



LICHFIELD
CATHEDRAL



Choral Eucharist
19th November 2023 – 10.30
Second Sunday Before Advent

President

The Revd Canon Andrew Stead
Canon Precentor

Preacher

The Revd Canon Gregory Platten
Canon Chancellor

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 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.



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



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 a steward or vergier. For those worshipping at home, you can text SPIRES to 70191 to give £10, or visit www.lichfield-cathedral.org/donate.

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 Choir conducted by the Director of Music, Ben Lamb. The organ is played by the Assistant Director of Music, Martyn Rawles. The setting for the Eucharist is the *Communion Service in G*, by Francis Jackson (1917-2022).

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:

*Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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

THE GATHERING

Stand



INTROIT HYMN 385 *Abridge*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Be thou my guardian and my guide,
and hear me when I call;
let not my slippery footsteps slide,
and hold me lest I fall.</p> <p>2. The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell
around the path I tread;
O save me from the snares of hell,
thou quickener of the dead.</p> | <p>3. And if I tempted am to sin,
and outward things are strong,
do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,
and save my soul from wrong.</p> <p>4. Still let me ever watch and pray,
and feel that I am frail;
that if the tempter cross my way,
yet he may not prevail.</p> |
|--|---|

Isaac Williams 1802-1865

Remain standing

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.

Please sit as the President offers further words of welcome and then says,

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.

THE RITE OF PENITENCE

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

cf Matthew 4.17

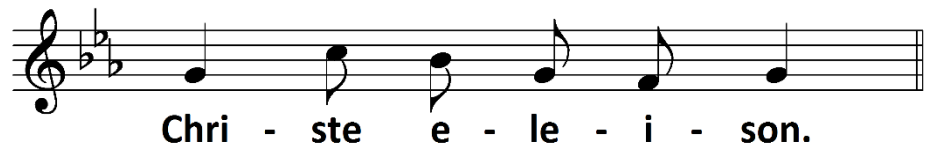
A cantor sings each petition, then the choir sings the Kyrie/Christe which all repeat:

Lord, you are gracious and compassionate.



(Lord, have mercy)

You are loving to all and your mercy is over all your creation.



(Christ, have mercy)

Your faithful servants bless your name
and speak of the glory of your kingdom:



(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:

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he 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 Zephaniah 1.7, 12-18



A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.'
Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.
That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast
and battle cry against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

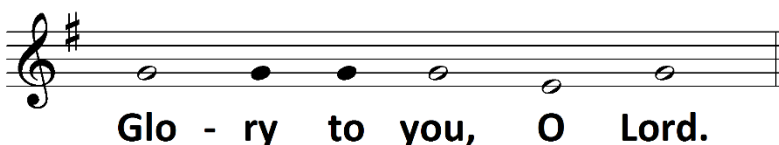
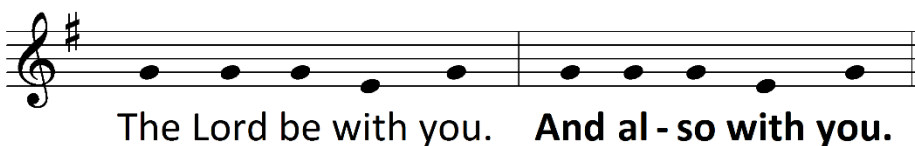


Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven.

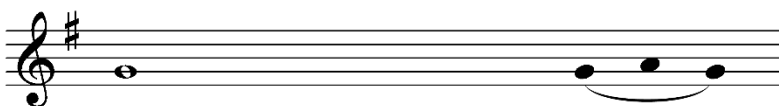
*All sing **Alleluia** again*

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

GOSPEL READING Matthew 25.14-30



Jesus said, 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."



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 to the setting by 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

**Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.**



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

To crown all things there must be love,
to bind all together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Colossians 3.14,15

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 432 *Servant King*



**1. From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;
not to be served, but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.
*This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.***

2. There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.
This is our God...

3. Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.
This is our God...

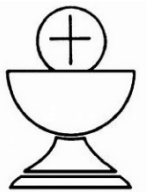
4. So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.
This is our God...

Graham Kendrick b. 1950

Remain standing

TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

To you we come, Father of lights,
with angels and saints,
where heaven and earth unite.
May Jesus meet us in the breaking of the bread. **Amen.**



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The_ Lord be_ with_ you. And_ al - so_ with_ you.

Lift_ up your hearts. We lift them to_ the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord_ our God.

It is right to give thanks_ and praise._

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should always sing of your glory,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For you are the hope of the nations,
the builder of the city that is to come.
Your love made visible in Jesus Christ
brings home the lost, restores the sinner
and gives dignity to the despised.
In his face your light shines out,
flooding lives with goodness and truth,
gathering into one in your kingdom a divided and broken humanity.
Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation
we glorify your name, for ever 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.*

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Je-sus: **Dy-ing you des-troyed our death,**
ri-sing you re-stored our life: Lord Je-sus, come in glo - ry.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
 this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
 and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
 in the presence of your divine majesty,
 renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love
 and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
 we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Bless-ing and ho-nour and glo - ry and power
be yours for e - ver and e - ver. A - men.

Sit

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Being made one by the power of the spirit,
 let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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

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

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

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 I sat down under his shadow – *Sir Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)*

I sat down under his shadow with great delight,
and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

Song of Songs 2.3^b-4

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sit

Let us pray:

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

NOTICES

Stand

HYMN 605 *Rustington*



- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Through the night of doubt and sorrow,
onward goes the pilgrim band,
singing songs of expectation,
marching to the promised land.</p> | <p>4. One the object of our journey,
one the faith which never tires,
one the earnest looking forward,
one the hope our God inspires:</p> |
| <p>2. Clear before us through the darkness
gleams and burns the guiding light;
pilgrim clasps the hand of pilgrim,
stepping fearless through the night.</p> | <p>5. One the strain the lips of thousands
lift as from the heart of one;
one the conflict, one the peril,
one the march in God begun:</p> |
| <p>3. One the light of God's own presence
o'er his ransomed people shed,
chasing far the gloom and terror,
brightening all the path we tread:</p> | <p>6. One the gladness of rejoicing
on the far eternal shore,
where the one almighty Father
reigns in love for evermore.</p> |

Bernhardt Ingemann 1789-1862 *tr* Sabine Baring-Gould 1834-1924

Remain standing

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will,
that you may reign with him in glory;
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
Please do stay for refreshments, these are served in the North Transept.*



Later today:

15:30 Choral Evensong

**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

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www.lichfield-cathedral.org

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