



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Sung Eucharist

with blessing of book bags



Education Sunday

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

13th September 2026

11.00am

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Eucharist

The Choral Setting is Joseph Haydn (1732-1809),
Missa Sancti Joannis de Deo

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: St Gregory the Great commissioning St Augustine to come to England.
Icon in the chapel of St Gregory, Canterbury Cathedral.
Gregory the Great is a Patron Saint of Education.

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. **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.

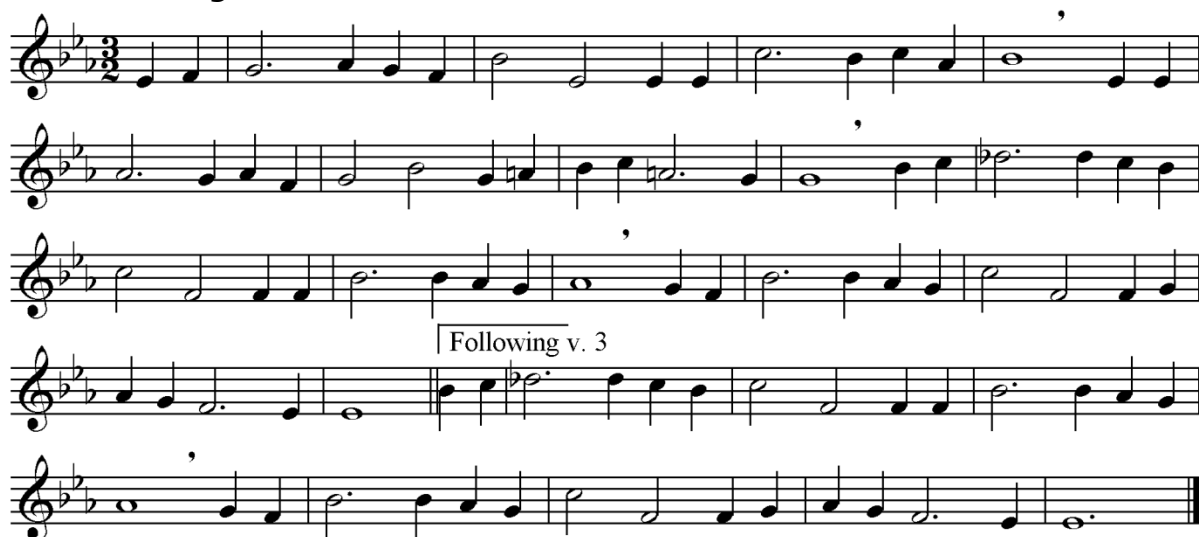


Large print orders of service are available from the stewards and virgers. Please ask.

The Gathering

A welcome is offered

Stand to sing



There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice
which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgement given.

²For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he would not own.

³There is plentiful redemption
through the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.

⁴If our love were but more simple,
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be all gladness,
in the joy of Christ our Lord.

Words: Frederick William Faber (1814-63)

Tune: CORVEDALE

AM 806

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

Human sin disfigures the whole creation, which groans with eager longing for God's redemption. We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

Remain standing to say

May your loving mercy come to me, O Lord,
and your salvation according to your word:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light to my path:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

O let your mercy come to me that I may live,
for your law is my delight:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The President says

The Lord enrich you with his grace, and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers, and absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

Remain standing as the choir sings

Gloria in Excelsis

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus pater omnipotens. Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe; Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis; qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram; qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu: in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

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.

Silence is kept

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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

The Epistle *Romans 14.1-12*

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written,

'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.'

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Remain seated as the choir sings Psalm 103.8-13

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy :
long-suffering, and of great goodness.

He will not always be chiding :
neither keepeth he his anger for ever.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins :
nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses.

For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth :
so great is his mercy also toward them that fear him.

Look how wide also the east is from the west :
so far hath he set our sins from us.

Yea, like as a father pitieth his own children :
even so is the Lord merciful unto them that fear him.

Stand as the cantor sings the Alleluia and we respond



God has spoken to us through his Son,
through whom he created the worlds. **Alleluia.**

The Gospel *Matthew 18.21-25*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Peter came and said to Jesus, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The organist plays a Gospel fanfare

Once the Sermon has been introduced please sit

Sermon The Reverend Dawn Watson, Chaplain, Archbishop's School

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, verum corpus
Natum de Maria Virgine,
Vere passum immolatum
In cruce pro homine,
Cuius latus perforatum
Unda fluxit et sanguine,
Esto nobis praegustatum
In mortis examine.

*Hail, true Body,
born of the Virgin Mary,
who having truly suffered,
was sacrificed on the cross for humankind,
whose pierced side
flowed with water and blood:
May it be for us a foretaste
in the trial of death.*

Words: 13th Century Eucharistic Hymn

Music: W A Mozart (1756-91)

Following the Motet please stand

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose
again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into
heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Please 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

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.
The peace of the Lord be always with 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



Dear 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.

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

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.

⁴Drop thy still dew 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.

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

Words: John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-92)

Tune: REPTON

AM 621i

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

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
by your goodness the world was formed and filled with plenty.
As we set before you this bread and wine, teach us gratitude for your
gifts and make us faithful stewards of your creation.

Blessed be God for ever.

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,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
For by your word the heavens were made,
and all their host by the breath of your mouth.

You formed us in your image, the crown of your creation,
and entrusted us with the works of your hands.
In your great goodness you sent your Son,
the firstborn of all creation,
who holds all things together in himself,
and through whom you make all things new.
You have given us the first-fruits of the Spirit,
as creation itself waits with eager longing
to obtain the glorious freedom of the children of God.

And so, with angels and archangels
and with all that you have made,
we join the song of your glory,
forever praising you and saying:

The choir sings

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.	<i>Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.</i>
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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

Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup
we proclaim your death,
Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**

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.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land.
Reveal her unity, guard her faith,
and preserve her in peace.

Bring us at the last with the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Thomas of Canterbury and 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...

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

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.**

The President says

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

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

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

Stand as the President says

Let us pray.

Silence is kept

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; 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 Blessing of book bags

The congregation sits, as children with book bags to bless and the adults from Children's Church stand at the foot of the High Altar steps

The President sprinkles the book bags and backpacks

The President blesses the book bags and back packs, saying

O God, today we gather to celebrate the beginning of a new school year. Give all students open minds and open hearts to learn and to experience more fully the glory of the world you have created. May this year be full of opportunities for them, and for their teachers, as together they experience new beginnings and fresh starts. Enable them to grow in knowledge and kindness during this year and all the days of their lives.

Now O God, bless these book bags and backpacks and all who carry them, that they may remind us of the wisdom and the joy that learning can bring. In the name of Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The President blesses the adults from Children's Church, saying

Dear God,
we thank you for the gift of learning, and that as humans we can increase our knowledge, deepen our understanding and sharpen our skills and abilities. Help us to be mindful that learning is a gift from you to be cherished, to be used for the betterment of ourselves and others and to the glory of your name and the furtherance of your kingdom, according to your will.

Bless those who lead our Children's Church and all teachers and support staff in this community and diocese. We pray for all places of learning, that they may be safe and supportive places which open up a world of possibilities to all. We ask all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher. **Amen.**

The children and adults return to their places as we stand to sing



My God, how wonderful thou art,
thy majesty how bright,
how beautiful thy mercy-seat
in depths of burning light!

²How dread are thine eternal years,
O everlasting Lord,
by prostrate spirits day and night
incessantly adored!

³How wonderful, how beautiful,
the sight of thee must be,
thine endless wisdom, boundless power,
and awful purity!

⁴O, how I fear thee, living God,
with deepest, tenderest fears,
and worship thee with trembling hope
and penitential tears!

⁵Yet I may love thee too, O Lord,
almighty as thou art,
for thou hast stooped to ask of me
the love of my poor heart.

⁶No earthly father loves like thee,
no mother, e'er so mild,
bears and forbears as thou hast done
with me, thy sinful child.

⁷Father of Jesus, love's reward,
what rapture will it be,
prostrate before thy throne to lie
and gaze and gaze on thee!

The President says

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessings upon all things created,
and upon you his children,
that you may use his gifts to his glory
and the welfare of all peoples
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

Tend the earth,
care for God's good creation,
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.
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
9.30am	Morning Prayer	Saturday, Sunday, & Bank Holidays
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Sunday
12.30pm	Taizé Prayer	Monday (from 7 th September)
12.30pm	Prayers for Peace	Tuesday (from 15 th September)
12.30pm	Holy Communion	Wednesday
5.30pm	Choral Evensong	Daily

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

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

CONTACT THE CATHEDRAL CONSTABLES OFFICE:



Alternatively, please call 01227 866237



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