



CHESTER  
CATHEDRAL

# **Cathedral Eucharist**

## **Second Sunday of Lent**

16<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
10.30am

President:  
The Revd Canon Dr Anthony Lees-Smith

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.

## Music

*Communion Setting*

Chester Missa Brevis      *Matthew Martin b.1976*

*Gradual*

Psalm 27

*Communion Motet*

So God loved the world

*Orlando Gibbons 1583-1625*

*Voluntary*

Allegro maestoso (Symphonie III)

*Louis Vierne 1870-1937*

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

## **Children**

If you have children with you, they are welcome to take part in Sunday groups: please ask any sidesperson for directions.

## **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](http://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.*

## Opening hymn

Father of heaven, whose love profound  
a ransom for our souls hath found,  
before thy throne we sinners bend:  
to us thy pardoning love extend.

Almighty Son, incarnate Word,  
our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord,  
before thy throne we sinners bend:  
to us thy saving grace extend.

Eternal Spirit, by whose breath  
the soul is raised from sin and death,  
before thy throne we sinners bend:  
to us thy quickening power extend.

Thrice Holy! Father, Spirit, Son,  
mysterious Godhead, Three in One,  
before thy throne we sinners bend:  
grace, pardon, life to us extend.

*Edward Cooper 1770-1833*

*RIEVAULX  
J.B. Dykes 1823-76*

# Greeting

*Please remain standing. 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

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
**O my God, in you I trust.**

In you I hope all the day long.  
**O my God, in you I trust.**

Remember, Lord, your compassion and  
love, for they are from everlasting.  
**To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;**  
**O my God, in you I trust.**

# Children's Prayer

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

# Prayers of Penitence

*Please be seated. The Deacon says*

Compassion and forgiveness  
belong to the Lord our God,  
though we have rebelled against him.  
Let us then renounce our wilfulness  
and ask his mercy by confessing our sins  
in penitence and faith.

*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

*The choir sings*

Kyrie eleison.

*Lord, have mercy.*

Christe eleison.

*Christ, have mercy.*

Kyrie eleison.

*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.**

*Please remain seated.*



# Collect

*The President says*

Let us pray.

Almighty God,  
you show to those who are in error  
the light of your truth,  
that they may return  
to the way of righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted  
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,  
that they may reject those things  
that are contrary to their profession,  
and follow all such things  
as are agreeable to the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

*Please remain seated.*

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## New Testament reading

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

*Philippians 3:17-4:1*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please remain seated as the choir sings.*

## **Gradual**

## **Psalm 27**

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear :  
the Lord is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?

When the wicked, even mine enemies and  
my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh  
: they stumbled and fell.

Though an host of men were laid against  
me, yet shall not my heart be afraid :  
and though there rose up war against me,  
yet will I put my trust in him.

One thing have I desired of the Lord,  
which I will require : even that I may dwell  
in the house of the Lord all the days of my  
life, to behold the fair beauty of the Lord,  
and to visit his temple.

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me  
in his tabernacle : yea, in the secret place  
of his dwelling shall he hide me, and set me  
up upon a rock of stone.

And now shall he lift up mine head : above  
mine enemies round about me.

Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness : I will sing, and speak praises unto the Lord.

Hearken unto my voice, O Lord, when I cry unto thee : have mercy upon me, and hear me.

My heart hath talked of thee, Seek ye my face : Thy face, Lord, will I seek.

O hide not thou thy face from me : nor cast thy servant away in displeasure.

Thou hast been my succour : leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

When my father and my mother forsake me : the Lord taketh me up.

Teach me thy way, O Lord : and lead me in the right way, because of mine enemies.

Deliver me not over into the will of mine adversaries : for there are false witnesses risen up against me, and such as speak wrong.

I should utterly have fainted : but that I believe verily to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

O tarry thou the Lord's leisure : be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart; and put thou thy trust in the Lord.

*Please stand for the Gospel procession.*

## **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.

*cf Psalm 95:3,8*

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

## **Holy Gospel**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, ‘Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.’ He said to them, ‘Go and tell that fox for me, “Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.” Jerusalem,

Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." ’

*Luke 13:31-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 Dean

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

# **Nicene Creed**

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.

*Please remain standing to sing together.*

## Offertory Hymn

Put thou thy trust in God,  
in duty's path go on;  
walk in his strength with faith and hope,  
so shall thy work be done.

Commit thy ways to him,  
thy works into his hands,  
and rest on his unchanging word,  
who heav'n and earth commands.

Though years on years roll on,  
his cov'nant shall endure;  
though clouds and darkness hide his path,  
the promised grace is sure.

Give to the winds thy fears;  
hope and be undismayed:  
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears;  
God shall lift up thy head.

Through waves and clouds and storms  
his pow'r will clear thy way:  
wait thou his time; the darkest night  
shall end in brightest day.

Leave to his sov'reign sway  
to choose and to command;  
so shalt thou, wond'ring, own his way,  
how wise, how strong his hand.

*Paul Gerhardt 1607-76*

*DONCASTER*

*Tr. John Wesley 1703-91 Samuel Wesley 1766-1837*

# Preparation of the Altar

*Please remain standing. The President prays*

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 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.  
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*

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 sin of the world, have mercy on us.*

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

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

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

## **Communion motet**

*During communion, the choir sings.*

So God loved the world that he forsook the glorious heavens men to dwell among. Yea death and hell and grave he captive took; they could not hold his person from us long. And being ascended to be glorified, remembr'ing still his mercy, down did send the Holy Ghost we might be sanctified. Thus whom he loves, he loves unto the end. O Lord, this Holy Spirit take from us never, but purge, enlighten, sanctify us ever.

*Orlando Gibbons 1583-1625*

# Post Communion Prayer

*The President says*

Let us pray.

Almighty God,  
you see that we have no power  
of ourselves to help ourselves:  
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,  
and inwardly in our souls;  
that we may be defended  
from all adversities  
which may happen to the body,  
and from all evil thoughts  
which may assault and hurt the soul;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# THE DISMISSAL

## Hymn

*Please stand to sing the 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.

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*

# 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 procession  
leaves and then be seated for the organ  
voluntary.*

# Voluntary

Allegro maestoso (Symphonie III)

*Louis Vierne 1870-1937*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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