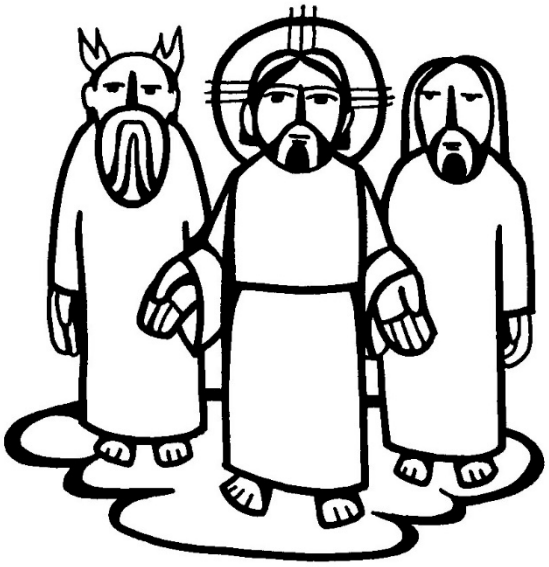
LICHFIELD
• CATHEDRAL •



Choral Eucharist

15th February 2026 – 10.30

Sunday Next Before Lent

President

The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane – The Dean

Preacher

The Revd Preb Dr Jeanette Hartwell – Director of Ministry

ALL ARE WELCOME …
THIS IS YOUR CATHEDRAL….

Welcome to this service whether you are worshipping in the Cathedral or via YouTube at home.

Welcome to your Cathedral. If you're here with small children, we're very glad to see you! It's good to have you with us and joining in the worship. If you'd like one, there are activity bags with simple activities for children and a sheet with activities that follow the readings you'll hear in the service today - please ask the stewards who welcomed you for one. If you, or your child, needs some time out, you can use St Stephen's Chapel - straight ahead and to the left of the large hanging cross, near the large font. It has green walls and two entrances. ***Parents and carers are asked to accompany children at all times****. There you'll find some stories, and simple craft activities. But please come back when you want! Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me.' To our worshippers here without children: children are a sign that the Body of Christ is growing, and a reminder that God is always doing a new thing. Please greet parents, carers and children with a smile.*

Safety

Please always follow any directions given in how we need to move around the Cathedral. In the unlikely event of an emergency, please remain quiet and respond calmly and promptly to the directions of the Vergers.

Spiritual Communion

While some cannot, for a number of reasons, come to Church to receive their communion in person we will continue to incorporate the Spiritual Communion within our worship at the point of the distribution.

Receiving Communion

People will be able to choose whether they wish or not to receive their Holy Communion in the form of wine as well as bread. If you take the chalice, please help the person giving the chalice by guiding the cup to your lips. People are also reminded that we do not allow intinction (dipping the bread into the wine) at the Cathedral. Please follow the instructions given by the Stewards who will direct you to a communion station. Gluten-free bread will be available at each station.

Posture

The order of service indicates whether to sit or stand, however please feel free to adopt the posture that you feel most comfortable with.

IT COSTS £5000 EACH DAY TO KEEP THE DOORS OF THE CATHEDRAL OPEN

We receive no funding from the State for our day to day operation and rely entirely on donations. **Please give as generously as you can** to help us to continue to serve the people of Lichfield, Staffordshire, Shropshire, the Black Country and beyond. UK taxpayers can make their gift go further by using Gift Aid—just fill in the envelope provided.

Prefer to give electronically? Tap your card at a giving point, ask a steward for help, or scan the QR code here. You can also donate online at www.lichfield-cathedral.org/donate. Thank you so much for supporting the life and ministry of your Cathedral.

Refreshments

At the end of the service refreshments are available in the North Transept. We do hope that you will join us for a time of fellowship together.

Photography and Livestreaming

Whilst we ask that members of the congregation do not take photographs or video of our worship, please note that at some of our services our Cathedral volunteer photographers will be taking photographs. We are also livestreaming many of our services via Facebook or YouTube. Whilst we do our best to not film the congregation for the livestream, please do let us know if this is a particular issue for you and we will assist by letting you know where you can sit so that you do not appear on screen.

Music

Our service is sung today by the Cathedral Chamber Choir conducted by the Assistant Director of Music, Martyn Rawles. The organ is played by the Assistant Organist, Nigel Argust. The setting for the Eucharist is the *Cantus Missae* by Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901).

Preparation before the Service

The time before the service you are invited to keep as a period of quiet preparation for worship. You might find the following prayer useful:

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please join in whatever is printed **in bold type.**

THE GATHERING

Stand

INTROIT HYMN 248 *Carlisle*

1. 'Tis good, Lord, to be here,
thy glory fills the night;
thy face and garments, like the sun,
shine with unborrowed light.

2. 'Tis good, Lord, to be here,
thy beauty to behold,
where Moses and Elijah stand,
thy messengers of old.

3. Fulfiller of the past,
promise of things to be,
we hail thy body glorified,
and our redemption see.

4. Before we taste of death,
we see thy kingdom come;
we fain would hold the vision bright
and make this hill our home.

5. 'Tis good, Lord, to be here.
yet we may not remain;
but since thou bidst us leave the mount,
come with us to the plain.

Joseph Armitage Robinson 1858-1933
Reproduced by permission of CCL 155215

THE GREETING

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

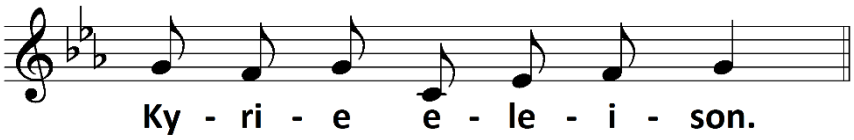
Sit as the President offers further words of welcome, before a moment of silence is kept.

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.
God shows his love for us
in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us then show our love for him
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

THE RITE OF PENITENCE

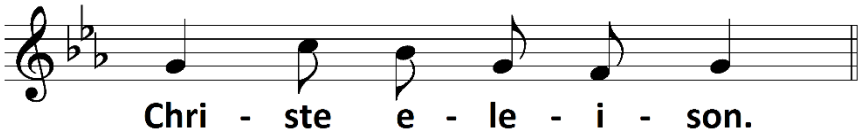
A cantor sings each petition, then the choir sings the Kyrie/Christe which all repeat:

God be gracious to us and bless us,
and make your face shine upon us.



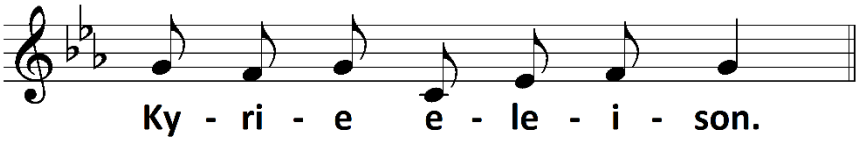
(Lord, have mercy)

May your ways be known on the earth,
your saving power among the nations.



(Christ, have mercy)

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations.



(Lord, have mercy)

ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Stand

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO *(choir)*

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.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 24.12-end

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.' So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, 'Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.'

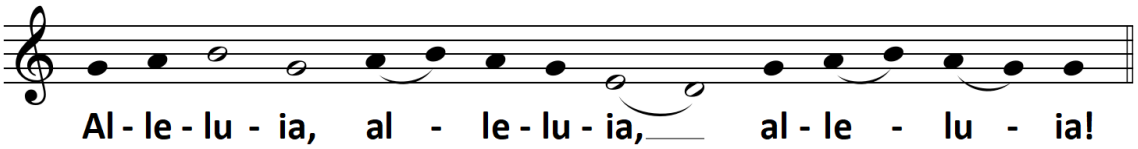
Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

A short period of silence is kept.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Stand as the choir sings Alleluia *which all repeat*

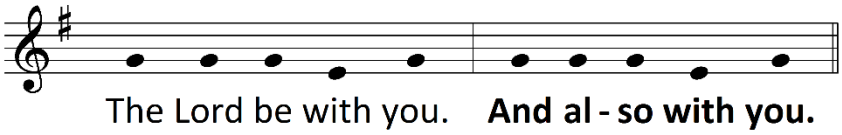


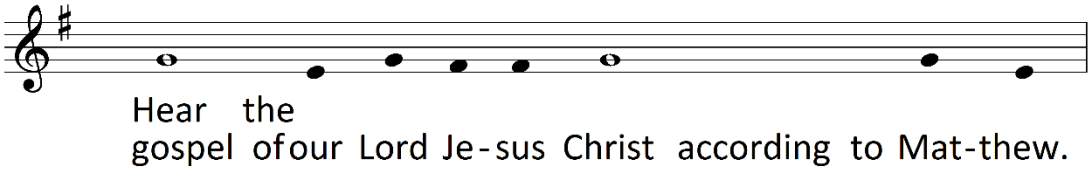
Your words gladden the heart, O Lord;
they give light to the eyes.

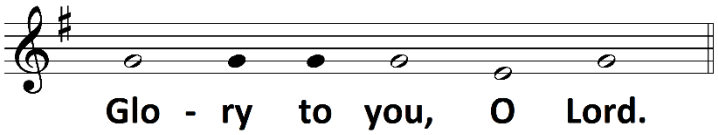
All sing ***Alleluia*** *again*

Turn towards the reading of the Gospel in the middle of the Nave.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 17.1-9

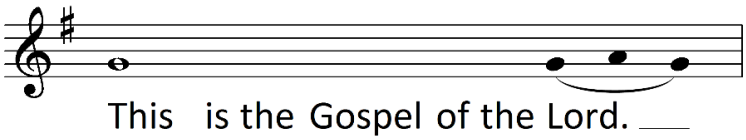


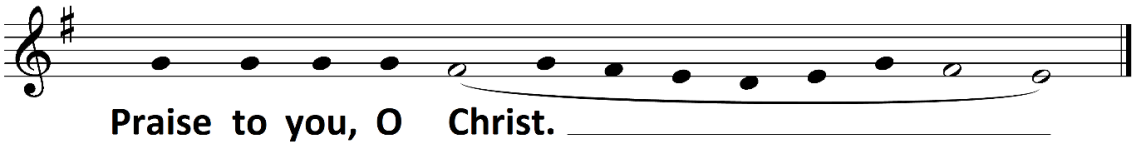




Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'





A fanfare is sounded to honour the reading of the Gospel.

Sit

SERMON

Stand

NICENE CREED *sung in the arrangement of John Merbecke*

We 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 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 we believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the 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 we believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.
And we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sit

Hear us.
Hear us, good Lord.

The prayers conclude

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE PEACE

Stand

Blessed be Christ, the Prince of Peace. He breaks down the walls that divide us: praise Christ who is our peace!

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Deacon of the Gospel says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace with their neighbour.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

*A **collection** is taken to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral. Please give as generously as you are able and, if you are a UK taxpayer, use the Gift Aid envelopes provided.*

OFFERTORY HYMN 392 *Laus deo (Redhead 46)*

1. Bright the vision that delighted
once the sight of Judah's seer;
sweet the countless tongues united
to entrance the prophet's ear.

2. Round the Lord in glory seated
cherubim and seraphim
filled his temple, and repeated
each to each the alternate hymn:

3. "Lord, thy glory fills the heaven;
earth is with its fullness stored;
unto thee be glory given,
holy, holy, holy Lord."

4. Heaven is still with glory ringing,
earth takes up the angels' cry,
"Holy, holy, holy," singing,
"Lord of hosts, the Lord most high."

5. With his seraph train before him,
with his holy church below,
thus conspire we to adore him,
bid we thus our anthem flow.

6. "Lord, thy glory fills the heaven;
earth is with its fullness stored;
unto thee be glory given,
holy, holy, holy Lord."

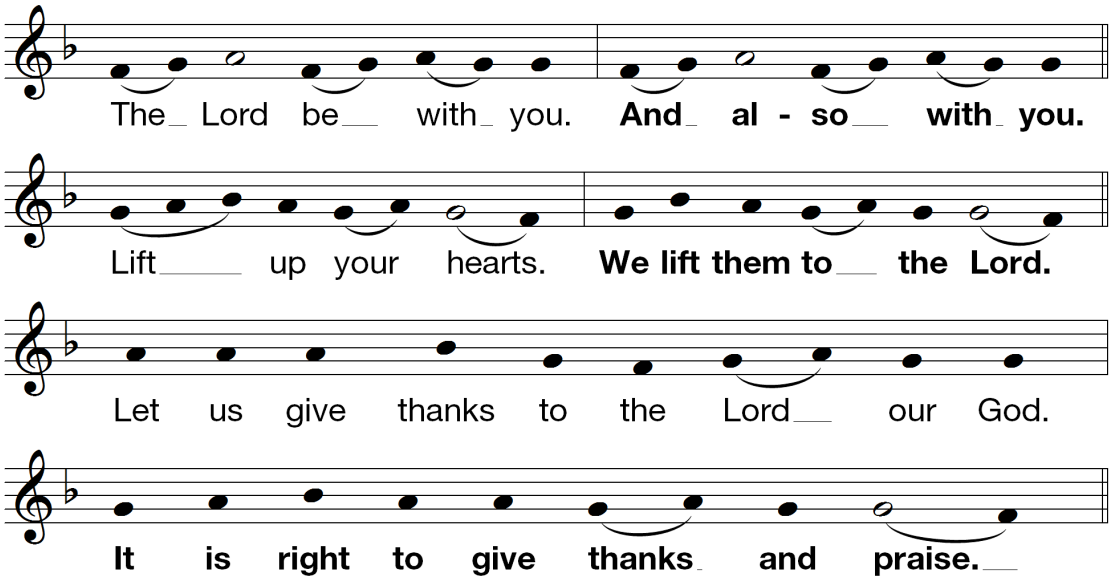
Richard Mant 1776-1848
based on Isaiah 6
Reproduced by permission of CCL 155215

Remain standing

TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.
Grant this for your name's sake. **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER



Father, you made the world and love your creation.
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.
And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels praising you, and *saying*:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS *(choir)*

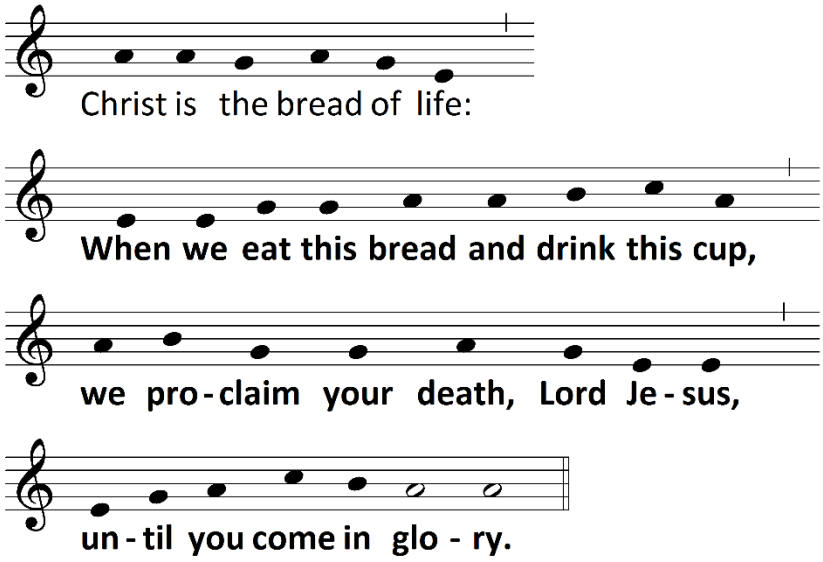
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat;
this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

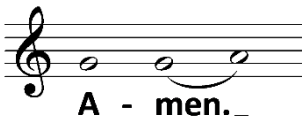
When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.



Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Blessed Mary the Virgin,
Chad our Patron, and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.



Sit

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who 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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Christ is the true bread
which has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always.

The President receives Holy Communion and then leads the Spiritual Communion for those who are prevented from receiving their communion, and worshipping with us from home. We invite those in the Cathedral to pray quietly for them as the President leads them in prayer.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION *(for those worshipping online)*

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Those of any Christian denomination who are accustomed to receiving Holy Communion in their own churches are invited to do so here. Please follow the directions given by the Stewards who will indicate which communion station you should go to. If you do not normally receive communion, please do come forward to receive a prayer of blessing. Gluten free hosts are available at each station for those who require them.

AGNUS DEI *(choir)*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us; grant us peace.

MOTET O nata lux — *Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)*

O nata lux de lumine,	*O Light born of Light,*
Jesu redemptor saeculi,	*Jesus, redeemer of the world,*
Dignare clemens supplicum	*with loving-kindness deign to receive*
Laudes precesque sumere.	*suppliant praise and prayer.*
Qui carne quondam contegi	*Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh*
Dignatus es pro perditis,	*for the sake of the lost,*
Nos membra confer effici	*grant us to be members*
Tui beati corporis.	*of thy blessed body.*

Remain seated for the Communion hymn, which is sung quietly and reflectively as Holy Communion is received.

COMMUNION HYMN 322 *Anima Christi*

Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast,
body of Christ, be thou my saving guest,
blood of my Saviour, bathe me in thy tide,
wash me with water flowing from thy side.

Strength and protection may thy Passion be,
O blessèd Jesu, hear and answer me;
deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me,
so shall I never, never part from thee.

Guard and defend me from the foe malign,
in death's dread moments make me only thine;
call me and bid me come to thee on high
where I may praise thee with thy saints for ay.

Latin, 14th century
tr. Author unknown

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sit

Let us pray:

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know his power to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

NOTICES

Stand

HYMN 2 *Ratisbon*

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

Charles Wesley 1707-1788

Remain standing

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

God, who has prepared for us a city with eternal foundations,
bring you to the triumphant joy of the city of the great King;
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 of the Gospel says

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

ORGAN VOLUNTARY
Fantasia from Sonata 12
Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

Please do stay for refreshments, these are served in the North Transept.

LATER TODAY:
15:30 Choral Evensong
Sung by Lichfield Cathedral Chamber Choir
Evening Service in B minor – Blair
O Jesu Christ, mein Lebens Licht - Bach

THIS WEEK:

Ash Wednesday - 18th February 2025

08:00	Morning Prayer
12:30	Eucharist with Ashing
17:30	Said Evening Prayer
19:30	Solemn Choral Eucharist with Ashing.

If you would like to be kept informed of services and events at Lichfield Cathedral please do get in touch with us.
Our general 'phone number is 01543 306100

You'll find us on Facebook & Instagram
www.lichfield-cathedral.org

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