMISSAL

Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your holy word. May it be a lantern to our feet, a light to our paths, and a strength to our lives. Take us and use us to love and serve in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**

Acknowledgment: Common Worship-Service and Prayers for the Church of England – Times and Seasons © The Archbishops' Council 2006. New Patterns For Worship, © The Archbishops' Council 2002.