

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

SUNG EUCHARIST *with Imposition of Ashes*

ASH WEDNESDAY
WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2026
5.30PM

WELCOME

Welcome to Chichester Cathedral. We are delighted that you are joining us in worship today. If you would like to learn more about our life here or would like to become more closely associated with this community, please make yourself known to a member of the clergy after the service.

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

The celebrant at this service is The Dean, The Very Reverend Dr Edward Dowler, and the sung Mass Setting is the *Missa Secunda* by Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612). We are delighted to welcome With Cheerful Voice as our visiting choir leading the music at this service.

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

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

For over 950 years, Chichester Cathedral has been
a place of worship, welcome and community.
Now, in 2025, 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

ORDER OF SERVICE

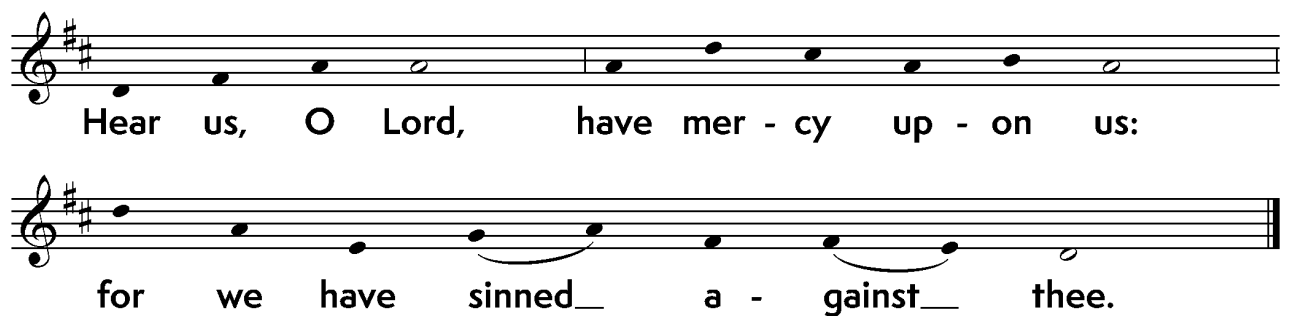
From 5.25pm, please maintain a prayerful silence in preparation for the service.

THE GATHERING

Please stand as the procession enters. The choir leads

THE LENT PROSE

Response sung first by the choir, then repeated by the congregation:



Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.

All **Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.**

To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory:
lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings:
listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.

All **Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.**

O thou chief Corner-stone, Right Hand of the Father:
Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial:
cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.

All **Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.**

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated:
bow down and hearken to thy weeping children:
pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.

All **Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.**

Sins oft committed now we lay before thee:
with true contrition, now no more we veil them:
grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.

All **Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.**

Innocent, captive, taken unresisting:
falsely accused and for us sinners sentenced,
save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer.

All **Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.**

THE GREETING

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

All **Amen.**

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

All **and also with you.**

INTRODUCTION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

The choir sings

KYRIE ELEISON

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
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.

All **Amen.**

Please sit.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near – a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain-offering and a drink-offering for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, 'Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?"'

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

THE GOSPEL READING

Please stand. The choir leads the Gospel Acclamation:



Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

All **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.
Harden not your hearts.

All **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

When the Gospel is announced, the reader says

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

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

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: 'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.’

‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

Please remain standing until invited to sit.

SERMON

*The Reverend Brian Cunningham
Custos, St Mary’s Hospital, Chichester*

THE LITURGY OF PENITENCE

SELF-EXAMINATION AND CONFESSION

Please stand. The president says

Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

God the Father,
All **have mercy upon us.**

God the Son,
All **have mercy upon us.**

God the Holy Spirit,
All **have mercy upon us.**

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,
All **have mercy upon us.**

From all evil and mischief;
from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred, and malice;
and from all evil intent,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

From sloth, worldliness, and love of money;
from hardness of heart
and contempt for your word and your laws,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

From sins of body and mind;
from the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

In all times of sorrow;
in all times of joy;
in the hour of death,
and at the day of judgement,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;
by your birth, childhood, and obedience;
by your baptism, fasting, and temptation,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

By your ministry in word and work;
by your mighty acts of power;
and by your preaching of the kingdom,
good Lord, deliver us.

By your agony and trial;
by your cross and passion;
and by your precious death and burial,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

By your mighty resurrection;
by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

Give us true repentance;
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance
and our deliberate sins;
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit
to amend our lives according to your holy word.
All **Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

Silence is kept.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The president says

Dear friends in Christ,
I invite you to receive these ashes
as a sign of the spirit of penitence
with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

God our Father,
you create us from the dust of the earth:
grant that these ashes may be for us
a sign of our penitence
and a symbol of our mortality;
for it is by your grace alone
that we receive eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All **Amen.**

The ashes are sprinkled with holy water.

The clergy and people receive the ashes – please sit until directed by the Stewards. At the imposition these words are addressed to each person:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

During the imposition of ashes, the choir sings Psalm 51:

Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness: according
to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences.
Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness: and cleanse me from my
sin.

For I acknowledge my faults: and my sin is ever before me.
Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that
thou mightest be justified in thy saying, and clear when thou art
judged.
Behold, I was shapen in wickedness: and in sin hath my mother
conceived me.
But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts: and shalt make me to
understand wisdom secretly.
Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: thou shalt
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness: that the bones which
thou hast broken may rejoice.
Turn thy face away from my sins: and put out all my misdeeds.
Make me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence: and take not thy holy Spirit
from me.
O give me the comfort of thy help again: and stablish me with thy
free Spirit.
Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked: and sinners shall be
converted unto thee.
Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of
my health: and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.
Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord: and my mouth shall shew thy praise.
For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee: but thou
delightest not in burnt-offering.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit: a broken and contrite heart,
O God, shalt thou not despise.
O be favourable and gracious unto Sion: build thou the walls of
Jerusalem.
Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with
the burnt-offerings and oblations: then shall they offer young
bullocks upon thine altar.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE PEACE

Please stand.

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

during which bread and wine are brought to the altar, and a cash collection is taken

Chichester Cathedral relies heavily on your generous donations. Whatever you give, whether large or small, helps us to maintain this special place and everything we offer. Other ways to donate are detailed at the front of this booklet.



Ah, holy Jesu, how hast thou offended,
that man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesu, hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesu, I it was denied thee,
I crucified thee.

Lo, the good Shepherd, for the sheep is offered;
the slave hath sinnèd, and the Son hath suffered;
for man's atonement, while he nothing heedeth,
God intercedeth.

For me, kind Jesu, was thy incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.

Therefore, kind Jesu, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,
not my deserving.

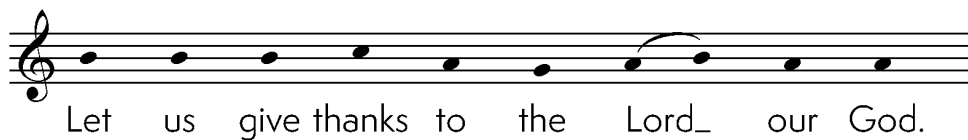
NEH 62

Robert Bridges (1844-1930)
from J. Heermann (1585-1647)

Herzliebster Jesu

Melody by J. Crüger (1598-1662)
Harmony by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER



It is indeed right and good
to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.
As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds
we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels
for ever praising you and singing:

The choir sings

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth,
pleni sunt caeli 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.*

The Eucharistic Prayer continues:

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

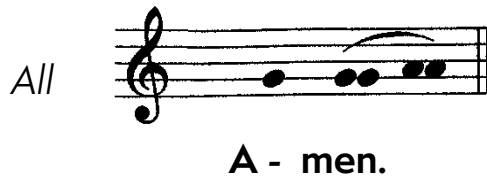
Christ is the bread of life:

All **When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.



Please remain standing.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All **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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup
All **we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

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

The president and people receive communion. Please sit until directed by the Stewards.

Members of all Christian churches are welcome to receive communion if they wish. Please indicate if you wish to receive a gluten-free wafer. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please come to the communion station and bow your head.

*After you have received communion, **please try to maintain a prayerful silence.***

During communion the choir sings

AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

THE MOTET

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts;
shut not thy merciful ears to our prayer;
but spare us, Lord most holy,
O God most mighty,
O holy and most merciful Saviour,
thou most worthy Judge eternal,
suffer us not, at our last hour,
for any pains of death, to fall from thee.
Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Please stand.

Almighty God,
you have given your only Son to be for us
both a sacrifice for sin
and also an example of godly life:
give us grace
that we may always most thankfully receive
these his inestimable gifts,
and also daily endeavour
to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

THE SENDING OUT

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN



Christian, dost thou hear them,
how they speak thee fair?
'Always fast and vigil?
Always watch and prayer?'
Christian, answer boldly,
'While I breathe, I pray:'
peace shall follow battle,
night shall end in day.

'Well I know thy trouble,
O my servant true;
thou art very weary,
I was weary too;
but that toil shall make thee
some day all mine own,
and the end of sorrow
shall be near my throne.'

Hymns Ancient and Modern (New Standard) 55
J. M. Neale (1818-1866)

St Andrew of Crete
J. B. Dykes (1823-1876)

CLOSING MUSIC

CHRISTUS, DER UNS SELIG MACHT BWV 620

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Please remain standing as the procession departs, and then sit for a period of quiet contemplation as the organ voluntary is played.

If you have not yet been able to make a donation, there will be an opportunity to donate either by cash or card as you leave (our Stewards will be available to assist you), or you can scan this QR code to donate online.



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The Book of Common Prayer (1662)

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