



CHESTER
CATHEDRAL

Cathedral Eucharist

First Sunday of Lent

18th February 2024
10.30am

President:
The Revd Canon Rosie Woodall

Preacher:
The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford

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.

The Cathedral Choir are on their well-deserved half-term break today, so we are using hymn versions of the communion setting.

Music

Voluntary

Kyrie, Gott heiliger Geist BWV 671

JS Bach 1685-1750

Throughout the service, where indicated, please only stand if you feel able to do so.

Children

If you have children with you, activities are provided for them: please ask any sidesperson for information.

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

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.

Opening responses

This is love, not that we loved God,
**but that he loved us
and sent his Son.**

He is the sacrifice for our sins,
that we might live through him.

If God loves us so much
we ought to love one another.

Prayers of Penitence

*Please be seated. The Deacon introduces the
Prayers of Penitence.*

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit,
returned from the Jordan
and was led by the Spirit
into the wilderness,
where for forty days
he was tempted by the devil.

Let us confess our sins
remembering before God
the times when we have fallen
from temptation into sin.

We say together

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.**

**We have not loved you
with our whole heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbours
as ourselves.**

**In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

Kyrie

We remain seated to sing together

Lord, have mercy on us,
hear our humble plea;
Lord, have mercy on us,
set our spirits free.

Christ, have mercy on us,
hear us as we pray;
Christ have mercy on us,
take our sin away.

Lord, have mercy on us,
hear our humble plea;
Lord, have mercy on us,
set our spirits free.

Michael Forster b. 1946

CASWALL
Friedrich Filitz 1804-1876

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.

Collect

The President says

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ
fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are,
yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves
in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please remain seated.

New Testament reading

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

1 Peter 3:18-end

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

We stand to sing together

Be thou my guardian and my guide,
and hear me when I call;
let not my slippery footsteps slide,
and hold me lest I fall.

The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell
around the path I tread;
O, save me from the snares of hell,
thou quickener of the dead.

And if I tempted am to sin,
and outward things are strong,
do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,
and save my soul from wrong.

Still let me ever watch and pray,
and feel that I am frail;
that if the tempter cross my way,
yet he may not prevail.

Isaac Williams 1802-65

ABRIDGE

Isaac Smith 1734-1805

*Please remain standing for the Gospel
procession.*

Gospel Acclamation

The Deacon says

Praise to you, O Christ,
King of eternal glory.
Blessed are those
who have endured temptation;
they have stood the test
and will receive the crown of life.

James 1.12

**Praise to you, O Christ,
King of eternal glory.**

Holy Gospel

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Mark 1:9-15

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

The Dean

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

With confidence and trust
let us pray to the Father.

*After each petition the following response
may be used*

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

Romans 5.1,2

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

God of mercy and compassion,
look with pity on your Church:
eyes are blind and hearts are faithless,
for your will we fail to search.
For our sins we ask for mercy,
by your grace your Church restore;
may your kingdom come among us
and let sin rule our hearts no more.

God of mercy and compassion,
look with pity on your world:
strife and hatred oft divide us;
evil's banner is unfurled.
For our sins we ask for mercy,
by your grace your world restore;
may your kingdom come among us
and let sin rule our hearts no more.

God of mercy and compassion,
look with pity, Lord, on me:
my faith is weak; my will so selfish;
yet, dear Saviour, hear my plea.
For my sins I ask for mercy,
by your grace my soul restore;
may your kingdom come within me
and let sin rule my heart no more.

Martin Draper b.1950

CORVEDALE

Maurice Bevan 1921-2006

Preparation of the Altar

God of our journey,
as we walk with you
on your path of obedience,
sustain us on our way
and lead us to your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 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:

We sing together

Holy, most holy, all holy the Lord,
in power and wisdom for ever adored.
The earth and the heavens
are full of your love;
our joyful hosannas re-echo above.

Blessèd, most blessèd, all blessèd is he
whose life makes us whole
and whose death sets us free:
who comes in the name
of the Father of light,
let endless hosannas resound in the height.

Michael Forster b 1946

SLANE

Erik Routley 1917-82

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

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

While seated, we sing together

O Lamb of God, come cleanse our hearts
and take our sin away.

O Lamb of God, your grace impart,
and let our guilty fear depart,
have mercy, Lord, we pray,
have mercy, Lord, we pray.

O Lamb of God, our lives restore,
our guilty souls release.
Into our lives your Spirit pour
and let us live for evermore
in perfect heav'nly peace,
in perfect heav'nly peace.

after the 'Agnus Dei'
Michael Forster b 1946

REPTON
C. H. H. Parry 1848-1918

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.

Post Communion Prayer

The President says

Let us pray.

Lord God, you have renewed us
with the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith,
increase our hope,
and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him
who is the true and living bread,
and enable us to live by every word
that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Hymn

Please stand if you are able.

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
self-denying, death defying,
thou to Calvary didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy;
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy;
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

James Edmeston 1791-1867

MANNHEIM

Lowell Mason 1792-1872

Blessing

Please remain standing. 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.

*Please remain standing as the servers and
clergy process out of the Cathedral, and then
be seated for the organ voluntary.*

Voluntary

Kyrie, Gott heiliger Geist BWV 671

JS Bach 1685-1750

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Material from Common Worship
included in this service is copyright*

© The Archbishop's Council 2000-2008

Scripture quotations are from

*New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized
Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995*

*National Council of the Churches of Christ
in the United States of America.*

Used by permission. All rights reserved.

CCLI Licence Number: 177097