



LICHFIELD
CATHEDRAL



Choral Eucharist
16th February 2025 – 10.30
Third Sunday Before Lent

President

The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane - *Dean*

Preacher

The Revd Canon Andrew Stead - *Canon Precentor*

Lichfield Cathedral is called to live and proclaim the transforming love of God. Through the fullness of its life in the Spirit, it seeks to be a sign of the friendship and freedom that God in Jesus Christ has given the whole world to enjoy.

ALL ARE WELCOME ... THIS IS YOUR CATHEDRAL....



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



We welcome today Helen Bowes the Senior Chaplain for the Waterways Chaplaincy in Staffordshire as she commissions two members of our Cathedral Community as Waterways Chaplains.

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. There you'll find there 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.

Offerings

Your gifts are vital in sustaining our mission and worship. A collection will be taken by the Stewards during the offertory hymn. Please do Gift Aid your donation if you are a UK taxpayer by completing the required details on the envelopes provided. There are electronic giving points where you can tap a debit or credit card; if you need assistance with these devices, please do ask steward or verger. You can also scan this QR code or visit www.lichfield-cathedral.org/donate to donate online.



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 to Facebook or YouTube many of our services. 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 and the organ is played by Liam Condon. The setting for the Eucharist is the Missa Brevis by *Lennox Berkeley (1903-1989)*.

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:

Eternal God, whose Son went among the crowds
and brought healing with his touch: help us to show his love,
in your Church as we gather together, and by our lives as they are
transformed into the image of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please join in whatever is printed in bold type.

THE GATHERING

Stand



INTROIT HYMN 515 *Ravenshaw*

¹Lord, thy word abideth,
and our footsteps guideth;
who its truth believeth
light and joy receiveth.

²When our foes are near us,
then thy word doth cheer us,
word of consolation,
message of salvation.

³When the storms are o'er us,
and dark clouds before us,
then its light directeth,
and our way protecteth.

⁴Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure,
by thy word imparted
to the simple-hearted?

⁵Word of mercy, giving
succour to the living;
word of life, supplying
comfort to the dying.

⁶O that we discerning,
its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear thee,
evermore be near thee!

H W Baker 1821-1877

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, concluding

God calls, his call is to each one of us, it is personal and universal,
an invitation to all humanity to meet him here.

God calls us to meet him here in the feast prepared by his Son.

God calls, his call is to each one of us.

His call is both personal and universal.

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

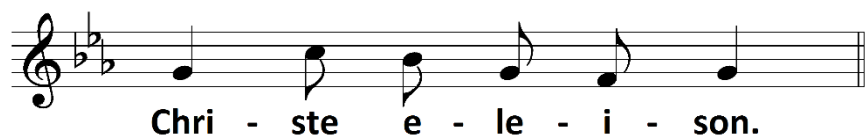
A cantor sings each petition, then the choir sings the Kyrie/Christe which all repeat:

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 God,
who alone can bring order
to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity:
give your people grace
so to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, among the many changes of this world,
our hearts may surely there be fixed
where true joys are to be found;
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**

Sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Jeremiah 17.5-10

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortal sand
make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.



They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

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

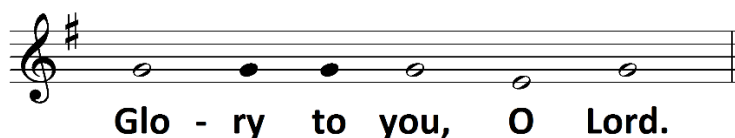
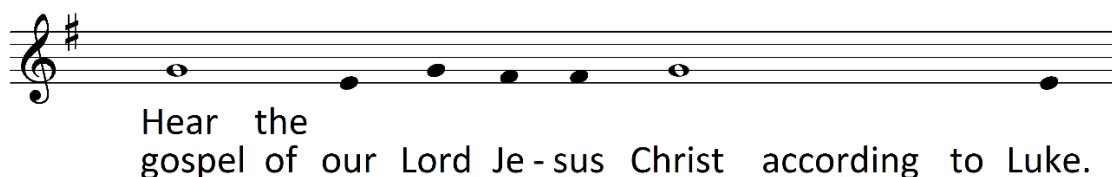


Your words gladden the heart, O Lord; they give light to the eyes.

*All sing **Alleluia** again*

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

GOSPEL READING Luke 6.17-26



Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

‘Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

‘Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

‘Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

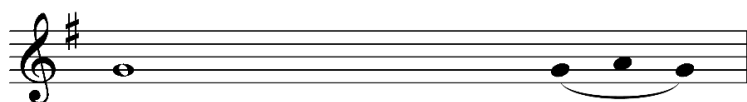
‘Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

‘But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

‘Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

‘Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

‘Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.



This is the Gospel of the Lord. ___



Praise to you, O Christ. _____

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.**

THE COMMISSIONING OF WATERWAYS CHAPLAINS – Stephen and Amanda

Sit

*Helen Bowes the Senior Chaplain for Staffordshire
introduces the commissioning and then says,*



Waterways Chaplains offer themselves in service to the waterways communities. They care, support and protect those who are in need or vulnerable on the canals and rivers of England and Wales. They are both a voice and a presence.

Their calling to this ministry is confirmed and affirmed by the Waterways Chaplaincy and the Church Army, within whose family of charities we belong and also by the wider church community. Do you, the people of this church, undertake to support and encourage Stephen and Amanda and their ministry as Waterways Chaplains and to pray for them?

All: We do

The ministry of waterways chaplaincy is one of non-judgmental compassion and care for those in need. Its foundation is prayer and the sharing of God's love for all whom he has made. Stephen and Amanda, as a Waterways Chaplains, you are called to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God, promoting the welfare of the waterway's communities. By God's grace do you undertake to do this?

Waterways Chaplains: We do

Waterways Chaplaincy is a team ministry. Teamwork, collaboration, and mutual encouragement, together with respect for those entrusted with leadership is essential. Stephen and Amanda do you undertake to work in this spirit with other chaplains?

Waterways Chaplains: We do

Stephen and Amanda, on behalf of God's church, the Waterways Chaplaincy and the Church Army, I commission you to the calling and ministry of full Waterways Chaplains. May God strengthen you for this work and bless and protect you in it.

All: Amen

Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God. (Micah 6 v 8)

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 the 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 411 *Repton*

**¹Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise,
in deeper reverence praise.**



**²In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee,
rise up and follow thee.**

**³O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!
Interpreted by love!**

**⁴Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace,
the beauty of thy peace.**

**⁵Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind & fire,
O still small voice of calm,
O still small voice of calm**

John Greenleaf Whittier 1807-1892

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

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

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 *singing*:

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.



Christ is the bread of life:



When we eat this bread and drink this cup,



we pro-claim your death, Lord Je-sus,



un-til you come in glo - ry.

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. **Amen.**

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 Jubilate Deo – *Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976)*

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God:
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
we are his children and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise;
be thankful unto him and speak good of his Name.
For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting,
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sit

Let us pray:

Merciful Father,
who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life,
that those who come to him should never hunger:
draw us to the Lord in faith and love,
that we may eat and drink with him
at his table in the kingdom,
where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

NOTICES

Stand

HYMN 430 *Song 34 (Angels' Song)*



1. Forth in thy Name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labour to pursue;
thee, only thee, resolved to know,
in all I think or speak or do.

2. The task thy wisdom hath assigned
O let me cheerfully fulfil;
in all my works thy presence find,
and prove thy good and perfect will.

3. Preserve me from my calling's snare,
and hide my simple heart above,
above the thorns of choking care,
the gilded baits of worldly love.

4. Thee may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes mine inmost substance see,
and labour on at thy command,
and offer all my works to thee.

5. Give me to bear thy easy yoke,
and every moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look,
and hasten to thy glorious day;

6. For thee delightfully employ
whate'er thy bounteous grace hath given,
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with thee to heaven.

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

Final (Sonata No.1) - *Félix-Alexandre Guilmant (1837 –1911)*

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



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