



CHESTER  
CATHEDRAL

# **Cathedral Eucharist**

## **Ascension Day**

9<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
5.30pm

President:  
The Revd Canon Rosie Woodall

Preacher:  
The Revd Canon Richard Walker

# WELCOME

We welcome you to Chester Cathedral, 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. Hymn books are also available in the stalls.

## Music

*Communion Setting*

Communion Service in C

*John Ireland 1879-1962*

*Gradual:* Psalm 47

*Communion Motet*

*Coelos ascendit hodie C V Stanford 1852-1924*

Throughout the service, please only stand if it is comfortable for you to do so.

## **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.

Communion will be offered as both bread and wine (separately). Please do not intinct (dip) the wafer. 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

**Contactless Donation Plates.**

A sidesperson can help you with this.

**Via the Cathedral Website**

[www.chestercathedral.com/donate](http://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

Hail the day that sees him rise Alleluya!  
Glorious to his native skies; Alleluya!  
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluya!  
Enters now the highest heaven! Alleluya!

There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluya!,  
Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluya!  
Christ hath vanquished death and sin; Alleluya!  
Take the King of glory in. Alleluya!

See! the heaven its Lord receives, Alleluya!  
Yet he loves the earth he leaves: Alleluya!  
Though returning to his throne, Alleluya!  
Still he calls mankind his own. Alleluya!

Lord, though parted from our sight, Alleluya!  
Far above yon azure height, Alleluya!  
Grant our hearts may thither rise, Alleluya!  
Seeking thee beyond the skies. Alleluya!

There we shall with thee remain, Alleluya!  
Partners of thine endless reign; Alleluya!  
There thy face unclouded see, Alleluya!  
Find our heaven of heavens in thee. Alleluya!

*Charles Wesley 1707-88*

*and Thomas Cotterill 1779-1823*

*LLANFAIR*

*Robert Williams of Anglesey, 1781-1821*

# The Lord's Prayer

*The President says*

Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
**Amen.**

*We say together*

**Almighty God,**  
unto whom all hearts be open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts**  
by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love thee,  
and worthily magnify thy holy Name;  
through **Christ our Lord.**  
**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

# The Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

Hear, O Israel,

the Lord our God is one Lord;

and thou shalt love the Lord thy God

with all thy heart,

and with all thy soul,

and with all thy mind,

and with all thy strength.

This is the first commandment.

And the second is like, namely this:

Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

There is none other commandment

greater than these.

On these two commandments

hang all the law and the prophets.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,**

**and write all these thy laws**

**in our hearts, we beseech thee.**

## 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 Collect for the King

*The President says*

Let us pray.

Almighty God,  
whose kingdom is ever-lasting,  
and power infinite:  
Have mercy upon the whole Church;  
and so rule the heart  
of thy chosen servant *CHARLES*,  
our King and Governor,  
that he (knowing whose minister he is)  
may above all things  
seek thy honour and glory:  
and that we and all his subjects  
(duly considering whose authority he hath)  
may faithfully serve, honour,  
and humbly obey him,  
in thee, and for thee,  
according to thy blessed Word  
and ordinance;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who with thee and the Holy Ghost  
liveth and reigneth, ever one God,  
world without end.  
**Amen.**



# The Collect for the Day

*The President says*

Let us pray.

Grant, we beseech thee, almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend and with him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## The New Testament Reading

The first reading is written in the first chapter of The Acts of the Apostles, beginning at the first verse.

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles

whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up

from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

*Acts 1:1-11*

Here endeth the reading.

## **Gradual**

Psalm 47

O clap your hands together, all ye people :  
O Sing unto God with the voice of melody.

For the Lord is high, and to be feared :  
he is the great King upon all the earth.

He shall subdue the people under us :  
and the nations under our feet.

He shall choose out an heritage for us :  
even the worship of Jacob, whom he loved.

God is gone up with a merry noise :  
and the Lord with the sound of the trump.

O sing praises, sing praises unto our God :  
O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.

For God is the King of all the earth :  
sing ye praises with understanding.

God reigneth over the heathen :  
God sitteth upon his holy seat.

The princes of the people are joined unto the people of the God of Abraham : for God, which is very high exalted, doth defend the earth, as it were with a shield.

*Please stand if you are able.*

## **The Gospel**

The Holy Gospel is written in the twenty-fourth chapter of the Gospel according to St Luke, beginning to read at the forty-fourth verse.

**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you

what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

*Luke 24:44-end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

## **Nicene Creed**

**I believe in one God  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible:**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,**

by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost  
of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man,  
and was crucified also for us  
under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried,  
and the third day he rose again  
according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand  
of the Father.

And he shall come again with glory  
to judge both the quick and the dead:  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceedeth  
from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
together is worshipped and glorified,  
who spake by the prophets.

And I believe one catholic  
and apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one baptism  
for the remission of sins.

And I look for the resurrection  
of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## **Homily**

The Revd Canon Richard Walker

## **The Offertory**

Let your light so shine before men,  
that they may see your good works  
and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

*St. Matthew 5.16*

*Please stand if you are able.*

## **Hymn**

The head that once was crowned  
with thorns  
is crowned with glory now:  
a royal diadem adorns  
the mighty victor's brow.

The highest place that heaven affords  
is his, is his by right,  
the King of kings and Lord of lords,  
and heaven's eternal light;

The joy of all who dwell above,  
the joy of all below,  
to whom he manifests his love,  
and grants his name to know.

To them the cross, with all its shame,  
with all its grace is given:  
their name an everlasting name,  
their joy the joy of heaven.

They suffer with their Lord below,  
they reign with him above,  
their profit and their joy to know  
the mystery of his love.

The cross he bore is life and health,  
though shame and death to him;  
his people's hope, his people's wealth,  
their everlasting theme.

*Thomas Kelly 1769-1854*

*ST MAGNUS*

*Jeremiah Clarke c. 1673-1707*

*Please be seated.*



# Intercessions

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church militant here in earth.

Almighty and ever living God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers and supplications, and to give thanks, for all men:

We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant, that all they that do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity, and godly love.

We beseech thee also to save and defend all Christian kings, princes, and governors; and specially thy servant Charles our King; that under him we may be godly and quietly governed:

And grant unto his whole Council, and to all that are put in authority under him, that they may truly and impartially minister justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops, priests and deacons, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy sacraments: and to all thy people give thy heavenly grace; and specially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

And we most humbly beseech thee of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all them, who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. And we also bless thy holy name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom:

Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only mediator and advocate.

**Amen.**

# Invitation to Confession

Ye that do truly and earnestly  
repent you of your sins,  
and are in love and charity  
with your neighbours,  
and intend to lead a new life,  
following the commandments of God,  
and walking from henceforth  
in his holy ways:

Draw near with faith,  
and take this holy sacrament  
to your comfort;  
and make your humble confession  
to Almighty God.

**Almighty God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
maker of all things, judge of all men:  
We acknowledge and bewail  
our manifold sins and wickedness,  
which we from time to time  
most grievously have committed,  
by thought, word, and deed,  
against thy Divine Majesty,  
provoking most justly  
thy wrath and indignation against us.  
We do earnestly repent,  
and are heartily sorry  
for these our misdoings;**

**the remembrance of them  
is grievous unto us;  
the burden of them is intolerable.  
Have mercy upon us,  
have mercy upon us,  
most merciful Father;  
for thy Son our Lord  
Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may ever hereafter  
serve and please thee  
in newness of life,  
to the honour and glory of thy Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*The President says*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
who of his great mercy hath promised  
forgiveness of sins  
to all them that with hearty repentance  
and true faith turn unto him;  
have mercy upon you;  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins;  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness;  
and bring you to everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

# The Comfortable Words

Hear what comfortable words  
our Saviour Christ saith  
unto all that truly turn to him.

Come unto me all that travail  
and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

*St. Matthew 11.28*

God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only-begotten Son,  
to the end that all that believe in him  
should not perish, but have everlasting life.

*St. John 3.16*

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men  
to be received, that Christ Jesus came into  
the world to save sinners.

*1 St. Timothy 1.15*

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If any man sin, we have an advocate  
with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;  
and he is the propitiation for our sins.

*1 St. John 2.1*

*Please stand if you are able.*

# The Preface

The Lord be with you  
**and with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.  
**It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through thy most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
who after his most glorious Resurrection manifestly appeared to all his Apostles, and in their sight ascended up into heaven to prepare a place for us;  
that where he is,  
thither we might also ascend,  
and reign with him in glory.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee, and singing:

*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 Prayer of Humble Access**

*Please be seated. We say together*

**We do not presume  
to come to this thy table,  
O merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in thy manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up  
the crumbs under thy table.  
But thou art the same Lord,  
whose property is always  
to have mercy:  
grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh  
of thy dear Son Jesus Christ,  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies  
may be made clean by his body,  
and our souls washed**

**through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore  
dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

## **The Prayer of Consecration**

*The President says*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
who of thy tender mercy  
didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ  
to suffer death upon the Cross  
for our redemption;  
who made there (by his one oblation  
of himself once offered)  
a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice,  
oblation, and satisfaction,  
for the sins of the whole world;  
and did institute, and in his holy Gospel  
command us to continue,  
a perpetual memory of that  
his precious death, until his coming again:  
Hear us, O merciful Father,  
we most humbly beseech thee;  
and grant that we receiving  
these thy creatures of bread and wine,  
  
according to thy Son our Saviour  
Jesus Christ's holy institution,  
in remembrance of his death and passion,



may be partakers  
of his most blessed Body and Blood:  
who, in the same night  
that he was betrayed, took Bread;  
and, when he had given thanks, he brake 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.

Likewise after supper he took the Cup;  
and, when he had given thanks,  
he gave it to them, saying,  
Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood  
of the New Testament,  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the remission of sins:  
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

**Amen.**

# 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.

*After the ministers, servers and choir have  
received the sacrament, the congregation is  
invited to come forward to receive communion.*

## Communion Motet

*As communion is distributed, the choir sings*

Coelos ascendit hodie  
Jesus Christus Rex Gloriam:  
sedet ad Patris dexteram,  
gubernat coelum et terram.

Iam finem habent omnia  
Patris Davidis carmina.

Iam Dominus cum Domino  
sedet in Dei solio:

in hoc triumpho maximo  
Benedicamus Domino.

Laudatur Sancta Trinitas,  
Deo dicamus gratias,  
Alleluia. Amen.

*Today into the heavens has ascended  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Alleluia!  
He sits at the Father's right hand,  
and rules heaven and earth, Alleluia!  
Now have been fulfilled all of Father David's  
songs, now God is with God, Alleluia!  
He sits upon the royal throne of God,  
in this his greatest triumph, Alleluia!  
Let us bless the Lord:  
let the Holy Trinity be praised,  
let us give thanks to the Lord,  
Alleluia! Amen.*

*Cowley Carol Book*

*C V Stanford 1852-1924*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*We join the choir in singing*

**Our Father which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass  
against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

# Prayer after Communion

*The President says*

O Lord and heavenly Father,  
we thy humble servants  
entirely desire thy fatherly goodness  
mercifully to accept this  
our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving;  
most humbly beseeching thee to grant,  
that by the merits and death  
of thy Son Jesus Christ,  
and through faith in his blood,  
we and all thy whole Church  
may obtain remission of our sins,  
and all other benefits of his passion.  
And here we offer and present unto thee,  
O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies,  
to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice  
unto thee; humbly beseeching thee,  
that all we, who are partakers  
of this holy Communion,  
may be fulfilled with thy grace  
and heavenly benediction.  
And although we be unworthy,  
through our manifold sins,  
to offer unto thee any sacrifice,  
yet we beseech thee to accept this  
our bounden duty and service;  
not weighing our merits,  
but pardoning our offences,

through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Ghost,  
all honour and glory be unto thee,  
O Father Almighty, world without end.  
**Amen.**

*Please stand if you are able, as the choir sings*

## **Gloria**

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.

# Blessing

*The President says*

The peace of God,  
which passeth all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord:  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,  
be amongst you  
and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

# Final Hymn

Eternal Monarch, King most high,  
whose blood hath brought redemption nigh,  
by whom the death of Death was wrought  
and conquering grace's battle fought:

Ascending to the throne of might,  
and seated at the Father's right,  
all power in heaven is Jesu's own,  
that here his manhood had not known.

Yea, angels tremble when they see  
how changed is our humanity;  
that flesh hath purged what flesh had stained,  
and God, the flesh of God, hath reigned.

Be thou our joy and strong defence,  
who art our future recompense:  
so shall the light that springs from thee  
be ours through all eternity.

O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
all praise to thee let earth accord,  
who art, while endless ages run,  
with Father and with Spirit One.  
Amen.

*Latin, 5<sup>th</sup> century*

*Trans. J.M. Neale 1818-66*

GONFALON ROYAL

*Percy Buck 1871-1947*

*Please remain standing as the choir, clergy and  
servers process out during the organ voluntary.*

**Voluntary**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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