

St Simon Zelotes



HOLY COMMUNION ONLINE

Sunday 21 December 2025

10.00am

St Simon Zelotes Church
Milner Street
London SW3 2QF

Tel. 020 7589 8999

www.stsimonzelotes.com



Welcome

Hymn

Of the Father's love begotten

(Children in Year 9 and under leave for Youth Group, Sunday School and Crèche during this hymn)

1 Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he is the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

2 At his word they were created;
he commanded; it was done:
heav'n and earth and depths of ocean
in their threefold order one;
all that grows beneath the shining
of the light of moon and sun,
evermore and evermore.

3 Of that birth for ever blessèd,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bare the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

4 This is he whom seers and sages
sang of old with one accord;
whom the writings of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected:
let our songs declare his worth,
evermore and evermore.

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-413) trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

CCLI Licence No. 1891688

Sentence of Scripture



Collect for Purity

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Summary of the Commandments with Response

Choir: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy,

All: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Choir: Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy,

All: Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy.

Choir: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy,

All: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

James MacMillan; CCLI Licence No. 1891688

Collect for the fourth Sunday in Advent

O Lord, raise up (we pray thee) thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through the satisfaction of thy Son our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Advent Collect

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever.

Epistle: Revelation 1:9-18

⁹ I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹ which said: 'Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.'



¹² I turned round to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash round his chest. ¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 9:35-36, John 14:15-20

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and illness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

¹⁵ 'If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever — ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.



The Creed

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, light of light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made: who for us men, and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. And I believe one catholick and Apostolick Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn

I heard the voice of Jesus say

1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto Me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast."

I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
And he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down, and drink, and live."

I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk,
till trav'ling days are done.



Sermon

Isaiah 9:6

‘And he shall be called... Everlasting Father’

Joe Ammoun

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called... Everlasting Father.

Isaiah 9:6

Anthem

Song of Mary

My Lord and Saviour is my song,
He fills my spirit with delight;
To raise me up His arm is strong
The lowly precious in his sight.

The proud beguiled by dreams of power
Divided and degraded lie:
He casts them down from throne and tower
And stoops to lift the humble high.

Magnificat anima mea Dominum

Magnificat anima mea Dominum

My name shall live from age to age,
And ev'ry tongue his servant bless,
For mercy is their heritage
Whose hearts the Holy One confess.

He feeds the hungry at his board
And sends the rich unfill'd away,
And mindful of his promis'd word
Has answer'd Israel's prayer today.

Magnificat anima mea Dominum

Magnificat anima mea Dominum

With all the elders of our race,
And those unborn who seek this birth,
I sing the glory of his grace
Who brings eternity to earth.

Magnificat anima mea Dominum

Words: Mary Holtby from Luke 1:46-55 Music: Richard Shephard
CCLI Licence No. 1891688

Prayer for the Church and the World



Confession

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men. We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. The remembrance of them is grievous unto us. The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father. For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past. And grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honour and glory of thy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Comfortable Words

Responses

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

All: It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name. Evermore praising thee, and singing:

Choir: Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory
Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high.
Amen.

Harold Darke; CCLI Licence No. 1891688



Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy 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

Prayer of Consecration

Communion

(Please be guided by the stewards)

Communion Anthems

Agnus Dei

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.

Harold Darke; CCLI Licence No. 1891688



A tender shoot

A tender shoot has started
up from a root of grace,
as ancient seers imparted
from Jesse's holy race;
It blooms without a blight,
blooms in the cold bleak winter
turning our darkness into light.

This shoot, Isaiah taught us,
from Jesse's root should spring;
the Vrgin Mary brought us
the branch of which we sing:
our God of endless might
gave her this child to save us,
thus turning darkness into light.

Words: Otto Goldschidt, trans. W Bartholomew.
CCLI Licence No. 1891688

A great and mighty wonder

A great and mighty won-der,
A full and holy cure!
The virgin bears the Infant
With virgin honour pure!
Repeat the hymn again:
To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!

The Word becomes in-car-nate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing an-thems
To shepherds from the sky.
Repeat the hymn again:
To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!

Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored,
The Infant born in Bethl'em,
The Saviour and the Lord!
Repeat the hymn again:
To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!

Words: St. Germanus. Tr J.M. Neale. CCLI Licence No. 1891688



Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that 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.

Post Communion Prayer

Notices

Hymn

O come, O come Emmanuel

(We take a collection during this hymn. People give in a variety of ways. Some may not be in a position to give; please pass the plate on if that is appropriate for you. If you are a taxpayer, please use one of the Gift Aid envelopes in your pew, completing the information on the front. Alternatively, standing order forms are available at the back of church or from our website.)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

3 O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.

Rejoice...

2 O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

4 O come, thou key of David, come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

Rejoice...

Rejoice...

from the 'Great O Antiphons' 12th-13th century) trans. John Mason Neale.

CCLI Licence No. 1891688



Blessing

Organ Voluntary

Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland (BWV 659) - J.S. Bach



Notices

Services over Christmas and New Year

Wednesday 24 December
(Christmas Eve)

11.30pm – Midnight Communion

Sunday 28 December

10am – Morning Prayer

Thursday 25 December
(Christmas Day)

10am – Holy Communion

Sunday 4 January

10am – Morning Prayer

6.30pm – Evening Prayer

Please note that there will be **no evening services** on **Sundays 21 December** or **28 December**. The evening service will resume in the new year on **Sunday 4 January, 6.30pm**.

There will be **no Sunday School on Christmas Day**. Children will be provided with an activity pack to complete quietly in the pews with their families. **On Sunday 28 December** children can remain in the service with their parents or watch a Sunday School approved Christian film in the hall. On Sundays 21 December and 4 January Sunday School and Youth Group will be combined.

Church Building closed

The church building will be closed from Christmas Day after the morning service until the morning service on Sunday 4 January. It will be closed again between Tuesday 6 and Thursday 8 January.

Women's Monthly Bible Study Group

The next bible study will be on Friday 9 January 2026.

Christianity Explored

One life, what's it all about? Starting **Wednesday 14 January at 7.30pm**, our 4 short Christianity Explored sessions are an opportunity to discuss any questions about Christianity. We'll also read extracts from the Gospel of Mark and watch a short film each week. Whether you're unsure, intrigued, or would like to re-visit the essence of Christian faith, this course is for you. To indicate an initial interest in the first (taster) session, get in touch with Mike at mike.neville@ssz.org.uk.

Weekly email

Associate Vicar Joe Ammoun sends out a weekly email letter each Wednesday with church family news and a short reflection. If you don't currently receive this but would like to, please get in touch with Gloria at gloria.skelsey@ssz.org.uk.