

St Nicholas Church, Shepperton



**Sung Parish Eucharist
The Second Sunday of Lent**

**Sunday 1st March 2026
at 10.00am**

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*In the name of the Lord Jesus we welcome you to St Nicholas Shepperton today. It is wonderful that you have chosen to worship with us. For centuries, people have gathered on this site to support each other, to laugh and cry together, to sing and pray and to come before God and be nourished and sustained at the altar rail. It is our hope that you will leave here today having been given a glimpse of God's kingdom. **Please join in where indicated in bold.***

Hymn 54

**At the name of Jesus
Every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess him
King of glory now;
'Tis the Father's pleasure
We should call him Lord,
Who from the beginning
Was the mighty Word.**

**Humbled for a season,
To receive a name
From the lips of sinners
Unto whom he came,
Faithfully he bore it,
Spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious
When from death he passed**

**Name him, Christians, name him,
with love strong as death,
but with awe and wonder,
and with bated breath;
he is God the saviour,
he is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshipped,
trusted and adored.**

**Truly, this Lord Jesus
Shall return again,
With his Father's glory,
With his Angel train;
For all wreaths of empire
Meet upon his brow,
And our hearts confess him
King of glory now.**

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.

Introduction and words of welcome

Invitation to Confession.

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.

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore to us the joy of your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 *Let us pray*

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Please sit

First Reading - Genesis 12 1-4

God calls Abram away from his home at the age of 75

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading - Romans 4 1-5, 13-17

Abraham believed God

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 467

**New every morning is the love
Our wakening and uprising prove;
Through sleep and darkness safely brought,
Restored to life, and power, and thought.**

**New mercies, each returning day,
Hover around us while we pray;
New perils past, new sins forgiven,
New thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.**

**If on our daily course our mind
Be set to hallow all we find,
New treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.**

**The trivial round, the common task,
Would furnish all we ought to ask,
Room to deny ourselves, a road
To bring us daily nearer God.**

**Only, O lord, in thy dear love
Fit us for perfect rest above;
And help us this and every day
To live more nearly as we pray.**

Please remain standing

Gospel Acclamation

**Jesus we love you, we worship and adore you,
Glorify your name in all the earth,
Glorify your name, Glorify your name,
Glorify your name in all the earth.**

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

Chapter 3 verses 1-17

Nicodemus comes to Jesus by night. For God so loved the world

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'

Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**Glorify your name, Glorify your name,
Glorify your name in all the earth.**

Sermon – Simon Sheldon, Licensed Lay Minister

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

We pray with and for the People of God in every place.

Lord hear us

Lord Graciously hear us

At the end of our prayers

Merciful Father,

**Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

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.

Offertory Hymn 642

A collection for the mission and ministry of the parish will be taken during this hymn. Many people give regularly by standing order so do not put a gift into the bag each Sunday, but we hope that everyone will contribute to the life of the church according to their own means.

Thank you for your generosity.

**The God of Abraham praise
Who reigns enthroned above,
Ancient of everlasting days,
And God of love:
Jehovah, great I AM,
By earth and heaven confessed;
We bow and bless the sacred name
For ever blest.**

**The God of Abraham praise,
At whose supreme command
From earth I rise—and seek the joys
At His right hand;
we all on earth forsake,
Its wisdom, fame, and power;
And Him our only portion make,
our shield and tower.**

**The God of Abraham praise,
Whose all sufficient grace
Shall guide me all our happy days,
In all our ways.
He is our faithful friend,
He is our gracious God!
And He shall save me to the end,
Through Jesus' blood.**

**He by Himself has sworn;
we on His oath depend,
we shall, on eagle wings upborne,
To Heav'n ascend.
we shall behold His face;
we shall His power adore,
And sing the wonders of His grace
For evermore.**

**The whole triumphant host
Give thanks to God on high;
'Hail! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,'
They ever cry:
Hail! Abraham's God, and ours!
we join the heavenly throng,
and celebrate with all our powr's,
in endless song.**

Prayer over the gifts.

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement; draw us from hatred to love; make the frailty of our praise a dwelling place for your glory. **Amen.**

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.

The priest prays the Eucharistic prayer and we join together to sing ..

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

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

The priest recalls the Last Supper....

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

Breaking of the 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.

Agnus Dei

We all join together to sing:

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

Giving of Communion

The priest shows the consecrated host to the congregation:

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy,

Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father

You are warmly invited to feast at the Lord's table. If you are baptised and regularly take communion in your own church you are welcome to receive here at St Nicholas. Holy Communion is offered in both kinds, bread and wine, but you are free to receive in one kind only. If you wish to receive in both kinds, please do not dip the Eucharistic wafers into the wine. You are invited to receive a blessing if you do not take communion. If you wish to receive a blessing, please keep your head bowed.

(a Prayer for personal and silent use before receiving communion)

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us.

Amen

Choir Anthem.

Hymn: 114

**Come down, O love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**

**O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming**

**Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.**

**And so the yearning strong
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.**

Prayer after Communion

Let us Pray

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Notices

Final Hymn 305

**I danced in the morning
When the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
And the stars and the sun;
And I came down from Heaven
And I danced on the earth;
At Bethlehem I had my birth.**

Chorus

***Dance then, wherever you may be
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.***

**I danced for the scribe, and the pharisee,
But they would not dance
And they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
For James and John -
They came with me
And the dance went on.**

Chorus

**I danced on the Sabbath
And I cured the lame;
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
And they hung me on high,
And they left me there
On a cross to die.**

Chorus

**I danced on a Friday
when the sky turned black.
It's hard to dance
with the devil on your back.
They buried my body
and they thought I'd gone
but I am the dance
and still go on.**

Chorus

**They cut me down
And I leapt up high;
I am the life
That'll never, never die.
I'll live in you
If you live in me;
I am the Lord
of the Dance said he.**

Chorus

Please remain standing for the final Blessing

**The Lord be with you.
And also with you.**

Blessing and Dismissal

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart. **Amen.**

May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by his wounds. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Our Eucharist is ended. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Everyone is invited to join us for coffee in the Parish Centre after the 10.00 a.m. service.

