

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH - MOSCOW

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

15th FEBRUARY, 2026.



A SERVICE OF THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today have I begotten you.'
(Hebrews 5:5)

We begin our worship by singing:

Opening Hymn: Let the heavens worship

**Let the heavens worship, let the earth rejoice.
Come to God with gladness, with joy lift up your voice.
For ours is the rock of ages, the everlasting name;
throughout life's chequered stages, he always stays the same.**

**Let the world do honour, let us all sing praise.
Bring to God your worries, entrust to him your days.
For ours is the Lord eternal, our times are in his hands;
despite life's fleeting passage, his loving purpose stands.**

**Let the people marvel, let creation sing.
Gather now in wonder, bow down before the King.
For ours is a God of glory, unending is his reign;
beyond life's changing story, his kingdom shall remain.**

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

When Christ appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. As he is pure, all who have grasped this hope make themselves pure. So let us confess our sins that mar his image in us.

A moment of silence:

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 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 Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; 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 – Exodus 24: 12-end

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.’ ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had

said, 'Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.'

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 99

¹ The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

² The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

³ Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

⁴ Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity;
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

⁵ Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

⁶ Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
Samuel also was among those who called on his name.
They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.

⁷ He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;
they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them.

⁸ O Lord our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them,
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

⁹ Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain;
for the Lord our God is holy.

**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 – Ephesians 3: 14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶ I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸ I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Bind us together, Lord

***Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord,
bind us together in love.***

**There is only one God, there is only one King.
there is only one Body, that is why we sing:**

**Fit for the glory of God, purchased by his precious Blood,
born with the right to be free; Jesus the vict'ry has won.**

**We are the fam'ly of God, we are his promise divine,
we are his chosen desire, we are the glorious new wine.**

Gospel reading - Matthew 17: 1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' ⁸ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

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 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:

God, in your goodness: **grant us a glimpse of your glory.**

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.)*

Christ will transfigure our human body and give it a form like that of his own glorious body. We are the body of Christ. We share his peace.

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

Hymn: Christ, whose glory fills the skies

**Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Day-spring from on high, be near,
Day-star, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief,
fill me, radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thy self display,
shining to the perfect day.**

NOTICES

ACCLAMATION

By the appearance on earth of our Saviour Jesus Christ

**God has broken the power of death
and brought life and immortality to light.**

Arise, shine, for your light has come

and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For though darkness shall cover the earth

and thick darkness the nations,

the Lord will rise upon you

and his glory will be seen upon you.

By the appearance on earth of our Saviour Jesus Christ
**God has broken the power of death
and brought life and immortality to light.**

Closing Hymn: All my hope on God is founded

**All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.**

**Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tow'r and temple, fall to dust.
But God's pow'r, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tow'r.**

**God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought;
splendour, light and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore, from his store,
new-born worlds rise and adore.**

**Still from earth to God eternal
Sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.**

CLOSING PRAYER AND DISMISSAL

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who have come together at this service reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING:

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, fill you with radiance and scatter the darkness from your path. **Amen.**

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, gladden your eyes and warm your heart. **Amen.**

Christ, the Dayspring from on high, draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace. **Amen.**

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.