



ELY CATHEDRAL



SUNG EUCHARIST

10.30am

Christmas Day 2025

President and Preacher : The Dean

Missa Brevis in F K192

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1756-1791



Welcome to Ely Cathedral this morning.

Everyone is very welcome for refreshments in the Lady Chapel after the service.

Children and Families are very welcome to enjoy this service. The North Transept is an area where Children and Families can share fully in the worship experience and there is easy access to toilet and baby changing facilities. Please feel at home here and don't worry if you need to move around during the service - ask a Steward if you need anything. For health and safety reasons please do not let your child run or play on the ramp at the back of the North Transept.

There is an Induction Loop in both the North and South Transepts, the Choir and the Presbytery, for those using a hearing aid, and large copies of the service sheet are available on request.

Photography or video recording are not permitted at this service. Please keep your mobile phones switched off throughout the service.

If you are new to the cathedral and would like to know more about its services and community life, or have a safeguarding concern, please contact Canon James Reveley (james.reveley@elycathedral.org or 01353 660302) who will be pleased to receive requests for prayer and respond to any pastoral need.

This service is livestreamed and can be viewed on the Cathedral YouTube or via our website. If you would prefer to sit out of sight of the cameras, please ask a steward to direct you. Please respect the wishes of those who want to be quiet and pray before the service begins - thank you.

GIFT AID ENVELOPE

Please remember to write your surname, initials, etc on the Gift Aid Envelope. Unless you do so the Cathedral cannot reclaim the tax you have already paid. Thank you.

Action to be taken on hearing the fire alarm: Calmly leave the Cathedral by the nearest fire exit. Stewards will direct persons in wheelchairs to the appropriate fire exit.

THE GATHERING *When the bell rings, please stand*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

1
O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

2
God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:

3
See how the shepherds
Summoned to his cradle
Leaving their flocks,
Draw nigh with lowly fear:
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:

4
Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
Glory to God
In the highest:

5
Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:

Words: Latin 18th Century, tr. Frederick Oakeley 1802-1880 and others
Music: *Adeste Fideles* NEH 30, Melody probably by J F Wade 1711-1786
Descant by Sir David Willcocks 1919-2015

THE GREETING

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

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

The president welcomes the people

Deacon Christ the Light of the World has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

President Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.

*Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace, good will towards men.*

Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam,
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.

*We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.*

Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe:
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris,
qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

*O Lord the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ,
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us;*

Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.

*Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy upon us.*

Quoniam tu solus sanctus, tu solus Dominus,
tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

*For thou only art Holy, thou only art the Lord,
thou only O Christ with the Holy Ghost
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Let us pray.

Silence is kept

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
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.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING
Isaiah 62.6-end

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.' They shall be called, 'The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord'; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.'

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN *Please stand*



1
See, amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years.

*Hail! Thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."*

2
Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies:
He, who throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim!

*Hail! Thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."*

3
Sacred Infant, all divine,
What a tender love was Thine;
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this!

*Hail! Thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."*

Words: Edward Caswall 1814-1878
Music: *Humility* (Oxford) A&M 83 Sir John Goss 1800-1880

NEW TESTAMENT READING *Please sit*
Titus 3.4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

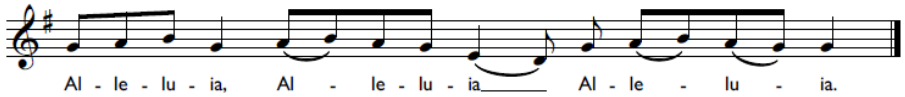
But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand and face the deacon

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Choir Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

All Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

We declare to you what has been from the beginning,
the Word who is life.

1 John 1.1

All Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 2.8-20

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.



In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been

told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Please sit

SERMON

After the Sermon silence is kept

Please stand

THE NICENE CREED

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE INTERCESSION

President In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ
let us pray to the Father.

Please sit

The following response is used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

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 *Please stand*

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN

1

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that Mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

2

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall:
With the poor and mean and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3

And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.

4

For he is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew:
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

5

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Words: C. F. Alexander 1818-95
Music: *Irby* NEH 34, H. J. Gauntlett 1805-76, A. H. Mann 1850-1929 and others
Descant by Sir David Willcocks 1919-2015

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it

The president takes the Bread and the Cup and praises God for his gifts:

Blessed are you, Lord, God of the universe,
you bring forth bread from the earth.

Blessed be God for ever!

Blessed are you, Lord, God of the universe,
you create the fruit of the vine.

Blessed be God for ever!



All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.
We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.
In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

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 Hosts
Heaven and earth are full of
your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Please sit

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,

these gifts of bread and wine
 may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
 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.

Deacon Great is the mystery of faith:



And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
 his perfect sacrifice made once
 for the sins of the whole world;
 rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
 and looking for his coming in glory,
 we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
 As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
 we bring before you this bread and this cup
 and we thank you for counting us worthy
 to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
 and gather into one in your kingdom
 all who share this one bread and one cup,
 so that we, in the company of all the saints,
 may praise and glorify you for ever,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord;
 by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all honour and glory be yours,
 almighty Father, for ever and ever.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught 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.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

The president invites the people to receive the Holy Communion, saying:

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Communicant members of all Christian churches are welcome to receive Communion. The practice at the Cathedral is to receive the wafer in the hand; if you are concerned about drinking from the common cup, please take the wafer only – please do not dip your wafer in the cup. Gluten free wafers are available on request. If you do not wish to receive communion, you are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please hold this service book in your hands as an indication to the ministers.

CAROLS sung by the choir during Communion

As I sat on a sunny bank,
On Christmas Day in the morning,
I spied three ships come sailing by,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth did ring,
On Christmas Day in the morning,
For joy that our Saviour he was born,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And who should be with those three ships,
But Joseph and his fair lady!
O he did whistle, and she did sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Words: Traditional
Music: Peter Hurford 1930-2019

Away in a manger,
No crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing,
The baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus
No crying he makes,
I love thee, Lord Jesus,
Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side
Until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus;
I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever,
And love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
In thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven,
To live with thee there.

Words: Anonymous
Music: W. J. Kirkpatrick 1838-1921 arr. Sir David Willcocks 1919-2015

What star is this, burning so brightly,
Golden as sunlight, piercing the dark?
A shepherd boy looks at it in wonder,
Glorificamus Deum.

I give my ears to hear.
I give my hands to work
I give my heart that I might love.
Glorificamus Deum.

What King is this, bearing his treasure,
Led by the star from distant lands?
What child is this he comes to worship?
Glorificamus Deum.

The child is Christ, He is our Saviour,
Bringing His peace to all the earth.
Let us give thanks, and sing His praises,
Glorificamus Deum.

Angels sing his praises.
Wise men bow down before.
Shepherds kneel around his manger.
Come let us adore.

Words and Music: Annabel McLauchlan Rooney
b.1973

President God our Father,
 whose Word has come among us
 in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
 may the light of faith illuminate our hearts
 and shine in our words and deeds;
 through him who is Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**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.**

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

Hark! the herald-angels sing
 Glory to the new-born King,
 Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled.
 Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
 Join the triumph of the skies;
 With th'angelic host proclaim,
 Christ is born in Bethlehem.

*Hark, the herald angels sing
 Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
 Christ, the everlasting Lord,
 Late in time behold him come,
 Offspring of a virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see:
 Hail, th'incarnate Deity!
 Pleased as man with man to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel:

*Hark, the herald angels sing
 Glory to the new-born King.*

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
 Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings,
 Risen with healing in his wings.
 Mild he lays his glory by,
 Born that man no more may die,
 Born to raise the sons of earth,
 Born to give them second birth:

*Hark, the herald angels sing
 Glory to the new-born King.*

Words: Charles Wesley 1707-1788 and others
 Music: From a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy 1809-1847
 descant by Sir David Willcocks 1919-2015

President May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children. **Amen.**

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things
earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



ORGAN Toccata from Symphony No. 5 - Charles-Marie Widor 1844-1937

THE CHAPTER AND CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY AND JOYFUL CHRISTMAS

Festal Evensong: 4pm

<i>Brewer</i> in D	<i>Preces Radcliffe</i>
In Dulci Jubilo <i>Philip Moore</i>	Psalm 8, OH 104
Organ: Final from Symphony No. 1 <i>Vierne</i>	NEH 21, NEH 33

A retiring collection is taken in support of the following charities:



Ely Baby Bank is a charity that receives donations of baby-related items which are then sorted and displayed for families to freely select according to their needs. The charity also provides infant formula and nappies. The service is accessible to all members of the community and is offered entirely free of charge.

www.elybabybank.com Registered Charity No. 1214413



The Mothers' Union is a women-led, international Christian movement dedicated to ending poverty, violence and social injustice in communities in the UK and around the world. MU has four million members across over eighty countries and celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2026. We will be donating to the Ely Diocesan fund.

www.mothersunion.org Registered Charity No. 240531



The Friends of the Holy Land funds a mixture of sustainable and immediate relief work in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan. It works in partnership with key Christian denominations in its mission to secure a resilient and enduring community in the region.

www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk Registered Charity No. 1202568

CATHEDRAL CHOIR AUDITIONS

Do you know a child who could be singing in the Cathedral Choir next Christmas? We have spaces in Year 2-5: all choristers gain a generous 40% fee discount at King's Ely, an unrivalled musical education, and invaluable life-skills. Potential (rather than experience) is key, and we warmly invite boys and girls for an informal sing at any time in the new year, before auditions on Saturday 28 February.

For more information visit our website or email music@elycathedral.org

Sunday 28 December

10.30am Sung Eucharist

4pm Come and Sing Carols

Be part of the choir for an afternoon of favourite carols. This annual service is led by local singers and any other singers who happen to be visiting Ely and who would like to join them. Assemble under the Octagon at 2.15pm to rehearse.

The carol choices are selected from books 1 and 2 of Carols for Choirs. Some copies will be available to borrow on the day, but we have to rely on most people bringing their own books. All welcome.

Sunday 4 January

The Epiphany

10.30am Sung Eucharist

4pm Evensong

Saturday 10 January

5.30pm Choral Evensong

with Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*

Sunday 18 January

10.30am Sung Eucharist

4pm Epiphanytide Procession

Sunday 1 February

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

10.30am Choral Mattins

6pm Candlelit Sung Eucharist

Canon Jim Garrard RIP

The Funeral Service for Canon Garrard will take place in the Cathedral on Friday 9 January at 11.30am.

David Stazicker RIP

A Memorial Service for David Stazicker will be held in the Cathedral on Monday 26 January at 2.30pm.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory



Illustration: Debbie Bellaby