



St James's  
PICCADILLY

# The Eucharist with Baptism for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 3rd May 2026  
at 11am

With a congregation in the church  
and live on YouTube



*Welcome to St James's Church. Whether you are with us in person or joining us online, you are very welcome.*

*Everyone is warmly invited to receive communion or a blessing so please do come forward at the appropriate time.*

***Today we especially welcome Bonnie Pimlott-White, and those who have come to support her, as she is being baptised today.***

## **ORDER OF SERVICE**

### **OPENING HYMN**

[Tune: Blaenwern; Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)]

**Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above;  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation:  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee.  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

## **OPENING RESPONSES**

*The priest says*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*The priest welcomes everyone and introduces the service.*

**Eternal God, to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden;  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION**

*The deacon says*

The risen Christ appeared to the disciples  
behind the doors they had locked out of fear.  
Let us make our confession to God,

acknowledging all that separates us from Christ  
risen from the dead today.

*Silence is kept.*

**Ever-loving God,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be,  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you our God.  
Amen.**

## **THE ABSOLUTION**

*The priest says*

May the God who is both power and love forgive you  
and free you from your sin;  
give you healing and strength,  
and raise you to new life in Christ.

**Amen.**

## **THE GLORIA** *(St Augustine)*

*The cantor sings*

Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
**Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Glory to God in the highest.  
Peace to God's people on earth.

**Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Holy One, Heavenly God, our Sovereign and Creator.

**Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

We worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

**Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Jesus Christ, God's only begotten.

Miserere nobis.

**Miserere nobis.**

Lord God, Lamb of God.

**Miserere nobis.**

You take away the sin of the world.

**Miserere nobis.**

You are seated at the right hand of Majesty:  
receive our prayer.

Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

For you alone are the Holy One.

**Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

You alone are the Lord.

**Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

You alone are the Most High.

**Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit  
in the glory of the Triune God.

**Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Gloria in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

**Gloria in saecula saeculorum. Amen.**

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **The Collect**

*The priest says*

Risen Christ,  
your wounds declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God.

**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**

### **Acts 7.55-end**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

*During the psalm, the Gospel is carried in procession down the central aisle of the church where it is read among the people.*

*Please turn and face the Gospel as it passes.*

**PSALM 31 vv1-5, 15-16**

*Response: **Into your hands I commend my spirit.***

**THE GOSPEL**

*The cantor sings*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*All sing*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*(repeat as a round)*

*The reader says*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*The cantor sings*

Glory to you O Lord.

**Glory to you O Lord.**

**John 14.1-14**

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to

prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*The cantor sings*

Praise to you O Christ

**Praise to you O Christ.**

*The cantor sings*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*All sing*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*Please sit.*

## **SERMON**

The Revd Lucy Winkett

*A period of silence is kept for personal reflection.*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The deacon says*

Let us pray for the world, for the church,  
for all in need and for those who have asked for our prayers.

*Please kneel or sit for prayers led by a member of the congregation.*

## BAPTISM

*Parents and godparents move to the font,  
and the congregation turns to face them, singing ...*

**Bless the Lord my soul  
and bless God's holy name.**

**Bless the Lord my soul  
who leads me into life.**

*The priest addresses the whole congregation.*

Faith is the gift of God to all people.

In baptism, Christ is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome Bonnie and uphold her in her new life in Christ?

## THE DECISION

*The priest addresses Bonnie through her parents and godparents.*

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness  
into marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin  
and rising to new life in Christ.

Therefore I ask:  
Do you turn to Christ?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?

**I repent of my sins.**

Do you renounce evil?

**I renounce evil.**

*The priest makes the sign of the cross on Bonnie's forehead.*

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of the cross.

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**Fight valiantly against sin, the world and the devil,  
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,  
restore in you the image of glory  
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OVER THE WATER**

Praise God who made heaven and earth.

**God's promise is kept forever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The priest continues:*

We thank you, God of life, for the gift of water  
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.  
Through water you led the children of Israel  
from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.  
In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John  
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,  
to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.  
We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.  
In it we are buried with Christ in his death.  
By it we share in his resurrection.  
Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.  
Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,  
we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.  
Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
they may be cleansed from sin and born again.  
Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith  
and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord;  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*The priest addresses the whole congregation:*

Friends, I ask you to profess  
together the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Creator,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**I believe and trust in God the Creator.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,

died for us and rose again?

**I believe and trust in God the Son.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**I believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.**

## **THE BAPTISM**

*The priest says*

Bonnie Jean

I baptise you in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

May God who has received you by baptism into the Church,  
pour upon you the riches of grace, that within the company of  
Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by the  
anointing of the Holy Spirit and come to the inheritance of the  
saints in glory.

**Amen.**

## **THE GIVING OF THE CANDLE**

*The priest gives a candle to the parents, saying:*

God receives Bonnie by baptism into the Church.  
Receive this light.

This is to show that Bonnie has passed from darkness to light.  
**Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Creator.**

## **THE WELCOME**

*The priest says*

Bonnie, God receives you by baptism into the church.

**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;  
we are members together of the body of Christ.  
We are children of the same Creator.  
We welcome you!**

## **THE PEACE**

*The priest says*

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said  
'Peace be with you'.

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

*The deacon says*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*The priest says*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Please share the Peace with your neighbours if you are in the building, and in the YouTube chat box if you are online.*

*During the offertory hymn, a collection will be taken. If you have cash, please fill in the Gift Aid envelopes in the pews with the pens available.*

*If you don't have cash, please use the tap donate device in the collection plate, which is set to £5, or the QR code on page 17.*

## **OFFERTORY HYMN**

[Tune: Lauds; Words: Brian Wren (b.1936)]

**There's a spirit in the air,  
telling Christians everywhere:  
"Praise the love that Christ revealed,  
living, working in our world!"**

**Lose your shyness, find your tongue,  
tell the world what God has done:  
God in Christ has come to stay.  
Live tomorrow's life today!**

**When believers break the bread,  
when a hungry child is fed,  
praise the love that Christ revealed,  
living, working, in our world.**

**Still the Spirit gives us light,  
seeing wrong and setting right:  
God in Christ has come to stay.  
Live tomorrow's life today!**

**When a stranger's not alone,  
where the homeless find a home,  
praise the love that Christ revealed,  
living, working, in our world.**

**May the Spirit fill our praise,  
guide our thoughts and change our ways.  
God in Christ has come to stay.  
Live tomorrow's life today!**

**There's a Spirit in the air,  
calling people everywhere:  
Praise the love that Christ revealed,  
living, working, in our world.**

## **PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE**

*The priest says*

Risen Christ Jesus,  
in this bread soon to be broken  
and this wine soon to be poured out,  
may we know you as the fire that burns within us,  
that we may bring light to your world.

**Amen.**

## **GATHERING**

*All are invited to gather round the altar. Should you need to sit,  
please use any of the benches or seats around the altar at the  
front of the church.*

*While moving to the altar, please join in singing ...*

**Halle- halle- halle- lujah!**

**Halle- halle- halle- lujah!**

**Halle- halle- halle- lujah!**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

*The priest leads the Church's Thanksgiving for Creation and  
Redemption in Christ ...*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The priest continues the Church's prayer of thanksgiving ...*

**SANCTUS** (*Williams*)

*Sing each phrase after the cantor*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
Hosanna,  
Hosanna,  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The cantor sings*

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

*All sing after the cantor*

**Hosanna,  
Hosanna,  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The prayer of consecration continues recalling Christ's  
command to his disciples at the Last Supper, ending with:  
"... as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"*

*The cantor sings*

Great is the mystery of faith.

*All sing after the cantor*

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

*The prayer continues ...*

*At the end of the prayer, sing after the cantor ...*

**Blessing and honour,  
glory and power,  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

*Silence is kept.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*You are invited to pray in your own language.*

*The priest says*

Let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*The Bread is broken and the priest says*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*The priest says*

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ

which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that Christ died for you,

and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

## **THE COMMUNION**

*During Communion, the Lay Singers and Singing Scholars will sing **As I Went Down In The River To Pray**, words and music traditional; music arranged by Bethany Burrow Atherton.*

As I went down in the river to pray,  
studying about that good old way  
and who shall wear the starry crown?  
Good Lord, show me the way.

O sisters let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

O sisters let's go down, down in the river to pray.

*As I went down in the river to pray ...*

O brothers let's go down, let's go down, come on down.  
O brothers let's go down, down in the river to pray.

*As I went down in the river to pray ...*

O fathers let's go down, let's go down, come on down.  
O fathers let's go down, down in the river to pray.

*As I went down in the river to pray ...*

O mothers let's go down, let's go down, come on down.  
O mothers let's go down, down in the river to pray.

*As I went down in the river to pray ...*

O sinners let's go down, let's go down, come on down,  
O sinners let's go down, down in the river to pray.

*As I went down in the river to pray ...*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**God of life and love,  
we thank you for feeding us with the body  
and blood of Jesus Christ.**

**As we have received these gifts of your creation,  
may we go out with joy and gratitude to live as witnesses  
to your hope and justice for the whole earth.**

**Amen.**

*Notices are given by the congregation, wardens and clergy.*

## **HYMN**

[Tune: Coe Fen; Words: John Mason (c.1645-1694)]

**How shall I sing that majesty  
which angels do admire?  
Let dust in dust and silence lie.  
sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.  
Thousands of thousands stand around  
thy throne, O God most high.  
ten thousand times ten thousand sound  
thy praise, but who am I?**

**Thy brightness unto them appears,  
whilst I thy footsteps trace.  
a sound of God comes to my ears,  
but they behold thy face.  
They sing because thou art their sun.  
Lord, send a beam on me.  
for where heav'n is but once begun  
there alleluias be.**

**How great a being, Lord, is thine,  
which doth all beings keep!  
Thy knowledge is the only line  
to sound so vast a deep.  
Thou art a sea without a shore,  
a sun without a sphere;  
thy time is now and evermore,  
thy place is ev'rywhere.**

## THE BLESSING

*The priest says*

God the Creator;  
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,  
open to you the gates of everlasting life.

**Amen.**

God the Son;  
who in bursting from the grave has overcome  
the forces of death and hell,  
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit;  
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Christ  
empower you and fill you with peace.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty:  
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit  
be with you this Eastertide and for ever.

**Amen.**

*The deacon says*

Go in the peace of Christ.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**



*If you would like to support the ministry of St James's, please scan this QR code with your smartphone to make a one-off or regular donation.*



*Alternatively, please visit [sjp.org.uk/donate](http://sjp.org.uk/donate), or use one of the tap donation points in the church. Donations will appear on your bank statement as 'Supported Business'.*

## **For your prayers this week**

### **Parish life and events**

All members of our online community.

Our work towards Earth Justice

St Pancras Church, and for our patronal pilgrimage to St Pancras next Sunday (10th May).

### **Those who have asked for our prayers**

[Laura](#)

### **Those who are ill**

[Catherine](#), [Cecilia](#), [Humphrey](#), [Yuneka](#).

### **Recently departed**

[Pete](#), and for Barbara and Rowland who mourn him.

[Richard](#), and for all who mourn him.

*May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

## Soul at Saint James

TODAY - 3rd May at 5pm in the church

Come and sing side by side with friends, old and new, and experience the energy, joy, and connection of gospel music at **Soul at Saint James**.

This is no ordinary service. It's an evening designed to meet you wherever you are in life—uplifting, energising, and restoring the soul. Singing gospel music together doesn't just open the lungs; it opens hearts and builds community.

**Soul at Saint James** is part workshop, part concert, part social. Held inside St James's Church Piccadilly on Sunday evenings, it's free, lasts just over an hour, and is open to everyone—including those who'd rather sit back and soak up the sound.

You'll be singing along with one of London's finest gospel choirs, *Soul Sanctuary*. With music, reflections, poetry and more, it's a powerful, feel-good evening that will leave you refreshed and inspired.



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