



CHESTER
CATHEDRAL

Cathedral Eucharist

Ash Wednesday

14th February 2024
7.30 pm

President:
The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford

Preacher:
The Revd Canon Rosie Woodall

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 <https://chestercathedral.com/services-and-sermons/>

Hymns, readings and responses will be presented on the screens.

Music

Gradual: Lent Prose

Communion Setting:

Missa Brevis G P da Palestrina c. 1525-94

Communion Motet:

Ave verum corpus William Byrd 1539-1623

The service is sung by the Cathedral's Nave Choir, conducted by Alex Lanigan-Palotai, Sub-Organist.

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 urgently need your support.

We invite you to generously give to ensure our future:

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

Donation Contactless Plates;

a sidesperson can help you with this.

Via the Cathedral Website

www.chestercathedral.com/donate

We really 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

Opening Hymn

Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild,
Forty days and forty nights
tempted and yet undefiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day,
chilly dewdrops nightly shed,
Prowling beasts about thy way,
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

And if Satan, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
Thou, his vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.

So shall we have peace divine,
holier gladness ours shall be,
Round us too shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side,
That with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

G H Smyttan 1822-70

*AUS DER TIEFE
M Herbst 1656-81*

Greeting

The President says

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

Brothers and sisters in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

By careful keeping of these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Collect

The President says

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins
of all those who are penitent:
create and make in us
new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you,
the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
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.

Please be seated.

Bible reading

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practised
righteousness and did not forsake the
ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgements,
they delight to draw near to God.

‘Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not
notice?’

Look, you serve your own interest on your
fast-day, and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today

will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,

a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the
hungry, and bring the homeless poor into
your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own
kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the
dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your
rearguard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will
answer; you shall cry for help,
and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of
evil,

if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,

and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of
many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the
breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Isaiah 58:1-12

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual

The Lent Prose is sung by the choir.

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.

To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory:
lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings:
listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.

Hear us, O Lord...

O thou chief Corner-stone,
Right Hand of the Father,
Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial,
cleanse thou our sinful souls from
all defilement. *Hear us, O Lord...*

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated
bow down and hearken to thy children
pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.
Hear us, O Lord...

Sins oft committed now we lay before thee
with true contrition, now no more we veil
them, grant us, Redeemer, loving
absolution.

Hear us, O Lord...

Innocent, captive, taken unresisting
falsely accused, and for us sinners
sentenced, save us, we pray thee,
Jesu our Redeemer. *Hear us, O Lord...*

Please stand if you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

**Praise to you, O Christ,
king of eternal glory!**

The Lord is a great God,
O that today you would listen to his voice.
Harden not your hearts.

**Praise to you, O Christ,
king of eternal glory!**

Holy Gospel

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples, 'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Homily

The Revd Canon Rosie Woodall

THE LITURGY OF PENITENCE

Please remain seated. The President says

Let us now call to mind our sin
and the infinite mercy of God.

God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

God the Son,
have mercy upon us.

God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy upon us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,
have mercy upon us.

From all evil and mischief;
from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred, and malice;
and from all evil intent,
good Lord, deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;
from hardness of heart
and contempt for your word
and your laws,
good Lord, deliver us.

From sins of body and mind;
from the deceits of the world,
the flesh and the devil,
good Lord, deliver us.

In all times of sorrow;
in all times of joy;
in the hour of death,
and at the day of judgement,
good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;
by your birth, childhood and obedience;
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,
good Lord, deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work;
by your mighty acts of power;
and by your preaching of the kingdom,
good Lord, deliver us.

By your agony and trial;
by your cross and passion;
and by your precious death and burial,
good Lord, deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection;
by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,
good Lord, deliver us.

Give us true repentance;
forgive us our sins
of negligence and ignorance
and our deliberate sins;
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit
to amend our lives
according to your holy word.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

A period of silence is kept.

**Make our hearts clean, O God;
and renew a right spirit within us.**

**Father eternal,
giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance,
through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light.
Amen.**

Kyrie

The choir sings

Kyrie eleison. *Lord, have mercy upon us.*
Christe eleison. *Christ, have mercy upon us.*
Kyrie eleison. *Lord, have mercy upon us.*

The Imposition of Ashes

The President says

I invite you to receive these ashes as a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

God our Father, you create us from the dust of the earth: grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our penitence and a symbol of our mortality; for it is by your grace alone that we receive eternal life in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

The people are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes, the President first receiving the imposition of ashes themselves.

At the imposition the ministers say to each person:

Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.
Turn away from sin
and be faithful to Christ.

Please stand if you are able. The President says

The Absolution

The Lord enrich you with his grace,
and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble
and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers,
and absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Peace

The President says

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

Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin;
from earthborn passions set me free,
and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
with care and woe opprest;
let me thy loving servant be,
and taste thy promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
amid the battle's strife;
in all my pain and misery
be thou my health and life.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point thou the heavenly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
when flows the tempest high:
when on doth rush the enemy
O Saviour, be thou nigh.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
that, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see,
and share thy joy at last.

Synesius of Cyrene 374-430
trans. A.W. Chatfield 1808-96

ST PAUL'S

John Stainer 1840-1901

Preparation of the Altar

The President says

Merciful Father,
turn us from sin to faithfulness
and from disobedience to love,
and prepare us to celebrate
the death and resurrection
of Christ our Saviour
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

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.

It is indeed right and good
to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage
of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes
to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others into
the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare
to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds
we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels for ever
praising you and singing:

The choir sings

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.

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

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*

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom
and teach us to 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

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup,

**we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those
who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word,
and I shall be healed.**

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.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the
world, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the
world, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the
world, grant us peace.*

All Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. Sidespeople will direct and assist the congregation in coming forward.

Communion Motet

Ave verum corpus natum de Maria Virgine:
vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro
homine: cuius latus perforatum unda fluxit
sanguine: esto nobis praegustatum, in
mortis examine. O dulcis, O pie, O Jesu Fili
Mariae. Miserere nobis. Amen.

*Hail the true body, born of the Virgin Mary: you
who truly suffered and were sacrificed on the
cross for the sake of man. From whose pierced
flank flowed water and blood: be a foretaste for
us in the trial of death. O sweet, O merciful, O
Jesus, Son of Mary. Have mercy on us. Amen.*

Attr. Pope Innocent VI

William Byrd 1539-1623

Post Communion Prayer

The President says

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
you have given your only Son to be for us
both a sacrifice for sin
and also an example of godly life:
give us grace
that we may always most thankfully
receive these his inestimable gifts,
and also daily endeavour
to follow the blessed steps
of his most holy life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Please stand if you are able.

Final Hymn

O for a heart to praise my God,
a heart from sin set free;
a heart that always feels thy blood
so freely spilt for me:

A heart resigned, submissive, meek,
my dear Redeemer's throne;
where only Christ is heard to speak,
where Jesus reigns alone:

A humble, lowly, contrite heart,
believing, true, and clean,
which neither life nor death can part
from him that dwells within:

A heart in every thought renewed,
and full of love divine;
perfect and right and pure and good,
a copy, Lord, of thine.

My heart, thou know'st, can never rest
till thou create my peace;
till of mine Eden repossess,
from self, and sin, I cease.

Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart,
come quickly from above;
write thy new name upon my heart,
thy new best name of love.

Charles Wesley 1707-88

STOCKTON

Thomas Wright 1763-1829

THE DISMISSAL

Please remain standing.

Blessing

The President says

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves,
take up your cross,
and follow him;
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

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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