

# ST ANDREWS CHURCH - MOSCOW

## CHRISTMAS DAY

### 25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2025.



#### A SERVICE OF THE WORD

##### CALL TO WORSHIP

I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord..

*(Luke 2: 10-11)*

We begin our worship by singing:

**Opening Hymn: 85 – Christians, awake!**

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.**

The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings. Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith. *(cf Malachi 4:2)*

*A moment of silence:*

You were born for our salvation:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**May God who loved the world so much**

**that he sent his Son to be our Saviour**

**forgive us our sins**

**and make us holy to serve him in the world,**

**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:

**Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.**

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

### **First Reading – Isaiah 9: 2-7**

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. <sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. <sup>4</sup> For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. <sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalms 96**

<sup>1</sup> Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

<sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvellous deeds among all peoples.

<sup>4</sup> For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;  
he is to be feared above all gods.

<sup>5</sup> For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup> Splendour and majesty are before him;  
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

<sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

<sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name; bring an offering and come  
into his courts.

<sup>9</sup> Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness;  
tremble before him, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup> Say among the nations, 'The Lord reigns.' The world is firmly established  
it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.

<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all  
that is in it.

<sup>12</sup> Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the  
forest sing for joy.

<sup>13</sup> Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge  
the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.

**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 – Titus 2: 11-14**

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope – the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn: 364 – Joy to the world!**

## **Gospel reading - Luke 2: 1-20**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register. <sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning

what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **REFLECTION/HOMILY**

### **THE NICENE 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**

*This response is used:*

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

#### **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.)*

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.  
*(Luke 2: 14)*

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you**  
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**Offertory Hymn:** 341 – Jesus, good above all other

#### **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.**

## NOTICES

### ACCLAMATION

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
**he has come to his people and set them free.**  
Light has sprung up for the righteous  
**and joyful gladness for those who are true-hearted.**  
Glory to God in the highest  
**and peace to his people on earth.**

**Closing Hymn:** 250 – Hark, the herald-angels sing

### CLOSING PRAYER AND DISMISSAL

God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the 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.*