

The Temple Church

Sunday 15 March 2026

The Fourth Sunday in Lent
To Celebrate Mothering Sunday

CHORAL MATTINS, 11.15 a.m.

You are most welcome to this morning's service. We follow the service of the Book of Common Prayer (1662). Much of the service is sung by the Choir alone. We hope that you will be able to enjoy the opportunity this offers to let the music and words take your mind and your heart – with all the concerns you have for those you love and for our world – into the presence of God.

It is traditional here for the congregation to stand for the Venite and the Canticles; if it would be more comfortable for you to remain seated, please do.

The order of service is printed in the white service booklet, pp. 17-29. The public-address system has a loop-facility. If you wear a hearing-aid, please turn its setting to T.

ORGAN PRELUDE

Sonata no. 4, movement 3

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

The congregation stands.

INTROIT

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts.
Shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayers,
but spare us, Lord most Holy.
O God, most mighty and most merciful Saviour,
thou most worthy judge eternal,
suffer us not, at our last hour,
for any pains of death, to fall from thee. Amen.

*Music: Henry Purcell (1659-95)
Words: Burial Service, Book of Common Prayer*

HYMN

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art,
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord,
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son,
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.**

**Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might,
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower,
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Be thou mine inheritance now and always,
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**High King of Heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won,
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Music: Slane (Irish)

Words: Ancient Irish Hymn, c. 8th century tr. Mary Bryne (1880-1931)

All sit or kneel for the confession.

CONFESSION (*p. 17 of white booklet*)

All stand at "Glory be....." **RESPONSES**

All remain standing and sing: VENITE (PSALM 95. 1-7)



The first two verses and the Gloria are sung in unison.

- 1 O come let us | sing un-to the | Lord:
let us heartily rejoice in the | strength of | our sal- | vation.
- 2 Let us come before his | presence · with | thanksgiving:
and shew ourselves | glad in | him with | psalms.

- 3 For the Lord is a | great | God:
and a | great King · a- | bove all | gods.
- 4 In his hand are all the | corners · of the | earth:
and the | strength of · the | hills is · his | also.
- 5 The sea is | his and · he | made it:
and his | hands pre- | pared the · dry | land.
- 6 O come let us worship and | fall | down:
and | kneel be-fore the | Lord our | Maker.

2nd Part

- 7 For he is the | Lord our | God:
and we are the people of his | pasture · and the | sheep of · his | hand.
Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son:
And | to the | Ho-ly | Ghost;
As it was in the beginning is now and | ev-er | shall be:
World without | end. A- | --- | men.

Music: Edward John Hopkins (1818-1901)

All remain standing.

The choir sings: PSALM 19. 1-9 (*Walmisley*)

The heavens declare the glory of God:
and the firmament sheweth his handy-work.
One day telleth another: and one night certifieth another.
There is neither speech nor language: but their voices are heard among them.
Their sound is gone out into all lands:
and their words into the ends of the world.
In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun:
which cometh forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a
giant to run his course.
It goeth forth from the uttermost part of the heaven, and runneth about unto
the end of it again: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.
The law of the Lord is an undefiled law, converting the soul:
the testimony of the Lord is sure, and giveth wisdom unto the simple.
The statutes of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart:
the commandment of the Lord is pure, and giveth light unto the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is clean, and endureth for ever:
the judgements of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

All sit.

THE FIRST LESSON
Exodus 2. 1-10

And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink. And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.

And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children.

Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the women took the child, and nursed it. And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.

All stand.

CANTICLE
Te Deum in C (Britten)

All sit.

THE SECOND LESSON
John 19. 13-18, 25-27

Pilate brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!

But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar. Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.

And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

All stand.

CANTICLE

Salvator mundi salva nos, qui per crucem et sanguinem redemisti nos:
auxiliare nobis, te deprecamur, Deus noster.

O Saviour of the World, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us, save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

Music: Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-1585)

*Words: Antiphon at Holy Unction, Cantiones Sacrae, 1575,
Translated in The Visitation of the Sick, Book of Common Prayer*

In the tradition of the Temple Church, we face east to say together:

THE CREED (p. 24 of white booklet)

All sit or kneel at 'Let us pray...' THE RESPONSES

All sit or kneel.

THE COLLECTS

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of thy grace may mercifully be relieved; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE ANTHEM

Ave, maris stella,
Dei Mater alma,
Atque semper Virgo,
Felix caeli porta.

Sumens illud Ave
Gabrielis ore,
Funda nos in pace,
Mutans Evae nomen.

Solve vincla reis,
Profer lumen caecis,
Mala nostra pelle,
Bona cuncta posce

*Hail, star of the sea,
loving Mother of God,
and also always a virgin,
Happy gate of heaven.*

*Receiving that Ave
from Gabriel's mouth
confirm us in peace,
Reversing Eva's name.*

*Break the chains of sinners,
Bring light to the blind,
Drive away our evils,
Ask for all good.*

Monstra te esse matrem
Sumat per te preces,
Qui pro nobis natus
Tulit esse tuus.

*Show yourself to be a mother,
May he accept prayers through you,
he who, born for us,
Chose to be yours.*

Virgo singularis,
Inter omnes mitis,
Nos culpis solutos,
Mites fac et castos.

*O unique virgin,
Meek above all,
Make us, absolved from sin,
Gentle and chaste.*

Vitam praesta puram,
Iter para tutum,
Ut videntes Jesum,
Semper collaetemur.

*Keep life pure,
Make the journey safe,
So that, seeing Jesus,
We may always rejoice together.*

Sit laus Deo Patri,
Summo Christo decus
Spiritu Sancto,
Tribus honor unus. Amen.

*Let there be praise to God the Father,
Glory to Christ in the highest,
To the Holy Spirit,
One honor to all three. Amen.*

*Music: Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)
Words: 8th Century, anon*

THE PRAYERS

All stand.

HYMN 197

The King of love my Shepherd is

All sit.

THE SERMON The Master

All stand.

HYMN 205

Love divine, all loves excelling

THE BLESSING

SUNG BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you:
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you:
the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you,
and give you peace. Amen.

*Music: Sir John Rutter (b. 1945)
Words: Numbers 6. 24-26*

All are invited to sit after the departure of the Clergy for

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Sonata no. 4, movement 4

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

There will be a retiring collection. It will be of great advantage to the Church if you would kindly fill in a Gift Aid envelope and drop it into a collection-basket as you leave, stating the amount of your cash or contactless gift. If you would prefer to donate online kindly scan the QR code below.



CONFIRMATION

Our annual celebratory service of Baptism, Confirmation and Communion will take place on Sunday 19 July at 11.15am. If you, your children or grandchildren are considering Confirmation this year, the Revd Griffith-Jones will be delighted to hear from you.

Master@templechurch.com

KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you would like to join our mailing list and be among the first to hear of our special services and events, you will find cards at the South Door exit. Kindly write your name and email address on a card and leave it in the bowl provided.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Please refrain from all filming, recording and photography during the service.
Thank you.

SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns about safeguarding, the Safeguarding Officer can be contacted confidentially at safeguarding@templechurch.com or via 020 7427 5650.

We ask your prayers for those dear to us in this House, and at this time especially for the following:

BAPTISMS

Charles Laurence James Nieto
Rufus Eastwood Cusack

ANNIVERSARIES OF MARRIAGE

Tim and Lindsey Bowden
Ryan Clarke and Louise Thomson
Alistair and Katherine Crosby
Edward Granger and Samantha Godec
Jack and Emma Nicholls
David and Jill Pittaway
Robert and Joanna Thursfield

THE SICK

Charles Elliott

YEAR'S MIND

Stella Addison
Claudius Algar
Anthony Barker
Andrew Buchanan
William Butler-Sloss
James Flynn
Richard Guy
Adrian Hardiman
Anna Harvey
Paul Jenkins
Claudia Lorenzo
Anna Martin
David Martin
Ivo Morshead
Alan Parsons
Joyce Rangarajan
Anthony Rybacki