



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Sung Eucharist



The Baptism of Christ

Sunday 11th January 2026

11.00am

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Eucharist

The Choral Setting is
Thomas Tallis (c.1505-85), Mass for four voices

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.

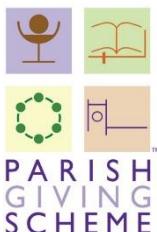
If you have any concerns please speak to a member of the clergy.

Cover Image: The Baptism of Christ,
Piero della Francesca (c.1415-92)

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 virgers. Please ask.

The Gathering

A welcome is offered

Stand to sing



When Jesus came to Jordan
to be baptized by John,
he did not come for pardon,
but as his Father's Son.
He came to share repentance
with all who mourn their sins,
to speak the vital sentence
with which good news begins.

²He came to share temptation,
our utmost woe and loss,
for us and our salvation
to die upon the cross.
So when the Dove descended
on him, the Son of Man,
the hidden years had ended,
the age of grace began.

³Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
to keep the vows we make
this very day invade us,
and every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
the gift we covet most:
to share the resurrection
that leads to Pentecost.

Words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

Tune: OFFERTORIUM

AM 108

The President says

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

**From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

The Lord of glory be with you.

The Lord bless 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.**

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

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
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

New Testament Reading

Acts 10.34-43

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism

that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Remain seated as the choir sings Psalm 29

Bring unto the Lord, O ye mighty, bring young rams unto the Lord : ascribe unto the Lord worship and strength.

Give the Lord the honour due unto his Name : worship the Lord with holy worship.

It is the Lord that commandeth the waters : it is the glorious God that maketh the thunder.

It is the Lord that ruleth the sea; the voice of the Lord is mighty in operation : the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

The voice of the Lord breaketh the cedar-trees : yea, the Lord breaketh the cedars of Libanus.

He maketh them also to skip like a calf : Libanus also, and Sirion, like a young unicorn.

The voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness : yea, the Lord shaketh the wilderness of Cades.

The voice of the Lord maketh the hinds to bring forth young, and discovereth the thick bushes : in his temple doth every man speak of his honour.

The Lord sitteth above the water-flood : and the Lord remaineth a King for ever.

The Lord shall give strength unto his people : the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Stand as the cantor sings the Alleluia and we respond



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al le - lu - ia.

This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.

Alleluia.

The Gospel

Matthew 3.13-17

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.

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

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 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 we stand as the President stands and moves to the font near the lectern to lead

Thanksgiving for Holy Baptism

Water is poured into the font with these words

God in Christ gives us water welling up for eternal life.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Lord, give us this water and we shall thirst no more.

The president stands before the water and says

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
for your gift of water in creation;
for your Spirit, sweeping over the waters,
bringing light and life;
for your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
baptized in the river Jordan.

We bless you for your new creation,
brought to birth by water and the Spirit,
and for your grace bestowed upon us your children,
washing away our sins.

May your holy and life-giving Spirit
move upon these waters.
Restore through them the beauty of your creation,
and bring those who are baptized
to new birth in the family of your Church.
Drown sin in the waters of judgement,
anoint your children with power from on high,
and make them one with Christ
in the freedom of your kingdom.
For all might, majesty, dominion and power are yours,
now and for ever.

Alleluia. Amen.

I saw water flowing from the threshold of the temple.

Wherever the river flows everything will spring to life. Alleluia.

On the banks of the river grow trees bearing every kind of fruit.

Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail.

Their fruit will serve for food, their leaves for the healing of the nations.

For the river of the water of life

flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

The Deacon leads

Act of Penitence and Dedication

God of truth,
you are faithful to the covenant you have made with us;
look in mercy on your people.

From all our sins, O Lord:

wash us, and we shall be clean.

We have broken the pledges of our baptism,
and failed to be your disciples.

From all our sins, O Lord:

wash us, and we shall be clean.

Though we are saved by Christ
and dead to sin through the deep waters of death,
we have not witnessed to his grace by our manner of life.

From all our sins, O Lord:

wash us, and we shall be clean.

We have shown indifference to those in need
and have been afraid to stand up for justice and truth.

From all our sins, O Lord:

wash us, and we shall be clean.

We have been slow to forgive, and have failed to remember
your repeated forgiveness of our sins.

From all our sins, O Lord:

wash us, and we shall be clean.

Today we rejoice and give thanks
because your Son humbled himself to be baptized in the Jordan.
Through the waters you have given us the mystery of baptism
for the remission of our sins.

From all our sins, O Lord:

wash us, and we shall be clean.

Through water and Spirit
you give us new life as the people of God,
and pour out upon us the gifts of your new covenant.

From all our sins, O Lord:

wash us, and we shall be clean.

Almighty God,
in our baptism you have consecrated us
to be temples of your Holy Spirit.
May we, whom you have counted worthy,
nurture your indwelling Spirit with a lively faith,
and worship you with upright lives;
through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The President says

'Come,' say the Spirit and the Bride.
'Come forward, you who are thirsty,
receive the water of life,
the free gift to all who desire it.'

The President sprinkles the congregation with water as the choir sings

The Motet

Ante luciferum genitus
et ante saecula Dominus,
Salvator noster
hodie mundo apparuit.
Alleluia.

*Born before the day star
and before the ages,
the Lord our Saviour
has appeared this day to the world.
Alleluia.*

Words: Antiphon for Epiphany

Music: Jacob Handl (1550-91)

The President returns to the High Altar and says

May almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Remain standing to say

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

Please sit or kneel 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

God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

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



The sinless one to Jordan came
to share our fallen nature's blame;
God's righteousness he thus fulfilled
and chose the path his Father willed.

²Uprising from the waters there,
the voice from heaven did witness bear
that he, the Son of God had come
to lead his scattered people home.

³Above him see the heavenly Dove,
the sign of God the Father's love,
now by the Holy Spirit shed
upon the Son's anointed head.

⁴How blessed that mission then begun
to heal and save a race undone;
straight to the wilderness he goes
to wrestle with his people's foes.

⁵Dear Lord, let those baptized from sin
go forth with you, a world to win,
and send the Holy Spirit's power
to shield them in temptation's hour.

⁶On you shall all your people feed
and know you are the Bread indeed,
who gives eternal life to those
that with you died, and with you rose.

Words: G B Timms (1910-97)

Tune: SOLOTHURN

AM 107

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

Open the heavens, Lord our God, and send your transforming Spirit
on us and on these gifts. May we who are baptized into Christ
be ready to share his cup of suffering and strengthened to serve him for ever.

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.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You celebrated your new gift of baptism in signs and wonders at the
Jordan. Your voice was heard from heaven to awaken faith in the
presence among us of your Word made flesh.

Your Spirit was seen as a dove, revealing Jesus as your servant, and
anointing him with the oil of gladness to preach the good news to the
poor.

Therefore, as we celebrate the union of earth and heaven, we rejoice to
echo the song of the angels in heaven for ever praising you and singing:

The choir sings

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit
In nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.*

*Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

The Deacon says

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
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

Believing the promises of God, 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...
Ojcze 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 the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

The President says

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

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 should 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 instinct (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

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
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 Dismissal



O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

²Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

³Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldest reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

⁴These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

⁵O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

Words: J S B Monsell (1811-75)

Tune: WAS LEBET

AM 103

Remain standing

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water
welling up to eternal life,
perfect in you the image of his glory;
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 the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

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**

Epiphany Carol Service this evening

The Epiphany Carol Service will be at **5.30pm** in the Quire.

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

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Alternatively, please call 01227 866237



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