



St James's
PICCADILLY

The Eucharist for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday 22nd March 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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

[Tune: Hyfrydol; Words: John Bell (b. 1949) and Graeme Maule (1958-2019)]

**We who live by sound and symbol,
we who learn from sight and word,
find these married in the person
of the one we call our Lord.**

**Taking bread to be his body,
taking wine to be his blood,
he let thought take flesh in action,
he let faith take root in food.**

**Not just once with special people,
not just hidden deep in time,
but wherever Christ is followed,
earthly fare becomes sublime.
Though to sound this seems a mystery,
though to sense it seems absurd,
yet in faith, which seems like folly,
we meet Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**God, our Maker, send your Spirit
to pervade the bread we break.
Let it bring the life we long for
and the love which we forsake.**

**Bind us closer to each other,
both forgiving and forgiven;
give us grace in this and all things
to discern the hand of heaven.**

OPENING RESPONSES

The priest says

Grace, mercy and peace from God and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

And also with you.

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 sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to God, who is full of compassion,
ready to listen and forgive.

KYRIE (*MacNamara*)

The cantor sings

When our life is at its strongest.

All sing

When our days are at their longest.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy.

At the first coming of the dawn.

On the life that's newly born.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy.

At the turning of the tide.

On life's ocean deep and wide.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy.

When our powers are nearly done.

At the setting of the sun.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy.

When we come to breathe our last.

When the gates of death are passed.

THE ABSOLUTION

The priest says

May the God of mercy and truth forgive you and set you free.
May you take God's forgiveness to heart and be at peace.

Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Collect

The priest says

Most merciful God
who by the death and resurrection
of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered
on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Please sit.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37.1-14

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel.

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered,

"O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

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 130

*Response: **My soul waits for you, O God.***

Please remain standing.

THE GOSPEL

John 11.1-45

The cantor sings

Holy, holy, holy Lord.

All sing

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

The reader says

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

The cantor sings and all repeat

Glory to you O Lord. **Glory to you O Lord.**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he

said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will

live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and

feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

The cantor sings and all repeat

Praise to you O Christ. **Praise to you O Christ.**

The cantor sings

Holy, holy, holy Lord.

All sing

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

Please sit.

SERMON

The Revd Lucy Winkett

A period of silence is kept for personal reflection.

Please stand.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

The Apostles' Creed, used during Lent, is a text first mentioned in 390 AD and has been in continuous use since the 8th century.

A text written, as it were, 'under fire', it was probably handed down in an oral tradition crafted at a time of persecution. Although some of its pre-modern imagery is challenging to modern ears, its spare language and trinitarian emphasis connect us with the ancient wisdom of traditions we have inherited.

In saying the Latin for 'I believe', Credo means something closer to 'I trust' than 'I assent to'. Unlike some other creeds, the Apostles' Creed is written in the first person: we say 'I believe' but we never have to say this alone.

**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,
and 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

Led by a member of the congregation.

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.

THE PEACE

The priest says

God has made us one in Christ:
We meet from north, south, east and west
to share the peace that makes us whole.

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 20.

OFFERTORY HYMN

[Tune: Slane; Words: Irish 8thc trans. Mary Byrne and Eleanor Hull (alt.)]

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought in the day and the night,
waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
thou ever with me and I with thee, Lord;
thou my great Father, thy child let me be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.**

**Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my strong tower;
raise thou me heav'nward, great Pow'r of my pow'r.**

**Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,
grant me its joys after vict'ry is won;
heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The priest says

Gracious God,
we give back to you what we have been given;

fruits of the earth,
and the hearts of your people
in hope and expectation of a world made new.
Amen.

GATHERING CHANT

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 ...

**Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom,
Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.**
(repeated)

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

The cantor sings
Holy, holy, holy Lord.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord.*
God of heaven and earth adored.
Ceasing never, God for ever,
Holy Lord.**

*(repeat as a round, second part starting at *)
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

Praise to you Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.
Come, O Christ.
Come, O Christ, in glory.**

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.**

AGNUS DEI

The cantor sings

Agnus Dei

All sing

**qui tollis peccata, peccata mundi
Miserere nobis, miserere nobis,
miserere nobis.**

Agnus Dei

**qui tollis peccata, peccata mundi
Dona nobis pacem,
dona nobis pacem, dona nobis pacem.**

*Lamb of God
that takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God
that takes away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The priest says

Come to this table,
not because you must but because you may,
not because you are strong, but because you are weak.
Come, not because your own goodness gives you the right,
but because you know you need mercy and help.
Come, because you love God and want to love more.
Come and meet Christ, for we are one Body, united with God.

THE COMMUNION

*During Communion, the Lay Singers and Singing Scholars will
sing **Crossing The Bar**, words by Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-
92), music by Rani Arbo (b. 1968).*

Sunset and evening star
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea.

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell
When I embark.

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Generous God,
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope,
and strengthen our love.
Teach us to hunger for the One who is living bread,
and enable us to live by your word and your truth.
Through Christ we pray.
Amen.**

Notices are given by the congregation, wardens and clergy.

HYMN

[Tune: Irish Tune from County Derry; Words: June Boyce-Tillman]

**We shall go out with hope of resurrection.
We shall go out, from strength to strength go on.
We shall go out and tell our stories boldly,
Tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our song
of wrongs that can be righted.
We'll dream our dreams**

of hurts that can be healed.
We'll weave a cloth of all the world united
Within the vision of a Christ who sets us free.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken.
We'll find the words
for those whose lips are sealed.
We'll make the tunes
for those who sing no longer,
Vibrating love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy
with those who are still weeping.
Chant hymns of strength
for hearts that break in grief.
We'll leap and dance the resurrection story
Including all within the circles of our love.

THE BLESSING

The priest says

May Christ crucified draw you close, to find a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God almighty; Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The deacon says

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.



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, 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.

Congregation members of St James's preparing for Baptism and Confirmation this Easter.

Our Palm Sunday service next Sunday (29th March)

Those who are ill

Elizabeth

Alison

Lavinia

Sam

Recently departed

[Charles](#), and for Andy, his family and all who mourn him.

We give thanks for Charles's ministry among us.

[Robert](#), and for his family and friends who mourn him.

[Ruby](#), and for Sue and all the family who mourn her.

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

[Ros](#), and for David, Roland, Miranda, Doric, Becca and all the family who mourn her.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Holding the Silence

TODAY - Sunday 22nd March at 1pm in the church

Our regular Holding the Silence, on the fourth Sunday of the month, will be held in the church after this morning's service. We'll gather at about 1pm.

After a short introduction, we'll have approximately 20 minutes of silence and then end with a chance to share reflections.



We will finish at about 1.30pm. All are welcome - this is a chance to pause together and enjoy the gift of silence.

Lent Contemplative Space on Zoom

A space for prayer, readings and silence on Fridays through Lent 6-7pm, until 27th March.



All are welcome to join for one or all sessions.

Resources and Zoom link can be found at

www.sjp.org.uk/whats-on/lent-contemplative-space

Easter Lilies for Remembrance

Donations are now being accepted towards the cost of the floral decoration of the church at Easter.

If you would like to **sponsor a white lily** in memory of someone you love who has died, please email David in the parish office with the name(s) at administrator@sjp.org.uk



The names of those being commemorated will be included in the order of service on Easter Day - Sunday 5th April.

To make a donation, please go to:

<https://sjp.churchsuite.com/donate/fund/1vundziy>

or scan the QR code.



Holy Week and Easter at St James's

Join us for a Holy Week pilgrimage as we walk the way of the cross together from sorrow to Easter joy. Everyone is welcome at all of our events and services.

Palm Sunday - 29th March at 11am

Sung Eucharist with donkey procession and Passion Gospel

Maundy Thursday - 2nd April at 6.30pm

Eucharist with the washing of feet and Vigil of contemplative prayer. Preacher: The Revd Lucy Winkett

Good Friday - 3rd April 12noon - 3pm

The Three Hours: prayer at the foot of the cross, with Scripture, silence, poetry and music

7.30pm: J.S. Bach's St John Passion

Performed by the Oxford Bach Soloists - tickets at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Holy Saturday - 4th April

7.30pm: Vespers and community meal

10pm: Compline followed by all-night Vigil

Easter Sunday - 5th April

6.15am: Dawn Eucharist in the Southwood Garden

11am: Sung Eucharist with St James's Music Scholars and Lay Singers. Preacher: The Revd Dr Ayla Lepine



Sunday 12th April

11am: Sung Eucharist

3pm: Choral Evensong

for Eastertide with

St James's Music

Scholars and Lay Singers.

Preacher: The Revd Lucy Winkett



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