

he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GRADUAL HYMN— 'Immortal, Invisible' (306)

We sing verse 4 after the Gospel Reading

GOSPEL

Matthew 19: 27-30

Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

OFFERTORY HYMN: 'Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining' (416)

COMMUNION HYMNS:

'Take My Life and Let It Be' - (605)

'I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say' (300)

'Amazing Grace' (30)

POST COMMUNION

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

FINAL HYMN: 'And Can It Be' (31)

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, Common Worship: Additional Collects and Common Worship: Times and Seasons material from which is included in this service are copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2004 & 2006 respectively. Scripture quotations are from the NRSV National Council of the Churches of Christ CCLI License No: 57904 Charity No: 1134140

The Conversion of St Paul

25th January 2026

GATHERING HYMN: 'Lord as the Day Begins'

Lord, as the day begins
lift up our hearts in praise;
take from us all our sins,
guard us in all our ways:
our every step direct and guide
that Christ in all be glorified!



Christ be in work and skill,
serving each other's need;
Christ be in thought and will,
Christ be in word and deed:
our minds be set on things above
in joy and peace, in faith and love.

Grant us the Spirit's strength,
teach us to walk his way;
so bring us all at length
safe to the close of day:
from hour to hour sustain and bless,
and let our song be thankfulness.

Now as the day begins
make it the best of days;
take from us all our sins,
guard us in all our ways:
our every step direct and guide
that Christ in all be glorified!

Timothy Dudley Smith © 1984 Hope Publishing Company

COLLECT:

Almighty God,
who caused the light of the gospel
to shine throughout the world
through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;
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**

FIRST READING

The word of the Lord came to me saying,
'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.'
Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am
only a boy.' But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a boy";
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says
the Lord.'
Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and
the Lord said to me, 'Now I have put my words in your mouth.
See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.'

For the word of the Lord

Jeremiah 1: 4-10**SECOND READING**

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of
the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the
synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the
Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as

he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from
heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying
to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you,
Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up
and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who
were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice
but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were
open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him
into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor
drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to
him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said
to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of
Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is
praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay
his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered,
'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done
to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief
priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go,
for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before
Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him
how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and
entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the
Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that
you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immedi-
ately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored.
Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained
his strength.

Acts 9: 1-22

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately
he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of
God.' All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who
made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has