

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH - MOSCOW
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
20th SEPTEMBER, 2026



At the start of our service this morning, please join the choir in singing “Open our eyes Lord”

**Open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch him
and say that we love him;
open our ears Lord,
and help us to listen:
O open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus!**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Through Christ let us offer our sacrifice of praise to God.

Let our lips proclaim his praise.

(cf Hebrews 13:15)

Opening Hymn: Lord, we thank you for the promise

**Lord, we thank you for the promise
seen in ev’ry human birth;
you have planned each new beginning –
who could hope for greater worth?
Hear our pray’r for those we cherish;
claim our children as your own:
in the fertile ground of childhood
may eternal seed be sown.**

**Lord, we thank you for the vigour
burning in the years of youth:
strength to face tomorrow's challenge,
zest for life and zeal for truth.
In the choice of friends and partners,
when ideas and values form,
may the message of your kingdom
be the guide, the goal, the norm.**

**Lord, we thank you for the harvest
of the settled, middle years:
times when work and home can prosper,
when life's richest fruit appears;
but when illness, stress and hardship
fill so many days with dread,
may your love renew the vision
of a clearer road ahead.**

**Lord, we thank you for the beauty
of a heart at last mature:
crowned with peace and rich in wisdom,
well-respected and secure;
but to those who face the twilight
frail, bewildered, lacking friends,
Lord confirm your gracious offer:
perfect life which never ends.**

Faithful one, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise,
inspire our prayer and shape our lives for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. As we
offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our confidence and
trust in his mercy.

Silence is kept.

O King enthroned on high, filling the earth with your glory: holy is your name, Lord God almighty. In our sinfulness we cry to you to take our guilt away, and to cleanse our lips to speak your word, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

May the Father forgive you by the death of his Son and strengthen you to live in the power of the Spirit all your days. **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:

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD *(All Sit)*

First Reading: Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

¹ But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' ⁴ And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

⁹ But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:1-8

- ¹ I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name for ever and ever.
² Every day I will bless you, and praise your name for ever and ever.
³ Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.
⁴ One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
⁵ On the glorious splendour of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
⁶ The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,
and I will declare your greatness.
⁷ They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
⁸ The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**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 – Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Father, hear the prayer we offer

**Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength that we may ever
live our lives courageously.**

**Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.**

**Not for ever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.**

**Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wand'rings be our guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.**

Gospel Reading - Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said: 'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; ⁴ and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" ⁷ They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to

the first.” ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” ¹³ But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

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:

Gracious God in your goodness: **hear us and help us.**

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*)

We are baptized into Christ: let us live in the Spirit of Christ.
The peace of the Lord be always with you; **and also with you.**
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn: Turn back, O man

**Turn back, O man, forswear thy foolish ways.
Old now is earth, and none may count her days,
Yet thou, her child, whose head is crowned with flame
Still wilt not hear thine inner God proclaim:
Turn back, O man, forswear thy foolish ways.**

**Earth might be fair, and all men glad and wise.
Age after age, her tragic empires rise,
Built while they dream, and in that dreaming weep.
Would man but wake from out his haunted sleep,
Earth might be fair, and all men glad and wise.**

**Earth shall be fair, and all her people one,
Nor till that hour shall God's whole will be done!
Now, even now, once more from earth to sky
Peals forth in joy her old, undaunted cry:
Earth shall be fair, and all her people one.**

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.

ADMISSION OF DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANTS

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: Peace before us

**Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet.
Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace.**

**Love before us, love behind us, love under our feet.
Love within us, love over us, let all around us be love.**

**Light before us, light behind us, light under our feet.
Light within us, light over us, let all around us be light.**

**Christ before us, Christ behind us, Christ under our feet.
Christ within us, Christ over us, let all around us be Christ.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet.
Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace.**

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: Guide me, O thou great Redeemer
Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy pow'rful hand:
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee.

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

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May God give to you and to all those you love his comfort and his peace, his light and his joy, in this world and the next; 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.