



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Choral Evensong

with Admission of a Chorister



The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Accession of His Majesty King Charles III

8th September 2026

5.30pm

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

Canterbury Cathedral is the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the cathedral church of the Diocese of Canterbury, the mother church of the Anglican Communion, and a place of pilgrimage welcoming visitors from across the world.

For over fourteen hundred years God has been worshipped here. With its roots in the Benedictine tradition, the ongoing daily pattern of morning and evening prayer and Eucharist (or Holy Communion) continues the prayers and praises of countless generations in this Cathedral. We welcome you today to share in this continuing rhythm of worship in this service of Choral Evensong.



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The Book of Common Prayer (1662)

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand as the choir enters the Quire and then sings

Introit

Let thy merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of thy humble servants;
and that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as
shall please thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Words: Collect for the Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Music: Thomas Mudd (c.1619-67)

A welcome is offered

*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 (1603-45)

Sit as the choir sings

Psalms 42 and 43

42

Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks :
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.

My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God :
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

My tears have been my meat day and night :
while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?

Now when I think thereupon, I pour out my heart by myself :
for I went with the multitude, and brought them forth into the house of God;

In the voice of praise and thanksgiving :
among such as keep holy-day.

Why art thou so full of heaviness, O my soul :
and why art thou so disquieted within me?

Put thy trust in God :
for I will yet give him thanks for the help of his countenance.

My God, my soul is vexed within me :
therefore will I remember thee concerning the land of Jordan,
and the little hill of Hermon.

One deep calleth another, because of the noise of the water-pipes :
all thy waves and storms are gone over me.

The Lord hath granted his loving-kindness in the day-time :
and in the night-season did I sing of him,
and made my prayer unto the God of my life.

I will say unto the God of my strength, Why hast thou forgotten me :
why go I thus heavily, while the enemy oppresseth me?

My bones are smitten asunder as with a sword :
while mine enemies that trouble me cast me in the teeth;

Namely, while they say daily unto me :
Where is now thy God?

Why art thou so vexed, O my soul :
and why art thou so disquieted within me?

O put thy trust in God :
for I will yet thank him, which is the help of my countenance, and my God.

43

Give sentence with me, O God,
and defend my cause against the ungodly people :
O deliver me from the deceitful and wicked man.

For thou art the God of my strength, why hast thou put me from thee :
and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresseth me?

O send out thy light and thy truth, that they may lead me :
and bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy dwelling.

And that I may go unto the altar of God,
even unto the God of my joy and gladness :
and upon the harp will I give thanks unto thee, O God, my God.

Why art thou so heavy, O my soul :
and why art thou so disquieted within me?

O put thy trust in God :
for I will yet give him thanks, which is the help of my countenance,
and my God.

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

Joshua 1.1-9

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, 'My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'

Admission of a Chorister

The Canon in Residence, the Director of Music, and the chorister to be admitted leave their stalls as the members of the Foundation stand

The Director of Music says

Madam Canon in Residence, I present to you

Phoenix

to be admitted as a Chorister of this Cathedral and Metropolitan Church

The Canon in Residence says to the new Chorister

I admit you as a Chorister of this Cathedral and Metropolitan Church.

The new Chorister then kneels at the west end of the stalls and the Canon in Residence says the following prayer

May the Lord enable you to use to his glory the gifts that he has given you and may he watch over your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore. Amen.

Canon in Residence invites everyone to 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.

The Director of Music bows to the Canon in Residence

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: Richard Ayleward (1626-69) Short Service

Sit

New Testament Reading

Romans 13.1-11

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. Pay to all what is due to them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour

as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers.

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: Richard Ayleward (1626-69) Short Service

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 Cantor and choir sing the **Versicles and Responses**

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Sit or kneel

Let us pray.

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.
Who putteth his trust in thee.

Send him help from thy holy place.
And evermore mightily defend him.

Be unto him, O Lord, a strong tower;
From the face of his enemies.

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 Lord, hear our prayer;
And let our cry come unto thee.

Music: William Smith (1603-45)

The Collects

Almighty God, who lookest upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chocest her to be the mother of thy only Son: grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of thine eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

O God, who providest for thy people by thy power, and rulest over them in love: Vouchsafe so to bless thy Servant our King, that under him this nation may be wisely governed, and thy Church may serve thee in all godly quietness; and grant that he being devoted to thee with his whole heart, and persevering in good works unto the end, may, by thy guidance, come to thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. *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

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: Based on Luke 1.28, 42

Music: Robert Parsons (c. 1535-72)

Sit or Kneel

Prayers *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

Hymn



Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol:
his kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.

²God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
and still he is nigh, his presence we have;
the great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

³Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

⁴Then let us adore, and give him his right:
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
and honour and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Tune: PADERBORN

AM 827

Remain standing for

The Blessing

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest,
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth and all people,
unity, peace and concord,
and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The National Anthem

God save our gracious King,
long live our noble King,
God save The King!
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us,
God save The King!

Thy choicest gifts in store
on him be pleased to pour,
long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
and ever give us cause
to sing with heart and voice
God save The King!

All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

Organ Voluntary

At the end of the service, the Stewards will be holding baskets for your donation to the collection. Please be generous. If you would prefer to give electronically, please use the QR code

