



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Sung Eucharist



The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mothering Sunday

15th March 2026

11.00am

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Eucharist

The Choral Setting is
Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924), Communion Service in C and F
The Kyrie Eleison is traditional Urdu, arranged Christopher Ouvry-Johns

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.

Cover Image: The Compass Rose

The Compass Rose is a symbol of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The Compass Rose is set in the nave of the Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of Christ in Canterbury, the Mother Church of the Anglican Communion. The Greek inscription means 'The truth will set you free.' (John 8.32)

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.



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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. 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 virggers. Please ask.

The Gathering

A welcome is offered

Stand to sing



For Mary, Mother of the Lord
God's holy name be praised,
who first the Son of God adored
as on her child she gazed.

²The angel Gabriel brought the word
she should Christ's mother be;
Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord,
made answer willingly.

³The heavenly call she thus obeyed,
and so God's will was done;
the second Eve love's answer made
which our redemption won.

⁴She gave her body for God's shrine,
her heart to piercing pain;
she knew the cost of love divine,
when Jesus Christ was slain.

⁵Dear Mary, from your lowliness
and home in Galilee,
there comes a joy and holiness
to every family.

⁶Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,
above all women blest;
and blest your Son, whom your embrace
in birth and death confessed.

Words: J. R. Peacey (1896-1971)

Tune: ST BOTOLPH

AM 313 (adapted)

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.**

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of
our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through
Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Deacon introduces

Prayers of Penitence

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Let us call to mind our sin, our failure to value the love of others and our failure to love as Christ has loved us.

Remain standing to say

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.

Remain standing as the choir sings

Kyrie Eleison

Khudaya, rahem kar.

Lord, have mercy.

Masiha, rahem kar.

Christ, have mercy.

Khudaya, rahem kar.

Lord, have mercy.

The President says

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Silence is kept

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal;
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.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 2.1-10

A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Remain seated as the choir sings Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd :
therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture :
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

He shall convert my soul :
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil :
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me :
thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life :
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

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



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 19.25b-27

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.

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Once the Sermon has been introduced please sit

Sermon The Reverend L A Yates, Canon Precentor

After the Sermon, a few moments of silence are kept as we reflect on what we have heard and then the choir sings

The Motet

Ave Maria gratia plena,
Dominus tecum:
Benedicta tu in mulieribus
et benedictus fructus ventris tui.
Amen.

*Hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee:
blessed art thou amongst women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.
Amen.*

Words: Prayer based on Luke 1.28, 42

Music: Robert Parsons (c.1535-72)

Following the Motet please stand

The Profession of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Please kneel or sit when the President says 'Let us pray'

Prayers of Intercession

One of these responses is used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

And at the end

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Stand

The President says

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says,
'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.'

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



Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness,
leave the gloomy haunts of sadness;
come into the daylight's splendour,
there with joy thy praises render
unto him whose grace unbounded
hath this wondrous banquet founded:
high o'er all the heavens he reigneth,
yet to dwell with thee he deigneth.

³Sun, who all my life dost brighten,
light, who dost my soul enlighten,
joy, the sweetest heart e'er knoweth;
fount, whence all my being floweth;
at thy feet I cry, my Maker,
let me be a fit partaker
of this blessed food from heaven,
for our good, thy glory, given.

²Now I sink before thee lowly,
filled with joy most deep and holy,
as with trembling awe and wonder
on thy mighty works I ponder:
how, by mystery surrounded,
depths no mortal ever sounded,
none may dare to pierce unbidden
secrets that with thee are hidden.

⁴Jesus, Bread of life, I pray thee,
let me gladly here obey thee;
never to my hurt invited,
be thy love with love requited:
from this banquet let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep its treasure;
through the gifts thou here dost give me,
as thy guest in heaven receive me.

Words: German, Johann Franck (1618-77)
Tr Catherine Winkworth (1827-78)

Tune: SCHMÜCKE DICH

AM 440

The President takes the bread and wine and praises God for his gifts

God of our journey, as we walk with you on your path of obedience,
sustain us on our way and lead us to your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.

Blessed are you, Lord God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever.
From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.
You give us breath and speech,
that with angels and archangels
and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

The choir sings

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory:
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high, Amen.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest.

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

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

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, 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.

The Deacon says

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours 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...

Ojczy 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

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

The President says

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 communion without climbing the steps to the High Altar, please join the line for the station in the North-East Transept.

*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

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Prayer after Communion

The President says

Let us pray.

Stand to pray in silence, before the President says

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament
with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

All then say

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The President comes to the steps of the Archbishop's throne with the children of Children's Church, to bless the Mothering Sunday flowers, which will be distributed during the final hymn.

The President says

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have loved and laughed and laboured as they cared for their children;

Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have wept in sorrow and joy for their children;

Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for Jesus, born of a woman and nurtured in her love, and for Mary, a reminder of your patient, waiting love;

Blessed be God for ever.

O God, from whom every family under heaven takes its name, +bless these flowers, that they may be a sign of your motherly love for us, and of the love that we, your children, have for you. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

The Dismissal

During this hymn flowers will be distributed to everyone in the congregation



Glory to God, the source of all our mission;
Jesus be praised, the Saviour, Lord and Son!
Praise to the Spirit who confirms the vision;
in all the world the will of God be done!

²Proud in our wealth, or destitute and broken,
we cannot live by earthly bread alone;
but by the word that God himself has spoken
we are set free to make our Master known.

³Eastward or westward, northward, southward moving,
finding new fields, new patterns, and new role,
Christ's fellow-workers, all his goodness proving,
see how our God is making people whole!

⁴Linked by the cross at which we are forgiven,
joined by the love that came to find and save,
one in the hope of God's new earth and heaven,
we love and give since he first loved and gave.

⁵Send us, Lord Christ, to serve at your direction,
dying and living, yours in loss and gain,
true to the gospel of your resurrection,
working and praying till you come to reign.

Words: Christopher Idle (b. 1938)

Tune: HIGHWOOD

AM 490

The President says

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us:
may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us:
may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us.

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 peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

Organ Voluntary

Tea and coffee will be served in the Clagett Auditorium following this morning's Eucharist. All are very welcome.

Kindly supported by the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral.

**To find out more about the Friends visit:
www.canterbury-cathedral.org/support-us/friends**

Usual Pattern of Services

7.30am	Morning Prayer	Monday-Friday
8.00am	Holy Communion	Daily
9.15am	Morning Prayer	Saturday & Sunday
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Sunday
12.30pm	Holy Communion	Wednesday
12.30pm	Taizé Prayer (In Choir Term)	Monday
5.30pm	Choral Evensong	Daily (said with silence Thursdays)

Safeguarding : Do you need to talk?

Are you concerned about the safety of a child, young person or vulnerable adult?

Or is there something that you would like to discuss that affects you?

A safeguarding concern is anything that may impact the safety and wellbeing of a child, young person or vulnerable adult; if they are being neglected, harmed or at risk of being harmed by others or themselves, and are in need of protection. To report a non-emergency safeguarding concern please scan the QR code and complete our online form or email safeguarding@canterbury-cathedral.org

TO REPORT AN EMERGENCY SAFEGUARDING CONCERN PLEASE

CONTACT THE CATHEDRAL CONSTABLES OFFICE:



Located by the main entrance to the Precincts, Christ Church Gate.

Alternatively, please call 01227 866237



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