



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

# Choral Evensong in celebration of volunteers



1<sup>st</sup> June 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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# ORDER OF SERVICE

*All stand as the procession enters the Quire*

*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** 68.1-13, 18-19

Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered :  
let them also that hate him flee before him.

Like as the smoke vanisheth, so shalt thou drive them away :  
and like as wax melteth at the fire,  
so let the ungodly perish at the presence of God.

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God :  
let them also be merry and joyful.

O sing unto God, and sing praises unto his Name :  
magnify him that rideth upon the heavens,  
as it were upon an horse; praise him in his Name JAH, and rejoice before him.

He is a father of the fatherless, and defendeth the cause of the widows :  
even God in his holy habitation.

He is the God that maketh men to be of one mind in an house,  
and bringeth the prisoners out of captivity :  
but letteth the runagates continue in scarceness.

O God, when thou wentest forth before the people :  
when thou wentest through the wilderness;

The earth shook, and the heavens dropped at the presence of God :  
even as Sinai also was moved at the presence of God, who is the God of Israel.

Thou, O God, sentest a gracious rain upon thine inheritance :  
and refreshedst it when it was weary.

Thy congregation shall dwell therein :  
for thou, O God, hast of thy goodness prepared for the poor.

The Lord gave the word :  
great was the company of the preachers.

Kings with their armies did flee, and were discomfited :  
and they of the household divided the spoil.

Though ye have lien among the pots, yet shall ye be as the wings of a dove :  
that is covered with silver wings, and her feathers like gold.

Thou art gone up on high, thou hast led captivity captive,  
and received gifts for men :  
yea, even for thine enemies, that the Lord God might dwell among them.

Praised be the Lord daily :  
even the God who helpeth us, and poureth his benefits upon us.

*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 44.1-8*

Read by Sally Hird, Strategic Volunteer Manager

Now hear, O Jacob my servant, Israel whom I have chosen! Thus says  
the Lord who made you, who formed you in the womb and will help you:  
Do not fear, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen.  
For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground;  
I will pour my spirit upon your descendants, and my blessing on your offspring.  
They shall spring up like a green tamarisk, like willows by flowing streams.  
This one will say, 'I am the Lord's', another will be called by the name of Jacob,  
yet another will write on the hand, 'The Lord's', and adopt the name of Israel.

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:  
I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.  
Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before  
me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is  
yet to be.

Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

*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: John Sheppard (c. 1515-58), First service*

*Sit*

## **New Testament Reading**

*Ephesians 4.7-16*

Each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said,

'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;  
he gave gifts to his people.'

(When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended\* into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

*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: John Sheppard (c. 1515-58), First 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.*

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**

O God the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven: We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, 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**

O Rex gloriae, Domine virtutum,  
qui triumphator hodie super omnes  
coelos ascendisti;  
ne derelinquas nos orphanos,  
sed mitte promissum Patris in nos,  
spiritum veritatis. Alleluia.

*O King of glory, Lord of all power,  
Who ascended to heaven on this day  
triumphant over all;  
Do not leave us as orphans,  
But send us the Father's promise,  
The spirit of truth. Alleluia.*

*Words: Antiphon for Ascensiontide*

*Music: Luca Marenzio (c. 1553/4–159*

# Homily

*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*

*A collection will be taken.*

*If you would prefer to give electronically,  
please use the QR code.*



The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
and he is mine for ever.

<sup>2</sup>Where streams of living water flow  
my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow  
with food celestial feedeth.

<sup>3</sup>Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home rejoicing, brought me.

<sup>4</sup>In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.

<sup>5</sup>Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and O what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

<sup>6</sup>And so through all the length of days  
thy goodness faileth never:  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house for ever.

Words: H W Baker (1821-77)

Tune: DOMINUS REGIT ME

AM 794

## Blessing

## Organ Voluntary



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