

The Temple Church

Sunday 8 March 2026

The Third Sunday in Lent

CHORAL COMMUNION, 11.15 a.m.

Welcome to this morning's service. We follow the services of the Book of Common Prayer (1662). If you are a visitor here and are a communicant member of your own Church, you are most welcome to receive Communion this morning; if you would prefer to receive a blessing, please just keep your head bowed and hands lowered when you are at the altar-rail. This is Christ's banquet; we are all his guests; and he bids us welcome.

This morning's Communion setting is Sheppard's *The Western Wynde*. Please turn to page 31 of the white service booklet where you will find the words of the service. The public-address system has a loop-facility. If you wear a hearing-aid, please turn its setting to T.

ORGAN PRELUDE

Psalm prelude, set 2, no. 1

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

All stand at the entrance of the choir.

INTROIT

Be ye followers of God, and walk in love:
Even as Christ loved us, and gave himself for us.

Music: Sir George Thalben-Ball (1896-1987)

HYMN 333

Take up thy cross

All sit or kneel after the Lord's prayer.

After the Summary of the Law the Choir sings:

THE KYRIE

THE COLLECT

We beseech thee, Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of thy humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of thy Majesty, to be our defence against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 EPISTLE

Ephesians 5. 1-14

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named amongst you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish-talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient; but rather giving of thanks: for this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ, and of God.

Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them: for ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light; (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, and righteousness, and truth;) proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them: for it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

All stand for the Psalm.

PSALM 42. 1-10

Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks: so longeth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God:
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
My tears have been my meat day and night:
while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?
Now when I think thereupon, I pour out my heart by myself:
for I went with the multitude, and brought them forth into the house of God;
In the voice of praise and thanksgiving: among such as keep holy-day.
Why art thou so full of heaviness, O my soul:
and why art thou so disquieted within me?
Put thy trust in God: for I will yet give him thanks for the help of his countenance.
My God, my soul is vexed within me:
therefore will I remember thee concerning the land of Jordan, and the little hill
of Hermon.
One deep calleth another, because of the noise of the water-pipes:
all thy waves and storms are gone over me.
The Lord hath granted his loving-kindness in the day-time:
and in the night-season did I sing of him, and made my prayer unto the God of
my life.
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.

The priest introduces the Gospel.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 11. 14-28

Jesus was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered. But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub, the chief of the devils. And others, tempting him, sought of him a sign from heaven. But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth. If Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? because ye say, that I cast out devils through Beelzebub. And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast them out? therefore shall they be your judges. But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.

When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace; but when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.

He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth. When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in, and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first.

And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lift up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

All remain standing and (in the tradition of the Temple Church) all face East while the Choir and congregation sing the Creed.

THE CREED (*p. 35, white booklet*)

All sit.

THE SERMON
The Master

All stand.

HYMN 351 (*tune, Kingsfold*)
I heard the voice of Jesus say

All sit or kneel.

THE PRAYERS

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks:
So longeth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God:
When shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
My tears have been my meat day and night:
While they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?

Music: Herbert Howells (1892-1983)
Words: Psalm 42. 1-3

THE PRAYERS

All stand.

THE BLESSING

HYMN 326

O for a closer walk with God

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Kyrie Gott, heiliger Geist BWV 671

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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. Thank you!



CONFIRMATION

Our annual celebratory service of Baptism, Confirmation and Communion will be held on Sunday 19 July. 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 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.

CHORISTER RECRUITMENT

Do you have a child who enjoys singing? We would be delighted to hear from you. To register interest in our choir or for enquiries about any aspect of our choristerships, please email Susan@templechurch.com

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

BAPTISM

Felix Xavier Edward Killen

ANNIVERSARIES OF MARRIAGE

Tim and Lindsey Bowden

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

THE DEPARTED

Jeremy Connor

James Wadsworth

YEAR'S MIND

Shirley Anwyl	Anna Martin
Anthony Barker	David Martin
Andrew Buchanan	John Mathew
William Butler-Sloss	Anna Matthews
Roger Ellis	Ivo Morshead
Richard Guy	Alan Parsons
Adrian Hardiman	Robert Porter
Anna Harvey	Joyce Rangarajan
Paul Jenkins	David Turrell
Claudia Lorenzo	Johnny Veeder

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday 12 March, 7.30pm

TEMPLE MUSIC FOUNDATION

Bach: St John Passion

Thomas Allery *conductor*, Temple Singers, Temple Players

For more information and to book: www.templemusic.org

Sunday 15 March, 11.15am

CHORAL MATTINS: MOTHERING SUNDAY

Music to include: Ave maris stella (Grieg),

The Lord bless you and keep you (Rutter)

Followed by Special Mothers' Day Sunday lunch in Inner Temple for members of the Inns and their guests. To book for lunch: www.innertemple.org.uk/events

Wednesday 18 March, 6.00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG: FOR ST PATRICK'S DAY

Music to include: A Prayer for St Patrick (Rutter),

Beati quorum via (Stanford), Irish Blessing (Chilcott)

Sunday 29 March, 11.15am

CHORAL COMMUNION: PALM SUNDAY

Music to include: Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes),

Pueri Hebraeorum (Victoria)

WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL, 6.00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR HOLY WEEK

THURSDAY 2 APRIL, 1.15pm

CHORAL COMMUNION: MAUNDY THURSDAY

Temple Singers

FRIDAY 3 APRIL, 11.15am

CHORAL MATTINS: GOOD FRIDAY

Temple Church Choir

Music to include: Salvator mundi (Tallis), Crucifixus (Lotti)

SATURDAY 4 APRIL, 8.00pm
EASTER VIGIL AND THE FIRST COMMUNION OF EASTER
Temple Singers

Music to include: Haec dies (Byrd), Tulerunt dominum meum (Gombert)

SUNDAY 5 APRIL, 11.15am
CHORAL COMMUNION: EASTER SUNDAY
Temple Church choir

Music to include: Surrexit Christus hodie (Scheidt), Easter Anthems *Christ our passover is sacrificed for us*, Hallelujah (Handel), Ave verum corpus (Mozart)

WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL AND SUNDAY 12 APRIL
LOW WEEK – NO SERVICES

WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL, 6.00pm
EASTER CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY 19 APRIL, 11.15am
EASTER CAROL SERVICE

Music to include: Five Mystical Songs (Vaughan Williams)

SAFEGUARDING

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