

WELCOME

We welcome you to Chester Cathedral!
It is a place where the mission of the church to proclaim God's love is central, and your welcome presence here for worship helps to strengthen this vital act of witness.

We're a paperless Cathedral and are working environmentally to save paper. The service can be downloaded to your device using the QR code at the back of the nave, or by visiting [Services - Chester Cathedral](#). Hymns, readings and responses will be presented on the screens.

Music

Communion setting

Messe brève No. 7 Charles Gounod 1818-93

Gradual

Psalm 133

Motet

Now the green blade riseth

French trad arr. Simon Lindley b.1948

Voluntary

Joie et clarte des corps glorieux

Olivier Messiaen 1908-1992

We welcome The Advent Singers, conducted by Stewart Smith, as our choir this morning.

Today, prayers for healing will be offered in the south transept after the congregation have received communion.

Children

If you have children with you, activity tables for them are provided in the aisle.

Receiving Communion

We warmly invite Christians of all denominations to come and receive bread and wine at the distribution of Holy Communion. Gluten-free wafers are available; please indicate to the priest if you require one. If you prefer not to receive you are invited either to come forward for a blessing or to remain in your seat.

We are offering the chalice to every communicant at all communion stations. **Please do not intinct (dip) the wafer yourself.** If you prefer only to receive the wafer, then please do so.

COLLECTION

The Cathedral costs around £6000 a day to keep open, and we need your support.

We invite you to generously give to ensure our future:

A collection will be taken during the service; donations can otherwise be left with cash or using the

Contactless Donation Plates.

A sidesperson can help you with this.

Via the Cathedral Website

www.chestercathedral.com/donate

We need your help to make sure that services like this one can continue and that we can keep the doors open for everyone.

Thank you for your generous contributions.

THE GATHERING

Please stand, if able, to sing the opening hymn during which the choir and clergy enter the Cathedral.

Opening Hymn

Alleluya! Alleluya! Alleluya!

Ye sons and daughters of the King,
whom heavenly hosts in glory sing,
to-day the grave hath lost its sting.
Alleluya!

On that first morning of the week,
before the day began to break,
the Marys went their Lord to seek.
Alleluya!

An Angel bade their sorrow flee,
for thus he spake unto the three:
'Your Lord is gone to Galilee.'
Alleluya!

That night the Apostles met in fear,
amidst them came their Lord most dear,
and said: 'Peace be unto you here!'
Alleluya!

When Thomas afterwards had heard
that Jesus had fulfilled his word,
he doubted if it were the Lord.
Alleluya!

'Thomas, behold my side,' saith he,
'My hands, my feet, my body see;
and doubt not, but believe in me.'
Alleluya!

No longer Thomas then denied;
he saw the feet, the hands, the side;
'Thou art my Lord and God,' he cried.
Alleluya!

Blessed are they that have not seen,
and yet whose faith hath constant been,
in life eternal they shall reign.
Alleluya!

Jean Tisserand b. 1419

tr. J.M. Neale 1818-66

O FILI ET FILIAE

E.W. Goldsmith 1860-1934

Opening sentences

The President says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**He has given us new life and hope.
He has raised Jesus from the dead.**

God has claimed us as his own.

**He has brought us out of darkness.
He has made us light to the world.**

Children's prayer

*The President prays for the children and young
people as they go to their Sunday groups.*

Prayers of Penitence

The Deacon says

Christ our passover lamb
has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice
by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins
with a sincere and true heart.

1 Corinthians 5.7,8

**Father, we have sinned
against heaven and against you.
We are not worthy**

to be called your children.
We turn to you again.
Have mercy on us,
bring us back to yourself
as those who once were dead
but now have life
through **Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Kyrie

The choir sings

Kyrie eleison.	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>
Christe eleison.	<i>Christ, have mercy.</i>
Kyrie eleison.	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>

Absolution

The President 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.

Gloria in excelsis

The choir sings

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te,
benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam
tuam. Domine Deus, rex coelestis, Deus pater
omnipotens, Domine fili unigenite Jesu
Christe. Domine Deus, agnus Dei, filius patris.
Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Qui
tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem
nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram patris,
miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus sanctus, tu
solus Dominus, tu solus altissimus, Jesu
Christe. Cum sancto spiritu, in Gloria Dei
patris. Amen.

*Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his
people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father, we worship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord
God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the
world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the
right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For
you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the
Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the
Father. Amen.*

Collect

The President says

Let us pray.

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son
to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away
the leaven of malice and wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits
of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Please be seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

New Testament reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Acts 4:32-35

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual: Psalm 133

Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is :
brethren, to dwell together in unity!

It is like the precious ointment upon the
head, that ran down unto the beard :
even unto Aaron's beard, and went down
to the skirts of his clothing.

Like as the dew of Hermon :
which fell upon the hill of Sion.

For there the Lord promised his blessing :
and life for evermore.

Please stand for the Gospel procession.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

‘I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me,
even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives
and believes in me will never die.’

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them.

Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:19-end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

After the gospel procession has returned to the altar, and after the preacher's opening prayer, please be seated.

Sermon

The Revd Canon Richard Walker

After the sermon, a brief period of silence is kept. Please stand, if you are able.

Nicene Creed

The President says

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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.**

Please be seated.

Prayers of Intercession

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.

After each petition the following response may be used

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

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. The President says

The risen Christ came
and stood among his disciples and said,
'Peace be with you.'
Then were they glad
when they saw the Lord. Alleluia!

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

The Deacon says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

Jesus lives! Thy terrors now
can, O Death, no more appal us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.
Alleluya!

Jesus lives! henceforth is death
but the gate of life immortal;
this shall calm our trembling breath,
when we pass its gloomy portal.
Alleluya!

Jesus lives! for us he died;
then, alone to Jesus living,
pure in heart may we abide,
glory to our Saviour giving.
Alleluya!

Jesus lives! our hearts know well
nought from us his love shall sever;
life, nor death, nor powers of hell
tear us from his keeping ever.
Alleluya!

Jesus lives! to him the throne
over all the world is given;
may we go where he is gone,
rest and reign with him in heaven.
Alleluya!

Christian Gellert 1715-69
tr. Frances Cox 1812-97

ST ALBINUS
H.J. Gauntlett 1805-76

Preparation of the Altar

Be present, be present,
Lord Jesus Christ,
our risen high priest;
make yourself known
in the breaking of bread.

Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The President says

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, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers
of death and hell

and restored in men and women
and children the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels
and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

The choir sings

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

The President continues

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.

The Deacon says

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.**

You are the Saviour of the world.

The President continues

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 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.

Please be seated.

The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer can be offered in your own language.

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

The President 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.**

Giving of Communion

The President says

Alleluia!

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Alleluia!

Agnus Dei

The choir sings

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the
world, have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the
world, have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.*

*All Christians are welcome to receive Holy
Communion or a blessing. Sidespeople will direct
and assist the congregation in coming forward.
The chalice is now offered at all communion
stations – please do not intinct (dip) the wafer.*

Communion motet

The choir sings

Now the green blade riseth
from the buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth
many days has lain;
love lives again,
that with the dead has been:
love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid him,
love whom men had slain,
thinking that never
he would wake again.
Laid in the earth
like grain that sleeps unseen:
love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green.

Forth he came at Easter,
like the risen grain,
he that for three days
in the grave had lain.
Quick from the dead
my risen Lord is seen:
love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry,
grieving, or in pain,
thy touch can call us
back to life again;
fields of our hearts
that dead and bare have been:
love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green.

John MacLeod Campbell Crum 1872-1958

*Trad. French
arr. Simon Lindley b.1948*

Post Communion Prayer

The President says

Let us pray.

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children
of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Hymn

Please stand, if you are able, to sing

We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for all throughout the earth;
the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,
not in a royal house or hall
but in a stable dark and dim:
the Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save;
in lonely suffering on the cross
for all he loved, his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
empty the tomb, for he was free;
he broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God's right hand
by all creation glorified;
he sends his Spirit on his church
to live for him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth;
this gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Edward Burns b. 1938

FULDA

William Gardiner 1770-1853

Blessing

Please remain standing. The President says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

God, who through the resurrection
of our Lord Jesus Christ
has given us the victory,
give you joy and peace in your faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Deacon says

We are raised to new life with Christ.

Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Please remain standing as the procession leaves, and then be seated for the organ voluntary.

Voluntary

Joie et clarte des corps glorieux

Olivier Messiaen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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