

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH - MOSCOW
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
30th AUGUST, 2026



At the start of our service this morning, please join the choir in singing “He is here, he is here!”

**He is here, he is here,
he is moving among us;
he is here, he is here,
as we gather in his name!**

**He is here, he is here,
and he wants to work a wonder;
he is here as we gather in his name.**

**He is Lord, he is Lord,
let us worship before him;
he is Lord, he is Lord,
as we gather in his name!**

**He is Lord, he is Lord,
let us praise and adore him –
yesterday and today and for evermore the same.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

**We meet in the presence of God
who knows our needs, hears our cries,
feels our pain, and heals our wounds.**

Opening Hymn: Jesus, where'er thy people meet
Jesus, where'er thy people meet,
there they behold thy mercy-seat;
where'er they seek thee thou art found,
and ev'ry place is hallowed ground.

For thou, within no walls confined,
inhabitest the humble mind;
such ever bring thee when they come,
and, going, take thee to their home.

Dear Shepherd of thy chosen few,
thy former mercies here renew;
here to our waiting hearts proclaim
the sweetness of thy saving name.

Here may we prove the power of prayer
to strengthen faith and sweeten care,
to teach our faint desires to rise,
and bring all heav'n before our eyes.

Lord, we are few, but thou art near;
nor short thine arm, nor deaf thine ear:
O rend the heav'ns, come quickly down,
and make a thousand hearts thine own.

Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray. Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

What God has prepared for those who love him, he has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything. Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord, who has prepared good things for those who love him.

(cf 1 Corinthians 2:9)

Silence is kept.

Lord Jesus Christ, we confess we have failed you as did your first disciples.
We ask for your mercy and your help.
Our selfishness betrays you:
Lord, forgive us.

Christ have mercy.

We fail to share the pain of your suffering:
Lord, forgive us.

Christ have mercy.

We run away from those who abuse you:
Lord, forgive us.

Christ have mercy.

We are afraid of being known to belong to you:
Lord, forgive us.

Christ have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

May the Father of all mercies cleanse you from your sins, and restore you in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through 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 pray the Collect together:

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (*All Sit*)

First Reading: Jeremiah 15: 15-21

¹⁵ O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. ¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore, thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰ And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. ²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 26: 1-8

¹ Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

² Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and mind.

³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you.

⁴ I do not sit with the worthless, nor do I consort with hypocrites;
⁵ I hate the company of evildoers, and will not sit with the wicked.
⁶ I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O Lord,
⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds.
⁸ O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell,
and the place where your glory abides.

**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 12: 9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour.
¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' ²⁰ No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Brother, sister, let me serve you

**Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christlight for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.**

Gospel Reading - Matthew 16: 21-28

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my

sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ 'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

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 in 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 (*All sit or kneel*)

This response is used:

Lord, your will be done: **on earth as in heaven.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

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, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE PEACE (*All Stand*)

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, since as members of one body
we are called to peace.

(cf Colossians 3:15)

The peace of the Lord be always with you; **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn: Take up thy cross, the Saviour said
Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,
if thou wouldst my disciple be;
deny thyself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me.

**Take up thy cross - let not its weight
fill thy weak spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear thy spirit up,
and brace thy heart, and nerve thine arm.**

**Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,
nor let thy foolish pride rebel:
thy Lord for thee the Cross endured,
to save thy soul from death and hell.**

**Take up thy cross then in his strength,
and calmly ev'ry danger brave;
'twill guide thee to a better home,
and lead to vict'ry o'er the grave.**

**Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only they who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.**

**To thee, great Lord, the One in Three,
all praise for evermore ascend:
O grant us in our home to see
the heav'nly life that knows no end.**

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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF RESERVED HOST

Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim your
death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

**We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.**

**We are not worthy so much
as to gather up the crumbs under your table.**

**But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.**

**Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

*We invite you to receive the bread which has been duly consecrated by
Archdeacon Leslie and is now being used as the reserved sacrament.*

**Hymn during Communion: As your family, Lord, see us here
As your fam'ly, Lord, see us here x 3
O Lord, see us here.**

**At your table, Lord, we are fed x 3
O Lord, feed us here.**

**Fill our spirits, Lord, with your love x 3
O Lord, give your love.**

**Make us faithful, Lord, to your will x 3
O Lord, to your will.**

**As your fam'ly, Lord, see us here x 3
O Lord, see us here.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We say together:

Jesus, no words can express our gratitude and amazement that you should die for us. How amazing it is that each of our lives is so valuable to you that you would lay yours down to reach us. May the presence of you through this reserved sacrament remain with us as we seek to take your message of love and grace into the world. Amen.

NOTICES

Closing Hymn: The head that once was crowned with thorns
The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now:
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty victor's brow.

The highest place that heav'n affords
is his, is his by right.
The King of kings, and Lord of lords,
and heav'n's eternal Light.

The joy of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below,
to whom he manifests his love,
and grants his name to know.

To them the cross, with all its shame,
with all its grace, is giv'n:
their name, an everlasting name,
their joy, the joy of heav'n.

They suffer with their Lord below,
they reign with him above;
their profit and their joy to know
the myst'ry of his love.

**The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.**

DIOCESAN PRAYER FOR OUR STRATEGY

Gracious God, you call your Church to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ afresh in each generation; guide the Diocese in Europe as we seek to discern your will for us. Give wisdom, courage, and humility to Bishop Robert and Bishop Andrew, and to all who lead and serve in this process. Bless the members of our working groups and all who contribute, that together we may listen deeply for your voice.

In our prayer, our conversation, and our decision-making, help us to recognise your calling and respond with faith and trust. Shape us as a welcoming and diverse people, rooted in Christ and sent out in love to serve your world. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself, the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service, the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. 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.