

CHICHESTER  
CATHEDRAL

**EASTER DAY  
CHORAL EVENSONG  
WITH BENEDICTION**

**SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026  
3.00PM**

For over 950 years, Chichester Cathedral has been a place of worship, welcome and community. Today, it costs us approximately £7,000 a day to maintain the Cathedral.

Chichester Cathedral does not receive any regular funding from government or from central church sources, and relies heavily on generous donations.

We kindly ask you to make a cash donation to the collection taken during this service. Whatever you give, whether large or small, will help to secure the future of this Cathedral.

If you do not have any cash, please scan the QR code below to donate online or tap to donate as you exit the Cathedral – our Stewards will be available to assist you.



Charity Name: Chichester Cathedral  
Charity Number: 1205740

# WELCOME

This booklet contains all you will need to follow the service. Please ask a Steward if you would like a large-print copy.

This service will be live-streamed and broadcast online via the Cathedral's website, YouTube channel and Facebook pages. Typically, services are made available for up to 48 hours, however this period may be longer for special recordings. For further information, please contact:

**[info@chichestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:info@chichestercathedral.org.uk)**

Photography, filming and audio recordings are not permitted during this service. Please ensure that mobile telephones are switched off or silenced.

An induction loop is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use this, please switch your hearing aid to 'T'.

Parents and caregivers are reminded that children remain in their care throughout this service and must not be left unattended or to wander around the Cathedral by themselves.

Toilets and baby-changing facilities can be accessed from the North Transept of the Cathedral. Children using these facilities must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.


In the event of an emergency please follow the direction of the Vergers and Stewards.

**[www.chichestercathedral.org.uk](http://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk)**

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*Please stand as the procession enters.*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN



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

The strife is o'er, the battle done;  
now is the Victor's triumph won;  
O let the song of praise be sung.  
*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,  
and Jesus hath his foes dispersed;  
let shouts of praise and joy outburst.  
*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

On the third morn he rose again  
glorious in majesty to reign;  
O let us swell the joyful strain.  
*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

He brake the age-bound chains of hell;  
the bars from heaven's high portals fell;  
let hymns of praise his triumph tell.  
*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee  
from death's dread sting thy servants free,  
that we may live, and sing to thee.**

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

NEH 119  
17<sup>th</sup>-century Latin  
tr. Francis Pott (1832-1909)

*Vulpus (Gelob't sei Gott)*  
Melody from *Vulpus' Gesangbuch* (1609)  
Harmony by Henry Ley (1887-1962)

## WELCOME

*The Dean*  
*The Very Reverend Dr Edward Dowler*

*Please remain standing as the cantor and choir sing*

## THE PRECES AND RESPONSES

○ Lord, open thou our lips.  
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

○ God, make speed to save us.  
○ 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.

*The Book of Common Prayer*

*Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)*

*Please sit. 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.

*Please stand as the choir sings the Gloria:*

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.

*Please sit.*

## THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

'I will rise now and go about the city, in the streets and in the squares; I will seek him whom my soul loves.' I sought him, but found him not. The sentinels found me, as they went about in the city. 'Have you seen him whom my soul loves?' Scarcely had I passed them, when I found him whom my soul loves. I held him, and would not let him go until I brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me. I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the wild does: do not stir up or awaken love until it is ready!

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of one's house, it would be utterly scorned.

*Song of Solomon 3: 2-5; 8: 6-7*

*Please stand. The choir sings the canticle*

## 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.

*Luke 1: 46-55*

*Jesus College Service - William Mathias (1934-1992)*

*Please sit.*

## THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest. His head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining with full force.

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, 'Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive for ever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades.'

*Revelation 1: 12-18*

*Please stand. The choir sings the canticle*

## 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.

*Remain standing to say together*

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

*All*    **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 PRECES AND RESPONSES

The Lord be with you.  
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

*Please 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.

○ Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.  
And grant us thy salvation.

○ Lord, save The King.  
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.  
And make thy chosen people joyful.

○ Lord, save thy people.  
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, ○ Lord.  
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, ○ God.

○ God, make clean our hearts within us.  
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

## 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.  
*Choir: 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.  
*Choir: 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.  
*Choir: Amen.*



He whose path no records tell,  
who descended into hell;  
who the strong man armed hath bound,  
now in highest heaven is crowned.

*Alleluia!*

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

*Alleluia!*

Thou, our Paschal Lamb indeed,  
Christ, today thy people feed;  
take our sins and guilt away,  
that we all may sing for ay,

*Alleluia!*

NEH 105

Michael Weisse (c. 1480-1534)

tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

Württemberg

Later form of a melody in

Hundert Arien (Dresden, 1694)

adapted by W. H. Monk (1823-1889)

***Please sit or kneel.*** Organ music is played as the Blessed Sacrament is brought from the Lady Chapel and placed on the High Altar.

## CHOIR

Ave verum corpus,  
natum de Maria Virgine,  
vere passum, immolatum  
in cruce pro homine:

*Hail, true Body, born of Mary,  
spotless Virgin's virgin birth;  
thou who truly hangedst weary  
on the cross for sons of earth;*

Cujus latus perforatum  
unda fluxit et sanguine,  
esto nobis praegustatum  
in mortis examine.

*thou whose sacred side was riven,  
whence the water flowed and blood,  
O may'st thou, dear Lord, be given  
at death's hour to be my food.*

14<sup>th</sup>-century words

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

*The Bishop introduces a period of silent meditation.*

HYMN - *remain seated or kneeling*



Therefore we, before him bending,  
this great Sacrament revere;  
types and shadows have their ending,  
for the newer rite is here;  
faith, our outward sense befriending,  
makes our inward vision clear.

Glory let us give and blessing  
to the Father and the Son,  
honour, might and praise addressing,  
while eternal ages run;  
ever too his love confessing,  
who, from Both, with Both is One.

NEH 268

*St Thomas Aquinas (1227-1274)  
tr. J. M. Neale (1818-1866) and others*

Grafton

*Chants Ordinaires de l'Office Divin (Paris, 1881)*

## COLLECT

*The Bishop sings*

Let us pray.

Blessed Lord,  
who in this wonderful sacrament  
hast given us the memorial of thy cross and passion;  
grant us so to venerate the sacred mysteries of thy body and blood,  
that we may evermore know within ourselves  
the fruits of our redemption;  
who livest and reingest with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
ever one God, world without end.

*All*    **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

*A triumphant fanfare sounds as the Bishop collects the Blessed Sacrament from the High Altar and offers Benediction to the congregation.*

## THE DIVINE PRAISES

*The Bishop leads the following responsory, with each line repeated by the congregation:*

Blessed be God.

Blessed be his holy name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.

Blessed be the name of Jesus.

Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be his most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be Saint Wilfrid, apostle to the South Saxons.

Blessed be Saint Richard, inspiring us to know, love and follow Jesus.

Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.

*The Blessed Sacrament is returned to the Lady Chapel as the choir sings*

## PSALM 117

○ praise the Lord, all ye heathen: praise him, all ye nations.

For his merciful kindness is ever more and more towards us:

and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise the Lord.

*Please stand as the procession departs.*

## CLOSING MUSIC

TOCCATA *from* ORGAN SYMPHONY No. 5

*Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)*

***All are invited to join us for refreshments after the service,  
which will be served in the South Transept.***

We hope that you have enjoyed today's service.  
A retiring collection to support the mission and ministry of  
Chichester Cathedral will be taken as you leave.  
Alternatively, you can scan this QR code to donate online.

