



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Solemn Evensong

for the Feast of the Translation of St Thomas of Canterbury



7th July 2026

5.30pm

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

Today marks the Festival of the Translation of St Thomas Becket, whose Martyrdom is commemorated on 29th December. On 7th July 1220, Becket's remains were moved from the tomb in the Eastern Crypt to a magnificent new shrine in the Trinity Chapel, in the presence of dignitaries of Church and State. The chapel had been completed by 1184, and it was adorned by new stained glass depicting the miracles of Becket. As a result of the translation and the new shrine, the cult of Becket developed and Canterbury increased its status as a major pilgrimage centre. The shrine was demolished in September 1538 on the orders of King Henry VIII; an inscription and a candle now mark its location.

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.

Cover Image:

The removal of St Thomas's body from the Crypt to the Trinity Chapel, part of the West window of the Chapter House.



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. **Use this QR code** to make a donation.

By cash or cheques payable to 'Canterbury Cathedral' in Gift Aid envelopes - UK taxpayers please fill in the details on the envelope. Or you can give a one-off donation at one of our **contactless donation points** in the South Transept after the service.



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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand as the choir enters

Introit

Holy is the True Light, and passing wonderful, lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict, from Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendour, wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore. Alleluia!

Words: from the Salisbury Diurnal

Music: William Harris (1883-1973)

Welcome

*The Cantor and choir sing the **Preces***

O Lord, open thou our lips.
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

Music: William Smith (c. 1603-45)

Psalm 37.1-11

Fret not thyself because of the ungodly :
neither be thou envious against the evil-doers.

For they shall soon be cut down like the grass :
and be withered even as the green herb.

Put thou thy trust in the Lord, and be doing good :
dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Delight thou in the Lord :
and he shall give thee thy heart's desire.

Commit thy way unto the Lord, and put thy trust in him :
and he shall bring it to pass.

He shall make thy righteousness as clear as the light :
and thy just dealing as the noon-day.

Hold thee still in the Lord, and abide patiently upon him :
but grieve not thyself at him whose way doth prosper,
against the man that doeth after evil counsels.

Leave off from wrath, and let go displeasure :
fret not thyself, else shalt thou be moved to do evil.

Wicked doers shall be rooted out :
and they that patiently abide the Lord, those shall inherit the land.

Yet a little while, and the ungodly shall be clean gone :
thou shalt look after his place, and he shall be away.

But the meek-spirited shall possess the earth :
and shall be refreshed in the multitude of peace.

Stand

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 3. 14-end

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Stand as the choir sings

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Music: Thomas Attwood Walmisley (1814-56), in d

Sit

New Testament Reading *James 5. 1-11*

Come now, you rich people, weep and wail for the miseries that are coming to you. Your riches have rotted, and your clothes are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have rusted, and their rust will be evidence against you, and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure for the last days. Listen! The wages of the labourers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure; you have fattened your hearts on a day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the righteous one, who does not resist you.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Stand as the choir sings

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation;
Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Music: Thomas Attwood Walmisley (1814-56), in d

We say together the

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Cantor and Choir sing the **Versicles and Responses**

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Sit or kneel

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon 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. Amen.*

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Music: William Smith (c. 1603-45)

The Collects

O God, by whose favour we celebrate the Consecration of the Shrine of Thomas, thy martyr bishop; regard, we beseech thee, his merits and prayers, and bring us from ill to good, and from our prison-house to thy kingdom; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that, by thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

We stand to sing

Processional Hymn

during which the congregation is invited to follow the clergy and choir to the site of the shrine, directed by the stewards



For all the saints who from their labours rest,
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesu, be forever blest. *Alleluia.*

²Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness, still their one true light. *Alleluia.*

³O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win, with them, the victor's crown of gold. *Alleluia.*

⁴O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. *Alleluia.*

⁵And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph-song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. *Alleluia.*

⁶The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest:
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. *Alleluia.*

⁷But lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of glory passes on his way. *Alleluia.*

⁸From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost. *Alleluia.*

Censing of the site of the Shrine

during which the choir sings

Anthem

Justorum animae in manu Dei sunt,
et non tanget illos tormentum
mortis.
Visi sunt oculis insipientium mori,
illi autem sunt in pace.

*The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and the torment of death shall not touch
them. In the sight of the unwise they seemed
to die;
but they are in peace.*

Words: Offertory for All Saints Day

Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Prayers at the site of the Shrine

Almighty God, who didst suffer thy martyr Thomas
to be cruelly slain by the swords of men,
and yet madest him in his death to become a sword
of witness to the might of things unseen:
Grant to us that we may be ever mindful of his example,
and shew forth our thankfulness in loyalty to thy Church,
and in strong confidence and faith in thee;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

O Lord, who didst give to thy servant Saint Thomas
grace to lay aside all earthly fear,
and to be faithful even unto death;
Grant that we, disregarding worldly esteem,
may fight all wrong, uphold thy rule,
and serve thee to our lives' end;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

O God, who hast made us heirs of all victories of faith,
and joint-heirs with Christ of thy glory,
if so be that we suffer with him;
Arm us with such trust in the truth that is invincible,
that we may ask no rest from its demands
and have no fear in its service;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We say together

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, evermore.
Amen.**

Blessing

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation,
to know the hope to which he has called you.
Amen.

God, who has shown you a pattern of holy living and holy dying
in the lives of Thomas and all the saints,
bring you to share their glorious inheritance.
Amen.

God, who calls you no longer strangers
but fellow citizens with the saints,
set your hearts and minds on things above,
where Christ is seated at God's right hand.
Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Organ Voluntary

The choir and clergy depart

Please remain standing while the choir and clergy depart

*There will be a retiring collection for the work of the cathedral.
It costs £30,000 a day to keep the building open.
Please be as generous as you can.
If you would prefer, please use the QR code*





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Produced by the Music & Liturgy Department:
precentor@canterbury-cathedral.org
01227 865281

www.canterbury-cathedral.org