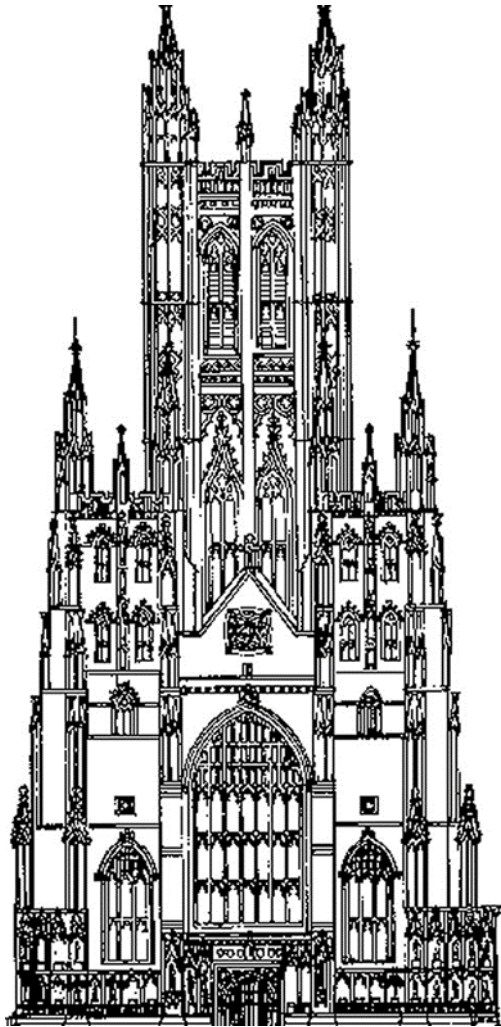




THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Choral Evensong

with the Admission of a Virger



5th July 2026

5.30pm

Quire

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand as the choir and clergy enter the Quire

*The Precentor 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)

Sit as the choir sings

Psalm 56

Be merciful unto me, O God, for man goeth about to devour me :
he is daily fighting, and troubling me.

Mine enemies are daily in hand to swallow me up :
for they be many that fight against me, O thou most Highest.

Nevertheless, though I am sometime afraid :
yet put I my trust in thee.

I will praise God, because of his word :
I have put my trust in God, and will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

They daily mistake my words :
all that they imagine is to do me evil.

They hold all together, and keep themselves close :
and mark my steps, when they lay wait for my soul.

Shall they escape for their wickedness :
thou, O God, in thy displeasure shalt cast them down.

Thou tellest my flittings; put my tears into thy bottle :
are not these things noted in thy book?

Whensoever I call upon thee, then shall mine enemies be put to flight :
this I know; for God is on my side.

In God's word will I rejoice :
in the Lord's word will I comfort me.

Yea, in God have I put my trust :
I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

Unto thee, O God, will I pay my vows :
unto thee will I give thanks.

For thou hast delivered my soul from death, and my feet from falling :
that I may walk before God in the light of the living.

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 *2 Samuel 2.1-11, 3.1*

David inquired of the Lord, 'Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?' The Lord said to him, 'Go up.' David said, 'To which shall I go up?' He said, 'To Hebron.' So David went up there, along with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel, and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. David brought up the men who were with him, every one with his household; and they settled in the towns of Hebron. Then the people of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.

When they told David, 'It was the people of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul', David sent messengers to the people of Jabesh-gilead, and said to them, 'May you be blessed by the Lord, because you showed this loyalty to Saul your lord, and buried him! Now may the Lord show steadfast love and faithfulness to you! And I too will reward you because you have done this thing. Therefore let your hands be strong, and be valiant; for Saul your lord is dead, and the house of Judah has anointed me king over them.'

But Abner son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, had taken Ishbaal son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim. He made him king over Gilead, the Ashurites, Jezreel, Ephraim, Benjamin, and over all Israel. Ishbaal, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned for two years. But the house of Judah followed David. The time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David; David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul became weaker and weaker.

The congregation remains seated

The Dean leaves his stall as the members of the Foundation stand

Head Virger Mr Dean and members of the Cathedral Foundation and community, I present to you

Dawn Evans

to be admitted as Virger of
this Cathedral and Metropolitan Church.

The Dean I admit you as Virger of this Cathedral and Metropolitan Church.

We welcome you as Virger and pray that we may assist your growth in Christ as you enrich our fellowship together.

The congregation responds

We welcome you.

The Head Virger hands the Dean a virge which the Dean gives to the new Virger, saying:

Receive this virge, a symbol of your authority. May the Lord watch over you now and always. Amen.

The Dean continues:

God our Father, Lord of all the world, we thank you that through your Son you have called us into the fellowship of your universal Church. Hear our prayer for your faithful people that each in their vocation and ministry may be an instrument of your love: and give to your servant Dawn, now admitted as Virger of this Cathedral and Metropolitan Church, the needful gifts of grace, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

We say the Foundation Prayer:

Eternal God, you have brought us together into a noble company: we pray for one another and for the holy Church of Canterbury: that in this house of our most blessed Saviour dignity of worship, preaching the faith and holiness of life may for ever abound and thence be spread through all the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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: Alan Gray (1855-1935) in f

Sit

New Testament Reading

Luke 18.31-9.10

Jesus took the twelve aside and said to them, 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again.' But they understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, 'Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.' Then he shouted, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' He said, 'Lord, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Receive your sight; your faith has saved you.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.' So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

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: Music: Alan Gray (1855-1935) in f

Turn East and 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 Precentor 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

Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *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.*

Sit as the choir sings

Anthem

Laß dich nur nichts nicht dauren mit
Trauren, sei stille, wie Gott es fügt,
so sei vergnügt mein Wille!

Was willst du heute sorgen auf
morgen? Der Eine steht allem für,
der gibt auch dir das Deine.

Sei nur in allem Handel ohn Wandel,
steh feste, was Gott beschleußt, das
ist und heißt das Beste.
Amen.

*Do not be sorrowful or regretful;
Be calm, as God has ordained,
and thus my will shall be content.*

*What do you want to worry about from
day to day? There is One who stands
above all who gives you, too, what is
yours.*

*Only be steadfast in all you do,
stand firm; what God has decided,
that is and must be the best. Amen.*

Words: Paul Flemming (1609-1640)

Music: Johannes Brahms (1833-97)

Sit or kneel

Prayers *led by the Precentor, concluding with*

**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.**

Stand to sing, during which a collection will be taken.
If you would prefer to give electronically, please use
the QR code.



Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

²Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.

³Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

⁴Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)
based on the Magnificat

Tune: WOODLANDS

AM 394

Blessing

All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

Organ Voluntary

The virges used in today's service date from 1660 and the restoration of the monarchy, when they were given to the cathedral by Charles II, along with several other items, and the receipt is still held in the cathedral archives today. The virges were used daily in the cathedral until the 1920s when a new set of identical virges was given, after which, they largely fell out of use. Today, the Virges are used only for significant services (most recently the Installation of the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury), but their use has been revived for virger admissions so that virgers may be reminded of their long and illustrious line of predecessors.