



Richmond
Team Ministry



Sung Eucharist I am

Third Sunday of Lent
23 March 2025

Team Vicar: The Rev'd Joe Moore
joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org

Churchwardens: Mary Ricketts & Fiona Morgan
Visiting Organist: Gina Kruger

The Church of St John the Divine
Kew Road, Richmond
TW9 2NA

richmondteamministry.org/st-john-the-divine

WELCOME to St John's this morning on the Third Sunday of Lent!



It is very good to welcome The Rev'd Anne Crawford, Team Vicar at St Matthias, to preach and preside this morning. Joe is leading worship at St Mary Magdalene, and Charlie is up at St Matthias- it's Swap Around Sunday for the clergy!

Throughout Sundays in Lent we are exploring in the sermon a key question to do with our faith. Today we will look at the question: *Why Scripture?*

***To sign up to the Richmond Team Ministry Weekly Newsletter, please visit:
richmondteamministry.org/news***

This act of worship is livestreamed on our Facebook page, please do 'follow' us on Facebook: St John the Divine, Richmond Team Ministry.

Richmond Team Ministry

St John the Divine • St Matthias • St Mary Magdalene

RTM Parish Office
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Mass Setting: *Mass of St Anne*
Macmillan

Prelude

The organ is played before our worship.

The Gathering

*When the bell rings we stand to sing the **Gathering Hymn**.*

**1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!**

**It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
and drives away his fear.**

**2 It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary rest.**

**3 Dear name! the rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding-place,
my never-failing treasury filled
with boundless stores of grace.**

**4 Jesus! my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.**

**5 Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.**

**6 Till then I would thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of thy name
refresh my soul in death.**

JOHN NEWTON (1725–1807) A&M 664

The Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Anne welcomes the congregation.

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty 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.

Prayers of Penitence

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 choir and congregation sing the Kyrie, during which the president sprinkles the congregation with holy water, symbolising the cleansing of the people. You are invited to make the sign of the cross when sprinkled with holy water if you wish to do so.

**Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy**

Anne says:

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

Anne introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'.

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Please sit for the readings and the psalm.

The First Reading

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah (55.1-9).

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

The Psalm

Psalm 63. 1-9 is read by the president, with the congregation saying the verses in bold.

1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul is athirst for you.

**2 My flesh also faints for you,
as in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.**

3 So would I gaze upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.

**4 Your loving-kindness is better than life itself
and so my lips shall praise you.**

5 I will bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.

**6 My soul shall be satisfied, as with marrow and fatness,
and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips,**

7 When I remember you upon my bed
and meditate on you in the watches of the night.

**8 For you have been my helper
and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.**

9 My soul clings to you;
your right hand shall hold me fast.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The Second Reading

A reading from St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (10.1-13).

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand to sing the **Gradual Hymn**.

**1 O God beyond all praising,
we worship you today
and sing the love amazing
that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder
at every gift you send,
at blessings without number
and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you
and wait upon your word,
we honour and adore you,
our great and mighty Lord.**

**2 Then hear, O gracious Saviour,
accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favour
may serve you as our king;
and whether our tomorrows
be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows
and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty
and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty
our sacrifice of praise.**

MICHAEL PERRY (1942–1996) A&M 743

Gospel acclamation: **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.** *A seasonal sentence is sung.* **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

The Gospel Reading

Please remain standing and turn to face the reader.

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (13.1-9). **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, ‘Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.’

Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, “See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?” He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Why Scripture?

The Reverend Anne Crawford

Please sit for the sermon. After the sermon a brief silence is kept.

The Creed

Please stand for the 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Please sit or kneel for the prayers of intercession.

These or other responses may be used.

Either: Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Or: Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

And at the end:

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand. Anne introduces the peace with the following sentence:

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We stand to sing the **Offertory Hymn.***

**I Sweet Sacrament divine,
hid in thine earthly home,
lo, round thy lowly shrine,
with suppliant hearts we come;
Jesus, to thee our voice we raise
in songs of love and heartfelt praise:
sweet Sacrament divine.**

**2 Sweet Sacrament of peace,
dear home for every heart,
where restless yearnings cease
and sorrows all depart;
there in thine ear all trustfully
we tell our tale of misery:
sweet Sacrament of peace.**

**3 Sweet Sacrament of rest,
ark from the ocean's roar,
within thy shelter blest
soon may we reach the shore;
save us, for still the tempest raves,
save, lest we sink beneath the waves:
sweet Sacrament of rest.**

**4 Sweet Sacrament divine,
earth's light and jubilee,
in thy far depths doth shine
thy Godhead's majesty;
sweet light, so shine on us, we pray,
that earthly joys may fade away:
sweet Sacrament divine.**

FRANCIS STANFIELD (1835–1914) A&M 464

If you would like to give financially to the life and work of the Richmond Team Ministry, please scan the QR Code with your smart device. There is also a card reader and cash plate at the back of church. Thank you!



The gifts of the people are gathered and presented. The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

Anne says:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance, that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word, you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds, we bless you for your mercy and join with angels and saints for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna, in the highest.

**Blessed is he, blessed is he, who comes in the name of
the Lord. Hosanna, in the highest,**

Hosanna, in the highest.

Please sit or kneel.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, John the Divine, Mary Magdalene, Matthias and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

Amen.

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 Breaking of the Bread

Anne breaks the consecrated bread.

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.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

The Giving of Holy Communion

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Anne and the people receive Holy Communion. You are welcome to receive Holy Communion at St John's today, but if you would prefer to receive a blessing then please carry this order of service with you.

*During the distribution of Holy Communion the choir sing:
Like as the hart by William Croft*

The Prayer after Holy Communion

Silence is kept.

The Post Communion Prayer is said together.

**Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Notices

Information about our life together is shared.

We stand to sing the **Post Communion Hymn**.

1 **O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my Friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.**

2 **O let me feel thee near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.**

3 **O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.**

**4 O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end:
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.**

**5 O let me see thy foot-marks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.**

JOHN ERNEST BODE (1816–1874) A&M 748

The Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow him; 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.

Postlude



Please remain standing until the procession reaches the back of church.

**You are warmly invited to stay with us
for refreshments after the service.**

Please take this order of service away with you.

Sunday Sermon Series in Lent

9th March

What is Christianity?

16th March

Why church?

23rd March

Why Scripture?

30th March

Why tradition?

6th April

Why reason?

13th April

Why does Christianity matter?

LENT LUNCH

***In support of the Bishop of Southwark's
Lent Call***

***Wednesday 26th March
Between 12pm-2pm
in St John's Church Hall***

***Please join us for a simple lunch, for fellowship
and to support the Bishop's projects in
Southwark, Jerusalem and Zimbabwe.***

LENT TALK

***'Wings and Whispers: The Silent Battle Between
Angels and Demons'***

***Sunday 6th April at 4pm
St John the Divine***

***Joe Gunby, Director of Operations at St Elizabeth of
Portugal RC Church, will give a talk exploring beliefs
about angelic powers and demonic forces.***

All are welcome!

Regular Worship at St John's



You are always welcome!

Sunday

Sung Eucharist

11:00am - 12:15pm

Tuesday

Morning Prayer

8:30am - 8:50am

Silent Contemplation before the Blessed Sacrament

6:30pm - 6:50pm

Said Eucharist

7:00pm - 7:30pm

Open Church

Most Saturdays

10am - 12 Noon