



CHESTER
CATHEDRAL

Cathedral Eucharist

Trinity 15

13th September 2026
10.30am

President:
The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford

Preacher:
The Revd Canon Dr Anthony Lees-Smith

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

Missa Brevis *G P da Palestrina c.1525-94*

Gradual *Psalm 103:1-13*

Motet

Sancte Deus *Thomas Tallis 1505-85*

Voluntary

Kyrie, Gott heiliger Geist (BWV 671)

J.S. Bach 1685-1750

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

Today we welcome back both The Cathedral Choir and Children's Church after their summer break.

Children

If you have children with you, they are welcome to take part in Children's Church: 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

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.



**ROGER HEARING ASSISTANCE
IS AVAILABLE
IN THIS CATHEDRAL**

**Please ask a Welcome Team
member for a receiver**

THE GATHERING

Please stand, if able, to sing the opening hymn.

Opening Hymn

Give to our God immortal praise;
mercy and truth are all his ways:
wonders of grace to God belong,
repeat his mercies in your song.

Give to the Lord of lords renown,
the King of kings with glory crown:
his mercies ever shall endure
when earthly pow'rs are known no more.

He sent his Son with pow'r to save
from guilt and darkness and the grave:
wonders of grace to God belong,
repeat his mercies in your song.

Through earthly life he guides our feet,
and leads us to his heav'nly seat:
his mercies ever shall endure
when earthly pow'rs are known no more.

*Isaac Watts 1674-1748
based on Psalm 136*

*DEUS TUORUM MILITUM
Grenoble Antiphoner 1753*

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 Responses

The President says

May your people rejoice and sing,
**and your ministers be clothed
with salvation.**

Keep from trouble
all those who trust in you
and forget not the poor for ever.

Have mercy, O Lord, upon us,
as we have put our hope in you.

Children's Prayer

*The President prays for our children and young
people as they go to Children's Church.*

Prayers of Penitence

Please be seated. The Deacon says

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.
Let us confess our sins
in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved
to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

Silence may be kept.

**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.

Gloria in excelsis

Please stand. The choir sings

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te,
benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam
tuam. Domine Deus, rex coelestis, Deus pater
omnipotens, Domine fili unigenite Jesu
Christe. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, filius patris.
Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Qui
tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem
nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram patris,
miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus sanctus, tu
solus Dominus, tu solus altissimus, Jesu
Christe. Cum sancto spiritu, in Gloria Dei
patris. Amen.

*Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his
people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father, we worship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord
God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the
world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the
right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For
you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the
Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the
Father. Amen.*

Collect

The President says

Let us pray.

God, who in generous mercy
sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church
in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people may be fervent
in the fellowship of the gospel
that, always abiding in you,
they may be found steadfast in faith
and active in service;
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 be seated.

New Testament reading

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord,

since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written,
'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.'

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Romans 14:1-12

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please remain seated as the choir sings.

Gradual

Psalm 103:1-13

Praise the Lord, O my soul : and all that is within me praise his holy Name.

Praise the Lord, O my soul :
and forget not all his benefits;

Who forgiveth all thy sin :
and healeth all thine infirmities;

Who saveth thy life from destruction :
and crowneth thee with mercy and loving-kindness;

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things
: making thee young and lusty as an eagle.

The Lord executeth righteousness and
judgement : for all them that are oppressed
with wrong.

He shewed his ways unto Moses :
his works unto the children of Israel.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy :
long-suffering, and of great goodness.

He will not alway be chiding :
neither keepeth he his anger for ever.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins :
nor rewarded us according to our
wickednesses.

For look how high the heaven is in
comparison of the earth : so great is his
mercy also toward them that fear him.

Look how wide also the east is from the
west : so far hath he set our sins from us.

Yea, like as a father pitieth his own
children : even so is the Lord merciful unto
them that fear him.

Please stand for the Gospel procession.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord.
Whoever follows me will never walk in
darkness but will have the light of life.

cf John 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

The Deacon says

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Peter came and said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

‘For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by

the throat, he said, “Pay what you owe.” Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.” But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt.

When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?” And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’

Matthew 18:21-35

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 Canon Missioner

A brief period of silence is kept for reflection.

Nicene Creed

Please stand. 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 the power of the Spirit,
and in union with Christ,
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

Christ is our peace.

He has reconciled us to God

in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

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 as we sing together,
during which a collection is taken.*

Offertory Hymn

Just as I am, without one plea

but that thy blood was shed for me,

and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,

O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings within, and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am (thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down),
now to be thine, yea thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth
and height to prove,
here for a season then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Charlotte Elliott 1789-1871 SAFFRON WALDEN
Arthur Henry Brown 1830-1926

Preparation of the Altar

The President says

Lord of all and source of our joy,
receive our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving.
Keep us in the love of Christ
and bring us to the vision of his glory;
through the same 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.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,
Lord God of truth,
for by the breath of your mouth
you have spoken your word,
and all things have come into being.
You fashioned us in your image
and placed us in the garden of your delight.
Though we chose the path of rebellion
you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us
into your covenant of grace.
You gave your people the law
and taught us by your prophets
to look for your reign
of justice, mercy and peace.
As we watch for the signs
of your kingdom on earth,
we echo the song of the angels in heaven,
evermore 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 God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end,
he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own,
he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise
and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all
he 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.

Therefore we proclaim the death
that he suffered on the cross,
we celebrate his resurrection,
his bursting from the tomb,
we rejoice that he reigns
at your right hand on high
and we long for his coming in glory.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice
of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit
let these gifts of your creation
be to us the body and blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering
in your sight.

Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy
hear the cry of our hearts.
Bless the earth, heal the sick,
let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church
with power from on high.

Gather your people
from the ends of the earth
to feast with all your saints
at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation
is brought to perfection
in 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

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink

in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

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 now offered at all communion stations – please do not intinct (dip) the wafer.

During communion, the choir sings

Communion motet

Sancte Deus, Sancte Fortis, Sancte et Immortalis, miserere nobis. Nunc, Christe, te petimus, miserere, quaesumus. Qui venisti redimere perditos, noli damnare redemptos: Quia per crucem tuam redemisti mundum. Amen.

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy and Immortal One, have mercy upon us. Now, O Christ, we ask thee, we beseech thee, have mercy. Thou who came to redeem the lost, do not condemn the redeemed: For by thy cross thou hast redeemed the world. Amen.

Thomas Tallis 1505-85

Post Communion Prayer

The President says

Let us pray.

Keep, O Lord, your Church,
with your perpetual mercy;
and, because without you
our human frailty cannot but fall,
keep us ever by your help
from all things hurtful,
and lead us to all things profitable
to our salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Hymn

Please stand, if you are able, to sing.

There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice
which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader
than the measure of man's mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he will not own.

There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.

There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.

If our love were but more simple,
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be all gladness
in the joy of Christ our Lord.

F.W. Faber 1814-63

CROSS OF JESUS
John Stainer 1840-1901

Blessing

Please remain standing. The President says

The peace of God,
which passes 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 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 choir, servers and clergy process out of the Cathedral, and then be seated for the organ voluntary.

Voluntary

Kyrie, Gott heiliger Geist (BWV 671)

J.S. Bach 1685-1750

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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