

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH - MOSCOW

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

22nd FEBRUARY, 2026.



A SERVICE OF THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. *(Mark 1:13)*

We begin our worship by singing:

Opening Hymn: Forty days and forty nights

**Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights,
tempted still, yet unbeguiled.**

**Sunbeams scorching all the day,
chilly dew-drops nightly shed,
prowling beasts about your way,
stones your pillow, earth your bed.**

**Let us your endurance share,
and from earthly greed abstain,
with you vigilant in prayer,
with you strong to suffer pain.**

**Then if evil on us press,
flesh or spirit to assail,
Victor in the wilderness,
help us not to swerve or fail.**

**So shall peace divine be ours;
holy gladness, pure and true;
come to us, angelic powers,
such as ministered to you.**

**Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by your side,
that with you we may appear
at th'eternal Eastertide.**

We have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Let us confess our sins remembering before God the times when we have fallen from temptation into sin.

A moment of silence:

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy spirit from me:
cf Psalm 51

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself, and cleanse you from all your sins that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, 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:

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as

you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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 MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading – Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God say, “You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?”’ ² The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³ but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.”’ ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die; ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32

¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

² Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³ While I kept silence, my body wasted away

through my groaning all day long.

⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord',
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

⁷ You are a hiding-place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

⁹ Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

¹⁰ Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

¹¹ Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

**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 – Romans 5.12-19

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— ¹³ sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses

brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Lord, we turn to you for mercy

**Lord, we turn to you for mercy;
may our pray'ful words express
something of our heartfelt sorry
for the sins we now confess.**

**We have trusted far too often
in our human strength and skill,
we have proudly disregarded
what we knew to be your will.**

**Yet by your immense compassion
you invite, accept, restore,
leading us to greater wholeness
than we ever knew before.**

**Your forgiveness lifts our burdens,
setting heart and spirit free
to fulfil our true potential,
all that we were meant to be.**

**For you teach a way of wisdom
we may clearly understand:
walking with the God of mercy
step by step, and hand in hand.**

Gospel reading - Matthew 4.1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' ⁴ But he answered, 'It is written,

"One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you",
and "On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."

⁷ Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; ⁹ and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

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 with 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, hear us: **and deliver us from evil.**

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. *(Romans 5: 1-2)*

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

A time of silent reflection on the Word of God and the Gifts of Christ's Presence:

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

**In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your church,
where the Holy Eucharist is now celebrated,
I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving.
I present to you my soul and body,
with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you.
Since now I cannot receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
I unite myself to you, Lord Jesus,
and embrace you with all the affection of my soul.
Let nothing separate me from you,
may I live and die in your life. 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.**

PRAYER AFTER SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

**Lord Jesus Christ,
you have nourished me in this moment with your presence.
Though I have not received you in bread and wine,
you have fed me with the manna of your Spirit
and refreshed my soul with the living water of your Grace.
Keep me steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope,
and fervent in love
until I feast with you in your Kingdom. Amen.**

Hymn: O love, how deep, how broad, how high

**O love, how deep, how broad, how high!
It fills the heart with ecstasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.**

**He sent no angel to our race
of higher or of lower place,
but wore the robe of human frame
himself, and to this lost world came.**

**For us he was baptized and bore
his holy fast, and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.**

**For us to wicked pow'rs betrayed,
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us at length gave up his breath.**

**For us he rose from death again,
for us he went on high to reign,
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen and to cheer.**

**To him whose boundless love has won
salvation for us through his Son,
to God the Father glory be,
both now and through eternity.**

NOTICES

ACCLAMATION

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

O my God, in you I trust.

You are the God of my salvation;

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

In you I hope all the day long.

O my God, in you I trust.

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

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

O my God, in you I trust.

Closing Hymn: Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

**Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing ev'ry blessing
if our God our Father be.**

**Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,
all our weakness thou dost know,
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.**

**Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heav'nly joy,
love with ev'ry passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy;
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.**

CLOSING PRAYER AND DISMISSAL

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or conceive, by the power which is at work among us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all ages. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING:

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **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.