

**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH - MOSCOW
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
17th MAY, 2026.**



A SERVICE OF THE WORD

As a start to our worship this morning, please join the choir in singing, "Open the eyes of my heart" by Michael W. Smith.

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.
Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you, I want to see you;
to see you high and lifted up,
shining in the light of your glory.
Pour out your power and love
as we sing, "Holy, holy, holy."**

**You are holy, holy, holy;
I want to see you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us. *(Romans 8:34)*

Opening Hymn: Hail the day that sees him rise

**Hail the day that sees him rise, alleluia!
to his throne beyond the skies; alleluia!
Christ the Lamb, for sinners giv'n, alleluia!
enters now the highest heav'n. Alleluia!**

**There for him high triumph waits; alleluia!
lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!
He hath conquered death, and sin; alleluia!
take the King of Glory in! Alleluia!**

**Lo, the heav'n its Lord receives; alleluia!
yet he loves the earth he leaves; alleluia!
though returning to his throne, alleluia!
calls the human race his own. Alleluia!**

**Still for us he intercedes; alleluia!
his prevailing death he pleads; alleluia!
near himself prepares our place, alleluia!
he the first-fruits of our race. Alleluia!**

**Lord, though parted from our sight, alleluia!
far above the starry height, alleluia!
grant our hearts may thither rise, alleluia!
seeking thee above the skies. Alleluia!**

**Ever upward let us move, alleluia!
wafted on the wings of love; alleluia!
looking when our Lord shall come, alleluia!
longing, sighing after home. Alleluia!**

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

Christ has gone up on high, leading captivity captive and bringing gifts for men. As we prepare ourselves to meet him here in the courts of heaven let us call to mind our many failures and sins.

A moment of silence:

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:

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

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart:

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

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided:

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

ABSOLUTION

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT

Let us say the Collect together:

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, 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 – Acts 1:6-14

So when the disciples had come together, they asked Jesus, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷ He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.' ⁸ But you

will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.¹¹ They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away.¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35

- ¹ Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered;
let those who hate him flee before him.
- ² As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;
as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God.
- ³ But let the righteous be joyful;
let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.
- ⁴ Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—
his name is the Lord—be exultant before him.
- ⁵ Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.
- ⁶ God gives the desolate a home to live in;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious live in a parched land.
- ⁷ O God, when you went out before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸ the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
⁹ Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;
you restored your heritage when it languished;
¹⁰ your flock found a dwelling in it;
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.
³² Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord,
³³ O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens;
listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.
³⁴ Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel;
and whose power is in the skies.
³⁵ Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel;
he gives power and strength to his people.
Blessed be God!

**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 – I Peter 4:12-14, 5: 6-11

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: God moves in a mysterious way

**God moves in a mysterious way,
his wonders to perform;
he plants his footsteps in the sea,
and rides upon the storm.**

**Deep in unfathomable mines
of never-failing skill,
he treasures up his bright designs
and works his sov'reign will.**

**Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take:
the clouds ye so much dread
are big with mercy, and shall break
in blessings on your head.**

**Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
but trust him for his grace;
behind a frowning providence
he hides a smiling face.**

**His purposes will ripen fast,
unfolding ev'ry hour;
the bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flow'r.**

**Blind unbelief is sure to err,
and scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
and he will make it plain.**

Gospel Reading - John 17: 1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOMILY/REFLECTION

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, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

THE PEACE (*All stand.*)

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

(cf 2 Corinthians 1:22)

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:

Spirit of the living God:

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me,

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

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 repeating 'Spirit of the living God.'

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us,
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.
Break us, melt us, mould us, fill us.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.**

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.**

Offertory hymn: At the name of Jesus

**At the Name of Jesus
ev'ry knee shall bow,
ev'ry tongue confess him
King of glory now;
'tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who, from the beginning,
was the mighty Word.**

**At his voice creation
sprang at once to sight,
all the angels' faces,
all the hosts of light,
thrones and dominations,
stars upon their way,
all the heav'nly orders
in their great array.**

**Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it,
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious
when from death he passed.**

**In your hearts enthrone him;
there let him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true;
crown him as your captain
in temptation's hour;
let his will enfold you
in its light and pow'r.**

**Truly, this Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with his Father's glory,
with his angel train;
for all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of glory now.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Generous God, creator, redeemer, sustainer,
at your table we present this money,
symbol of the work you have given us to do;
use it, use us, in the service of your world
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

NOTICES

Closing Hymn: Mine eyes have seen the glory

**Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is tramping out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored.
He has loosed the fateful lightning of this terrible swift sword.
His truth is marching on.**

***Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! x 3
His truth is marching on.***

**I have seen Him in the watchfires of a hundred circling camps.
They have gilded him an altar in the evening dews and damps.
I can read his righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps.
His day is marching on.**

**He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never sound retreat.
He is sifting out all human hearts before his judgment seat.
O, be swift, my soul, to answer him, be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.**

**In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me.
As he died to make men holy, let us live that all be free,
whilst God is marching on.**

ACCLAMATION

Christ has gone up on high.

Alleluia.

God raised Christ from the dead

and enthroned him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.

God put all things in subjection beneath his feet

and gave him as head over all things to the Church.

We died, and our life lies hidden with Christ in God.

We set our minds on things above.

When Christ, who is our life, is revealed,

we too will be revealed with him in glory.

(cf Ephesians 1:20,23; Colossians 3:1-4)

CLOSING PRAYER AND DISMISSAL

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING:

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth, give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

He is not here. He is risen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.

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.