



St James's  
PICCADILLY

# The Eucharist for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 28th April 2024  
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 welcome to receive Communion or a blessing, so please do come forward when invited.*

***Please note that today is your last chance to join the Parish Electoral Roll should you wish to vote at the PCC (Parochial Church Council) election on Sunday 12th May at the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting)!***

***Parish Electoral Roll application forms are available on the table at the back of the church next to the glass doors. Completed forms should be handed to one of the Churchwardens or Vergers.***

## **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** (*Peruvian*)

*Sing after the cantor*

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!**

**To God be glory for ever!**

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

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to Christ Jesus!**

**To God be glory for ever!**

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

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit!**

**To God be glory for ever!**

**Alleluia amen, alleluia amen, alleluia 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 8.26-end**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the

Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 22 vv.25-end**

*Response: The poor shall eat and be satisfied.*

My praise is of you in the great congregation;  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you.  
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek you shall praise you:  
"May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to you,  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before you.  
For yours is the royal power, O God; you rule over the nations.  
How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship,  
or those who go down to the dust kneel before you?

My soul shall live for you; my descendants shall serve you;  
they shall be known as yours for generations to come.  
They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn  
the saving deeds that you have done.

## **THE GOSPEL**

### **John 15.1-8**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
**Glory to you O Lord.**

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower.  
He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every  
branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more  
fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have  
spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the  
branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine,  
neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are  
the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much

fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

The Revd Dr Ivan Khovacs

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

**APOSTLES' CREED** (*3<sup>rd</sup> century creed used during Eastertide*)

**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.*

## **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 in a socially distanced way if you are in  
the building, and in the YouTube chat function 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 19.*

## **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 (**Something Inside**) **So Strong** by Labi Siffre (b. London 1945)*

*Please feel free to join in as the song increases in energy and fervour.*

The higher you build your barriers

The taller I become.

The further you take my rights away

The faster I will run.

You can deny me, you can decide

To turn your face away.

No matter 'cause there's

Something inside so strong.

I know that I can make it,

Though you're doing me wrong, so wrong.  
You thought that my pride was gone, oh no.  
There's something inside so strong.  
Oh, something inside so strong.

The more you refuse to hear my voice (away-a)  
The louder I will sing.  
You hide behind walls of Jericho (away-a)  
Your lies will come tumbling.  
Deny my place in time, you squander wealth that's mine,  
My light will shine so brightly it will blind you.  
Because there's

Something inside so strong, strong.  
I know that I can make it,  
Though you're doing me wrong, so wrong.  
You thought that my pride was gone, oh no,  
There's something inside so strong.  
Oh, something inside so strong

Brothers and sisters  
When they insist we're just not good enough,  
Well we know better,  
Just look 'em in the eyes and say:  
"We're gonna do it anyway,  
We're gonna do it anyway."

Something inside so strong  
I know that I can make it,  
Though you're doing me wrong, so wrong.  
You thought that my pride was gone, oh no.  
There's something inside so strong, oh  
Something inside so strong.

### ***A Prayer for Spiritual Communion***

*inspired by Richard of Chichester (1198-1253)*

*Thanks be to you, Christ Jesus,  
for all the benefits you have given me  
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to be present with me spiritually in my heart.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly, day by day.  
Amen.*

### ***Prayers for use during Communion***

*Christ Jesus, you promised in your gospel  
'I am with you always'.  
Be with me as part of this community today in this Eucharist;  
Hear my prayers for others and for myself.  
May I bind myself to you,  
in communion with all that lives this day,  
knowing that nothing can separate me from your love.  
Amen.*

*O God, help me to trust you,  
and to know that you are with me now.  
Help me to know that all are yours,  
and you are ours, in this Eucharist and for ever.  
Amen.*

### **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 Easter and for ever.

**Amen.**

*The deacon says*

Go in the peace of Christ.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**



*In addition to the physical collection, if you do not have cash with you, 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 us one of the tap donation points in the church.*



DONATE ONLINE

## **St James's memorial event for Lisa Barrott**

**TODAY - Sunday 28th April at 1.30pm**

Lisa died suddenly and unexpectedly on 30th January this year. We will be remembering her life and the special contribution she made to St James's on Sunday 28th April at 1.30pm in the church. This will be followed by tea and cake.

Everyone is very welcome to join us - please RSVP to [ecochurch@sjp.org.uk](mailto:ecochurch@sjp.org.uk) as soon as you can for catering purposes.

As part of the event we will go outside into the courtyard and Southwood Garden which Lisa loved. The garden presents accessibility challenges as there are 12 steps.



We want to ensure that everyone can participate as fully as possible, so the same opportunity to engage with some of Lisa's photography and writing will be provided in both the courtyard (which is fully accessible) and the garden.

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Sunday 12th May at 1pm

Our Annual Meeting of Parishioners and APCM will take place on Sunday 12th May after the Eucharist.

Apart from receiving the audited annual accounts and report, there will be a presentation of the work of SJP during the past year and an opportunity for you to ask questions. There will also be elections of the two Churchwardens and vacancies for the Parochial Church Council (PCC) which is the governing body of SJP.

To find out more and to get a nomination form, please email the Churchwardens at: [churchwardens@sjp.org.uk](mailto:churchwardens@sjp.org.uk) or the PCC Secretary (Keith Best) at [pcc@sjp.org.uk](mailto:pcc@sjp.org.uk)

In order to vote in the elections, **you must be on the electoral roll and attend the meeting in person.**

### Revision of the Church Electoral Roll

If you're not already on the Church Electoral Roll, please complete an application in advance of the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) on Sunday 12th May.



Membership of the Electoral Roll enables you to vote in the election for Churchwardens and PCC members.

**Electoral Roll registration forms may be found on**

**the table at the back of the church or downloaded at**

<https://www.sjp.org.uk/governance/>. Once completed, please hand to one of the Churchwardens or Vergers, or return to the Parish Office **by Sunday 28th April.**

## Telling the Story of St James's

19th May - 9th June in the Church

Congregation members are all invited to become Advocates for St James's to tie in with our garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

We hope that there will be lots of new visitors to the church following the attention that our 'Imagine the World to Be Different' garden will generate.

We aspire to greet our visitors with warm hospitality and to share St James's unique story with them.

If you'd like to be a volunteer Advocate for St James's and have a few hours to spare any day of the week, 19th May to 9th June, please email Ayla for further information at [asociaterector@sjp.org.uk](mailto:asociaterector@sjp.org.uk)



## Environmental innovations in our RHS Chelsea Flower Show garden

Robert Myers, St James's Chelsea Show Garden designer, explains how prioritising sustainability throughout the projects lifecycle sets a new standard for ecologically-driven practices.

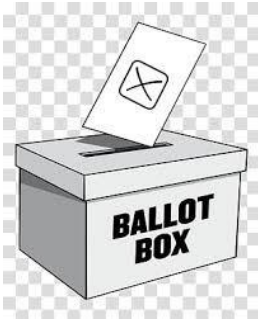
Through our commitment to environmental innovation, we aim to inspire others to create a more sustainable and resilient future. Read Robert's blog at:

[www.sjp.org.uk/chelsea-environmental-innovations](http://www.sjp.org.uk/chelsea-environmental-innovations)



## Don't lose your vote - act now!

With the election for London Mayor coming up on 2nd May, don't miss your opportunity to vote and be heard!



If you're not already on the electoral roll in your area, you can register to vote online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) or download and complete the form and send it to your Electoral Registration office. To cast your vote in person at a polling station, you must now show an accepted form of Voter ID.

### Forms of Voter ID accepted are:

- UK passport or photocard driving licence
- Blue Badge
- Biometric residence permit (BRP)
- Defence Identity Card (MOD form 90)
- Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- Older Person's Bus Pass, Disabled Person's Bus Pass, Oyster 60+ Card, Freedom Pass

If you do not have one of the accepted photo IDs you can now apply for a **Free Voter Authority Certificate**. This can be done online at: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id/applying-a-voter-authority-certificate>

### The London Mayoral Elections take place on 2nd May.

The deadline for registering to vote is 16th April. The deadline for applying for the Voter Authority Certificate is 24th April.

If you have any questions relating to the above, please speak to Ruth Blakebrough-Miller after the service this morning, or email her at [ruthiedmillr@gmail.com](mailto:ruthiedmillr@gmail.com)

## For your prayers this week

### Parish life and events

All members of our online community.

St James's growing relationship with St Pancras, Euston Road.

Our partnership with St Bart's New York.

The Wren Project.

### Those who are ill

David, Imogen, Robert, Fiona, Milly.

### Recently departed

Miss Jason, and for all who mourn her.

Frank, and for all who mourn him.

Erica, whose memorial funeral was on Friday (26th April) and for all who mourn her.

Lisa, whose memorial service is here today (28th April) and for all who mourn her.

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

### As part of the Anglican Communion, and the Diocese of London Prayer Cycle, we pray today for:

The United Church of Bangladesh: Samuel Sunil Mankhin (Moderator, and Bishop of Kushtia).

Göteborg (Sweden): Susanne Rappmann (Bishop).

Capital Vision Confident Disciples: for those who work in justice and law in our city.

The work of Sara Black, Area Administrator.

Christ Church, Spitalfields: Darren Wolf (Rector),

Jordan Prance; Natasha Grimmett (Administrator).

Christ Church C of E Primary School.

**St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1J 9LL**  
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