

**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH - MOSCOW
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
22nd MARCH, 2026.**



A SERVICE OF THE WORD

At the start of our service this morning, please join the choir in a song of praise:

Here I am to worship.

**Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
opened my eyes, let me see
beauty that made
this heart adore You,
hope of a life spent with You.**

***So here I am to worship,
here I am to bow down,
here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.***

**King of all days,
Oh, so highly exalted;
glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came
to the earth You created;
all for love's sake became poor.**

Chorus

**I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross. (Repeat)**

Chorus

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.

(Psalm 103: 8)

Opening Hymn: There's a wideness in God's mercy

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgement giv'n.**

**For the love of God is broader
than the scope of human mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he will not own.**

**There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.
If our love were but more simple,
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be all gladness
in the joy of Christ our Lord.**

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 the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

A moment of silence:

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:
fill us with your Spirit.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **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:

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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 – Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' ⁴ Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹ Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off

completely.”¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.’

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 130

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

² Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

³ If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

⁵ I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

⁶ my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.

⁸ It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

**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 8: 6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot,⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.⁹

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Only by grace

**Only by grace can we enter, only by grace can we stand;
not by our human endeavour, but by the blood of the Lamb.
Into your presence you call us, you call us to come.
Into your presence you draw us, and now by your grace we come,
now by your grace we come.**

**Lord, if you mark our transgressions, who would stand?
Thanks to your grace we are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.**

Gospel reading - John 11: 1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill.³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.'⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.'⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus,⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.'⁸ The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?'⁹ Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world.¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.'¹¹ After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.'¹² The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.'¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead.'¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.'¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.²¹ Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.'²³ Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.'²⁴ Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise

again in the resurrection on the last day.’²⁵ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’²⁷ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.’

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, ‘The Teacher is here and is calling for you.’²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.³⁴ He said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’³⁵ Jesus began to weep.³⁶ So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’³⁷ But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.³⁹ Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, ‘Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.’⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?’⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me.’⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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:

Come, Lord, revive us: **renew your people.**

THE PEACE *(All stand.)*

God will speak peace to his people, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
(cf Psalm 85:8; 1 Samuel 12:20)

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:

During the Spiritual Communion, please join the choir in singing:
You, Lord, are in this place:

**You, Lord, are in this place.
Your presence fills it;
your presence is peace.**

You, Lord, are in my heart...

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**

Please join the choir in singing:

**You, Lord, are in my mind...
You, Lord, are in my life...**

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: We give immortal praise

**We give immortal praise
to God the Father's love
for all our comforts here
and better hopes above:
he sent his own eternal Son,
to die for sins that we had done.**

**To God the Son belongs
immortal glory too,
who bought us with his blood
from everlasting woe;
and now he lives, and now he reigns,
and sees the fruit of all his pains.**

**To God the Spirit's name
immortal worship give,
whose new-creating pow'r
makes the dead sinner live;
his work completes the great design,
and fills the soul with joy divine.**

**To God the Trinity
be endless honours done,
the undivided Three,
and the mysterious One:
where reason fails with all her pow'rs,
there faith prevails, and love adores.**

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: Jesus, the name high over all

**Jesus, the name high over all,
in hell, or earth, or sky:
angels and mortals prostrate fall,
and devils fear and fly.**

**Jesus, the name to sinners dear,
the name to sinners giv'n;
it scatters all their guilty fear,
it turns their hell to heav'n.**

**Jesus, the pris'ner's fetters breaks,
and bruises Satan's head;
pow'r into strengthless souls he speaks,
and life into the dead.**

**O, that the world might taste and see
the riches of his grace!
The arms of love that compass me,
hold all the human race.**

**His only righteousness I show,
his saving grace proclaim:
'tis all my business here below
to cry: 'Behold the Lamb!'**

**Happy, if with my latest breath
I may but gasp his name:
preach him to all, and cry in death:
'Behold, behold the Lamb!'**

CLOSING PRAYER AND DISMISSAL

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING:

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit,
give to you a contrite heart. **Amen.**

May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree,
heal you by his wounds. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth,
speak to you words of pardon and 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.**

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