



CHESTER
CATHEDRAL

Cathedral Eucharist
Fourth Sunday
of Easter

21st April 2024
10.30am

President:
The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford

Preacher:
The Venerable Dr Mike Gilbertson,
Archdeacon of Chester

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

Communion Service in C & F CV Stanford 1852-1924

Gradual Psalm 23

Motet

Love bade me welcome

Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

Voluntary

Allegro (Concerto in C after Vivaldi BWV 594)

J S Bach 1685-1750

We welcome back the Cathedral Choir to sing our services today, after their well-deserved post-Easter break.

We welcome the Archdeacon of Chester as our preacher today at the Cathedral. Canon Rosie is preaching this morning at services at Eaton and Tarporley.

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 hymn during which the choir and clergy enter the Cathedral.

Opening Hymn

Alleluya! Alleluya!

Hearts to heaven and voices raise;
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise;
he who on the Cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits
of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield;
then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine
from the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen;
shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain, and dew, and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
that we, Lord, with hearts in heaven
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel-hands be gathered,
and be ever safe with thee.

Alleluya! Alleluya!
Glory be to God on high;
to the Father, and the Saviour,
who has gained the victory;
glory to the Holy Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluya! Alleluya!
To the Triune Majesty.

Christopher Wordsworth 1807-85

LUX EOI

Arthur Sullivan 1842-1900

Greeting

The President says

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

Informal words of welcome may be added.

Opening sentences

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

Please be seated. 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.

**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.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

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

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

Please stand if you are able. The choir sings

Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace,
good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ:
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand
of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art the Most High,
in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Collect

The President says

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ
is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin
to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things
which are above,
where he 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.

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone."

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

Acts 4: 5-12

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual: Psalm 23

The choir sings

The Lord is my shepherd :
therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture :
and lead me forth beside the waters of
comfort.

He shall convert my soul : and bring me
forth in the paths of righteousness, for his
Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death, I will fear no evil :
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff
comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table before me
against them that trouble me :
thou hast anointed my head with oil,
and my cup shall be full.

Surely thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life : and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Please stand for the Gospel procession.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

John 6.40

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand

does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

John 10:11-18

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 Archdeacon of Chester

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

The King of love my Shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction, grace bestoweth:
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

H.W. Baker 1821-77

DOMINUS REGIT ME
J.B. Dykes 1823-76

Please remain standing.

Preparation of the Altar

The President prays

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

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Amen.
Blessed is he that cometh
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.

Rejoicing in God's new creation, 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

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

Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,
 Guilty of dust and sin.

But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
 From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
 If I lack'd anything.

'A guest,' I answer'd, 'worthy to be here:'
 Love said, 'You shall be he.'

'I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
 I cannot look on Thee.'

Love took my hand and smiling did reply,
 'Who made the eyes but I?'

'Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them:
let my shame

 Go where it doth deserve.'

'And know you not,' says Love, 'Who bore the
blame?'

 'My dear, then I will serve.'

'You must sit down,' says Love, 'and taste my
meat.'

 So I did sit and eat.

George Herbert 1593-1633

Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

Post Communion Prayer

The President says

Let us pray.

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ
to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us
to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Hymn

Please stand, if you are able, to sing

At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious King:
who hath washed us in the tide
flowing from his piercèd side;
praise we him whose love divine
gives the guests his blood for wine,
gives his body for the feast,
Love the Victim, Love the Priest.

Mighty Victim from on high,
powers of hell beneath thee lie;
death is broken in the fight,
thou hast brought us life and light.
Now thy banner thou dost wave,
conquering Satan and the grave.
See the prince of darkness quelled;
heaven's bright gates are open held.

Paschal triumph, Paschal joy,
only sin can this destroy;
from sin's death do thou set free,
souls re-born, dear Lord, in thee.
Hymns of glory, songs of praise,
Father, unto thee we raise.
Risen Lord, all praise to thee,
ever with the Spirit be.

Robert Campbell 1814-68

SALZBURG

Melody: J Hintze 1622-1702

Harmony: J.S. Bach 1685-1750

Blessing

Please remain standing. The President says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The God of peace, who brought again
from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
make you perfect in every good work
to do his will;
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

Allegro (Concerto in C after Vivaldi
BWV 594)

J S Bach 1685-1750

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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