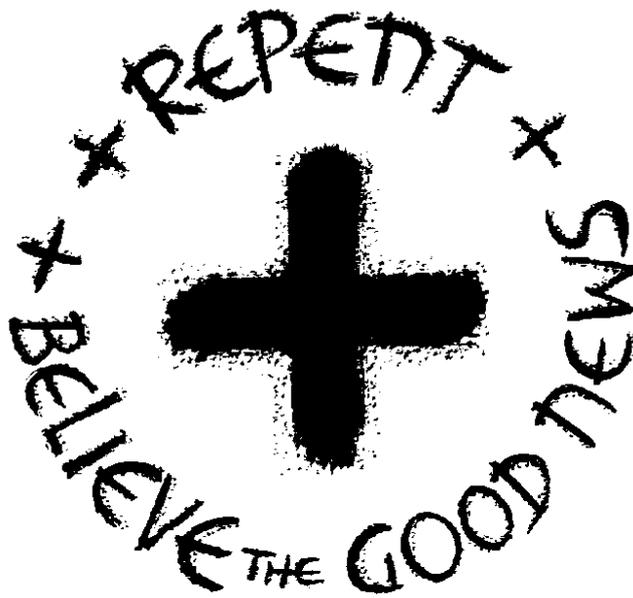




THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes



Ash Wednesday

18th February 2026

5.30pm

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Eucharist

We are grateful to the choir of St Mary's, Hendon for singing this service

The Choral Setting is
William Byrd (c.1540-1623), Mass for four voices

Please ask the priest if you require a gluten-free communion wafer

Livestreaming

This service will be livestreamed and you may be seen on camera, although we will not deliberately take any close-ups of the congregation.

By attending you agree to be seen in this way.

If you have any concerns please speak to a member of the clergy.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, a time of preparation and penitence. Through self-examination and spiritual discipline – study, abstinence and acts of service – Christians prepare for the pivotal celebration in the church's calendar – Holy Week and Easter. Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence and in this service we bless ash as a sign of our desolation at being apart, our need for forgiveness, and God's reconciling love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Health and Safety

Much of the present Cathedral was built hundreds of years ago. Whilst most of the parts of this ancient cathedral that are normally open to the public are easily accessible for all, the historic stone floor may be unpredictably uneven in places, entry to some parts is via stone steps or access ramps of varying gradients, and lighting levels may vary.

Please exercise due care and attention before, during and after the service and move around with regard for your safety. The Cathedral is unable to accept liability for any personal injury or damage to property unless this is due to our own negligence.



THE COLLECTION is an opportunity to give generously to Canterbury Cathedral in response to God's generosity, and there are many ways to give regularly.



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By cash or cheques payable to 'Canterbury Cathedral' in Gift Aid envelopes - UK taxpayers please fill in the details on the envelope.



Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off. No form of visual or sound recording, or any form of photography, is permitted during Services. Thank you for your co-operation.



An induction loop system for the hard of hearing is installed in the Cathedral. Hearing aid users should adjust their aid to T.



Large print orders of service are available from the stewards and virgers. Please ask.

The Gathering

Stand to sing



Jesu, Lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high:
hide me, O my Saviour, hide
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.

³Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
more than all in thee I find;
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am,
thou art full of truth and grace.

²Other refuge have I none,
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah, leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenceless head
with the shadow of thy wing.

⁴Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound,
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art:
freely let me take of thee,
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Tune: ABERYSTWYTH

AM 128(i)

The President says

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

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The President welcomes the congregation and introduces the service saying

Brothers and sisters in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

Remain standing as the choir sings

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

The Collect

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Silence is kept

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
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

Epistle *2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10*

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For the Lord says,

'At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.'

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated

as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Remain seated as the choir sings Psalm 51.1-17

Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness :
according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness :
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults :
and my sin is ever before me.

Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight :
that thou mightest be justified in thy saying, and clear when thou art judged.

Behold, I was shapen in wickedness :
and in sin hath my mother conceived me.

But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts:
and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.

Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean :
thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness :
that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

Turn thy face from my sins :
and put out all my misdeeds.

Make me a clean heart, O God :
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence :
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.

O give me the comfort of thy help again :
and stablish me with thy free Spirit.

Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked :
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of my health :
and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.

Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord :
and my mouth shall shew thy praise.

For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee :
but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit :
a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.

Stand as the choir sings the first line then we join in



Praise to you, O Christ, our Sa- viour, Word of the Fa- ther, cal-ling us to life:



Son of God who leads us to free- dom: glo - ry to you, Lord Je- sus Christ!

You are the Word who calls us out of darkness;
you are the Word who leads us into light;
you are the Word who brings us through the desert:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour,
Word of the Father, calling us to life:
Son of God who leads us to freedom:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

The Gospel

John 8.1-11

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They said this to test Jesus, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily *Please sit when the homily has been introduced*

The Liturgy of Penitence

Self-examination and Confession

The Deacon says

Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

Please kneel or sit

God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

God the Son,
have mercy upon us.

God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy upon us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,
have mercy upon us.

From all evil and mischief;
from pride, vanity and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred and malice; and from all evil intent,
good Lord, deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;
from hardness of heart and contempt for your word and your laws,
good Lord, deliver us.

From sins of body and mind;
from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,
good Lord, deliver us.

From famine and disaster;
from violence, murder and dying unprepared,
good Lord, deliver us.

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy;
in the hour of our death, and at the day of judgement,
good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;
by your birth, childhood and obedience;
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,
good Lord, deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work;
by your mighty acts of power;
and by your preaching of the kingdom,
good Lord, deliver us.

By your agony and trial;
by your cross and passion;
and by your precious death and burial,
good Lord, deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection;
by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,
good Lord, deliver us.

Give us true repentance;
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance
and our deliberate sins;
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit
to amend our lives according to your holy word.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

Silence is kept

Make our hearts clean, O God;
and renew a right spirit within us.

**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.**

The Imposition of Ashes

Dear friends in Christ, I invite you to receive these ashes as a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

God our Father,
you create us from the dust of the earth:
+bless these ashes, that they may be for us
a sign of our penitence and a symbol of our mortality;
for it is by your grace alone that we receive eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

All are invited to come forward to receive the Imposition of Ashes

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

The Motet

Turn thee, O Lord, and deliver my soul : O save me for thy mercy's sake.
Amen

Words: Psalm 6.4

Music: William Croft (1678-1727)

After the Imposition of Ashes, the President says

God our Father,
the strength of all who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our
prayers; and because, in our weakness, we can do nothing good without
you, grant us the help of your grace, that in keeping your
commandments we may please you, both in will and deed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Stand

The President says

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

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.

Members of the congregation greet one another

Remain standing to sing

The Offertory Hymn *during which the table is prepared and the gifts of the people are gathered and presented. If you would prefer to give electronically, please use the QR code*



When the Thurifer turns to bow to the congregation, all turn to the altar



From ashes to the living font
your Church must journey, Lord,
baptized in grace, in grace renewed
by your most holy word.

³From desert to the mountaintop
in Christ our way to see,
so, tempered by temptation's might,
we might transfigured be.

²Through fasting, prayer and charity
your voice speaks deep within
returning us to ways of truth
and turning us from sin.

⁴For thirsting hearts let water flow,
our fainting souls revive;
and at the well your waters give
our everlasting life.

⁵From ashes to the living font,
your Church must journey still;
through cross and tomb to Easter joy,
in Spirit-fire fulfilled.

Words: Alan J. Hommerding (b. 1956)

Tune: BANGOR

AM 123

The President takes the bread and wine and praises God

Risen Lord and Saviour,
present among us with the wealth of your love.
Cleanse us from sin and give us the faith
to offer our praise and grow in your grace.
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.

It is indeed right and good
to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds
we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels
for ever praising you and singing:

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Benedictus qui venit
In nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*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.

The Deacon says

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come 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 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

The President says

As we join our prayers with the Church Universal, so we say,
each in our own language, the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**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.**

Notre Père...

Vater Unser...

Onze Vader...

Padre Nuestro...

Ojcie Nasz...

Baba Yetu...

E to matou Matua...

Ein Tad...

Πάτερ ἡμῶν

Remain standing for

Breaking of the Bread

The President breaks the consecrated bread, saying

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

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.**

Sit as the President and other ministers begin

The Distribution of Communion

Please come up for Communion as directed by the stewards. All baptised Christians who receive communion in their own church are encouraged to receive today. If you are accompanied by children who do not yet receive, please bring them with you to receive a blessing. They must not be left on their own.

*If you are not a communicant, you are welcome to come forward at this point in the service to receive a blessing, keeping your hands to your sides. Please ask the priest if you **need a gluten-free host.***

*We request that **you do not intinct (dip) your host in the wine** but either take a sip from the cup or remain with your head bowed. This is for the reasons of good hygiene.*

If you wish to receive the Sacrament in your place, please let a steward know.

*We keep a **prayerful silence** during Communion to allow others to prepare to receive the sacrament or pray afterwards.*

During Communion, the choir sings the Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

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

Prayer after Communion

The President says

Let us pray.

Please stand to pray in silence before the President says

Almighty God,
you have given your only Son to be for us
both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life.
Give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive
these his inestimable gifts,
and also daily endeavour
to follow the most blessed steps of his most holy life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

All then say

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

The Dismissal



Jesu, grant me this, I pray,
ever in thy heart to stay;
let me evermore abide
hidden in thy wounded side.

²If the world or Satan lay
tempting snares about my way,
I am safe when I abide
in thy heart and wounded side.

³If the flesh, more dangerous still,
tempt my soul to deeds of ill,
naught I fear when I abide
in thy heart and wounded side.

⁴Death will come one day to me;
Jesu, cast me not from thee:
dying let me still abide
in thy heart and wounded side.

Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821-77)
based on 17th century Latin Chant

Tune: SONG 13

AM 126

The President says

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
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 the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.



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