



St James's  
PICCADILLY

# The Eucharist for the Third Sunday of Lent

**Sunday 8th 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: Song 1, O. Gibbons; Words: Howard Charles Adie Gaunt (1902-1983)]

**Dear Lord, to you again our gifts we bring,  
this bread our toil, this wine our ecstasy,  
poor and imperfect though they both must be;  
yet you will take a heart-free offering.  
Yours is the bounty, ours the unfettered will  
to make or mar, to fashion good or ill.**

**Yes, you will take and bless, and grace impart  
to make again what once your goodness gave,  
what we half crave, and half refuse to have,  
a sturdier will, a more repentant heart.  
You have on earth no hands, no hearts but ours;  
bless them as yours, ourselves, our will, our pow'rs.**

**Break bread, O Lord, break down our wayward wills,  
break down our prized possessions, break them down;  
let them be freely given as your own  
to all who need our gifts, to heal their ills.  
Break this, the bread we bring, that all may share  
in your one living body, everywhere.**

**Our lips receive your wine, our hands your bread;  
you give us back the selves we offered you,  
won by the cross, by Calvary made new,  
a heart enriched, a life raised from the dead.  
Grant us to take and guard your treasure well,  
that we in you, and you in us may dwell.**

## **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*

Eternal God  
give us insight  
to discern your will for us,  
to give up what harms us,  
and to seek the perfection we are promised  
in Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*Please sit.*

## **FIRST READING**

### **Exodus 17.1-7**

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said,

"Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

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 95 vv1-7**

*Response: **Come, let us worship and bow down.***

*Please remain standing.*

## **THE GOSPEL**

**John 4.5-42**

*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.**

So Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I

may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not

say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour." Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world."

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 Dr Ivan Khovacs

*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 18.*

## **OFFERTORY HYMN**

[Tune: Down Ampney; Words: Alan Gaunt (b. 1935)]

**Make us your prophets, Lord,  
who truly hear your word,  
which fires us with your Spirit's inspiration.  
In all we say and do  
prove that your love is true,  
the hope and source of peace for every nation.**

**And when we fail to love  
or set ourselves above  
our neighbours with their different ways of seeing,  
bring us with all our pride  
where Jesus, crucified,  
for love of all committed his whole being.**

**Give us God's love that shares  
our neighbours' pain, and dares  
to suffer enmity and condemnation.**

**Whether we live or die  
help us to prophesy,  
proclaiming peace and reconciliation.**

**In faith and hope we pray,  
use us to serve that day  
when bigotry and hatred are defeated,  
when perfect peace is won  
and lasting justice done,  
with love's eternal promises completed.**

### **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 **With Prayer And Supplication** and **Peace I Leave With You**, music by Amy Beach (1867-1944), published 1891.*

With prayer and supplication,  
let your requests be known unto God.  
And the peace of God which passeth all understanding  
shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ  
our Lord.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you.  
Not as the world giveth give I unto you.  
Let not your heart be troubled.

## 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: Grafton; Words: Fred Kaan (1929-2009)]

**For the healing of the nations,  
Lord, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing**

of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us, forward into freedom;  
from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned;  
pride of status, race, or schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator-God, have written  
your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find.

## **THE BLESSING**

*The priest says*

May Christ walk with you in any wilderness that you know.  
And the blessing of God; Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit  
be with you and remain with you on this day and for ever.  
**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](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.

The Wren Project.

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

Our partnership with St Pancras, Euston Road.

### **Those who are ill**

[Charles](#), [Michael](#) and [Gill](#), [Elizabeth](#)

### **Recently departed**

[Charlotte](#), and for all who mourn her.

[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.

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

## 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](mailto: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.



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