



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Solemn Evensong



Easter Day

20th April 2025

5.30 pm

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

The image on the cover is from the Resurrection Window
by Christopher Whall (1849-1924), South-West Transept



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The Book of Common Prayer (1662)

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ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand as the choir enters the Quire

Introit

Christ rising again from the dead

Christ rising again from the dead, now dieth not.
Death from henceforth hath no power upon him.
For in that he died, he died but once to put away sin,
but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.
And so likewise count yourselves dead unto sin,
But living unto God
In Christ Jesus our Lord.

Words: From Romans 6.9-11

Music: William Byrd (c. 1540-1623)

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: Andrew Millington (b. 1952)

Sit as the choir sings

Psalm 66.1-11

O be joyful in God, all ye lands :
sing praises unto the honour of his Name, make his praise to be glorious.

Say unto God, O how wonderful art thou in thy works :
through the greatness of thy power
shall thine enemies be found liars unto thee.

For all the world shall worship thee :
sing of thee, and praise thy Name.

O come hither, and behold the works of God :
how wonderful he is in his doing toward the children of men.

He turned the sea into dry land :
so that they went through the water on foot; there did we rejoice thereof.

He ruleth with his power for ever; his eyes behold the people :
and such as will not believe shall not be able to exalt themselves.

O praise our God, ye people :
and make the voice of his praise to be heard;

Who holdeth our soul in life :
and suffereth not our feet to slip.

For thou, O God, hast proved us :
thou also hast tried us, like as silver is tried.

Thou broughtest us into the snare :
and laidest trouble upon our loins.

Thou sufferedst men to ride over our heads :
we went through fire and water,
and thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.

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 *Isaiah 43.1-21*

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, 'Give them up', and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

Bring forth the people who are blind, yet have eyes, who are deaf, yet have ears! Let all the nations gather together, and let the peoples assemble.

Who among them declared this, and foretold to us the former things?

Let them bring their witnesses to justify them, and let them hear and say, 'It is true.' You are my witnesses, says the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.

I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no saviour. I declared and saved and

proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses, says the Lord. I am God, and also henceforth I am He; there is no one who can deliver from my hand; I work and who can hinder it?

Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: For your sake I will send to Babylon and break down all the bars, and the shouting of the Chaldeans will be turned to lamentation. I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Stand as the choir sings

Magnificat

During this, the Altar is censed. As incense rises to the heavens, so does our prayer and thanksgiving.

As the thurifer turns to cense the people, please turn to face the High Altar.

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: Herbert Howells (1892-1983) in E

New Testament Reading

John 20.19-32

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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: Herbert Howells (1892-1983) in E

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.

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: Andrew Millington (b. 1952)

The Collects

Almighty God, who through thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death, and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life: We humbly beseech thee, that as by thy special grace preventing us thou dost put into our minds good desires, so by thy continual help we may bring the same to good effect; through Jesus Christ 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 Haec Dies

This is the day the Lord hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.
Save now I beseech thee, send now prosperity.
God is the Lord which hath shewed us light, bind the sacrifice with cords,
even to the horns of the Altar.
Thou art my God and I will praise thee. Thou art my God I will exalt thee.
O give thanks unto the Lord for he is good, for his mercy endureth forever.
Hallelujah!

Words: Psalm 118.24-29

Music: Giovanni Battista Draghi (c. 1640-1708)

Homily

The Dean

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



Christ the Lord is risen again,
Christ hath broken every chain.
hark, angelic voices cry,
singing evermore on high,
Alleluia!

²He who gave for us his life,
who for us endured the strife,
is our Paschal Lamb to-day;
we too sing for joy, and say
Alleluia!

³He who bore all pain and loss
comfortless upon the cross,
lives in glory now on high,
pleads for us, and hears our cry:
Alleluia!

⁴He who slumbered in the grave
is exalted now to save;
now through Christendom it rings
that the Lamb is King of kings.
Alleluia!

⁵Now he bids us tell abroad
how the lost may be restored,
how the penitent forgiven,
how we too may enter heaven.
Alleluia!

⁶Thou, our Paschal Lamb indeed,
Christ, thy ransomed people feed;
take our sins and guilt away:
let us sing by night and day
Alleluia!

Words: Michael Weisse (c1480-1534)
Tr Catherine Winkworth (1827-78)

Tune: ORIENTIS PARTIBUS

AM 200ii

The Dean says

He knew his son
would outshine him
from the beginning,

so taught this child the
only thing he could:

the skill of taking
blades and wood,

and turning death
into something
else entirely.

From: The Carpenter: The Backwater Sermons, Canterbury Press, Jay Hulme 2021

Acclamation

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

He has brought us out of darkness.

He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Blessing

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Organ Voluntary

*There will be a retiring collection.
If you would prefer to give electronically,
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Canterbury
Cathedral



A Memorial Concert for The Very Rev'd Dr Robert Willis Dean Emeritus

Saturday 28 June, 19:30 in the Cathedral Nave*

All are welcome to attend.

Free event; with donations encouraged in Dean Robert's memory,
to The Friends of Canterbury Cathedral (Charity No: 1210093).



Booking required to reserve a seat.

**To book, please scan the QR code,
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* This event is in person only, and will not be live streamed or recorded.



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