



Christ is Risen!

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT
THE EASTER VIGIL
THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF EASTER

Saturday 30th March 2024
8.00pm

MUSICAL SETTING

Missa brevis – *Grayston Ives* (b. 1948)

EASTER SERVICES

Sunday 31st March - Easter Day

11.15 am Festal Choral Eucharist
3.30 pm Festal Choral Evensong

Tuesday - Saturday in Easter Week

12 noon The Eucharist (said, in the Dean's Chapel)

Sunday 7th March - The Second Sunday of Easter (Low Sunday)

11.15 am Choral Eucharist
3.30pm Choral Evensong

Services sung by Lichfield Cathedral Choir

LIVE-STREAMING

This service is being live-streamed and recorded via www.churchservices.tv and YouTube. The camera is at the back of the Cathedral and covers the Nave, Crossing, Choir Stalls and High Altar. It does not cover the North and South Aisles, Dean's Chapel and Ambulatory. If you do not wish to appear on camera please consult the churchwardens/stewards and they will guide you to a seat out of shot.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Please ensure that all cellphones are switched off.
Photography of any kind is not permitted during the Service.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Cathedral is fitted with a Deaf Loop System. Those who have digital hearing aids should set them to "T". Large print copies of this order of service are available.

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THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

The Cathedral being in darkness, the ministers go in silence to the West Door, one of them carrying the unlit Easter candle.

All stand and face the West Door.

The Service of Light is introduced:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which through word and sacrament we share his victory over death.

As we await the risen Christ, let us light our Paschal Fire and hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past, and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer. Let us renew our commitment to walk in the light of his Resurrection as we renew our Baptismal vows and greet him in the Eucharist.

Let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

Once the Paschal fire is lit the following prayer is said:

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
set us aflame with the fire of your love,
and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

As the candle is marked the celebrant says

Christ yesterday and today,
the beginning and the end,
the Alpha and the Omega,
all time belongs to him, and all ages;
to him be glory and power,
though every age and for ever.

Amen.

As the incense studs are inserted

By his holy and glorious wounds
May Christ our Lord guard us and keep us.

Amen.

The Easter Candle is lit saying

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The Easter candle is brought into the Cathedral followed by the ministers, and they pause just inside the West Door.

The candle is raised and these words are sung:

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The procession of the Easter Candle moves further into the Cathedral, followed by the ministers, and stops twice on the way to its stand at the front of the nave.

The versicle and response are repeated each time, and the candles of those around are lit from the Easter Candle.

THE EXULTET is sung

THE VIGIL

The Vigil is introduced:

As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer; and let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

Sit for the

FIRST READING

Genesis 1.1-5, 26 – end

Stand to sing the

HYMN

Thou whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray
let there be light.

Thou who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind
let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move o'er the waters' face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in the earth's darkest place,
let there be light.

John Marriott (1780-1825)

PRAYER

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sit for the

SECOND READING

Genesis 3: 8-15

PSALM 51: 1-8

1. Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness:
according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.
2. Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness:
and cleanse me from my sin.
3. For I acknowledge my faults:
and my sin is ever before me.
4. Against you only have I sinned:
and done what is evil in your sight,
5. So that you are justified in your sentence:
and righteous in your judgement.
6. I have been wicked even from my birth:
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
7. Behold, you desire truth deep within me:
and shall make me understand wisdom in the depths of my heart.
8. Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean:
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil
and so make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THIRD READING

Exodus 3: 1-6

PSALM 27: 1-13

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?:
The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
2. When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,
came upon me to eat up my flesh:
they stumbled and fell.
3. Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid:
and though there rise up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him.
4. One thing have I asked of the Lord and that alone I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
5. To behold the fair beauty of the Lord:
and to seek his will in his temple.
6. For in the day of trouble he shall hide me in his shelter:
in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me
and set me high upon a rock.
7. And now shall he lift up my head:
above my enemies round about me;
8. Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness:
I will sing and make music to the Lord.
9. Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call:
have mercy upon me and answer me.
10. My heart tells of your word, 'Seek my face':
Your face, Lord, will I seek.
11. Hide not your face from me:
nor cast your servant away in displeasure.

12. You have been my helper:
leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.
13. Though my father and my mother forsake me:
the Lord will take me up.

PRAYER

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church
in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel
that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith
and active in service;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

FOURTH READING

Exodus 14: 10-end; 15: 1a

THE SONG OF MOSES AND MIRIAM

I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously:
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation:
this is my God and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a warrior: the Lord is his name.

Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea:
his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

The floods covered them: they went down to the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power:
Your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy.

You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own possession:
the place, O Lord, that you made your abode,
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hands have established.

The Lord will reign forever and ever.

PRAYER

Lord God our redeemer, who heard the cry of your people
and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery:
free us from the tyranny of sin and death
and, by the leading of your Spirit, bring us to our promised land;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIFTH READING

Isaiah 55: 1-11

Stand for

A SONG OF DELIVERANCE

Cantor

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

All sing the Refrain:

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Cantor

Behold, God is my salvation: I will trust and will not be afraid.

All sing the Refrain.

Cantor

For the Lord God is my strength and my song: and he has become my salvation.

All sing the Refrain.

Cantor

With joy you will draw water: from the wells of salvation.

All sing the Refrain.

Cantor

And you will say in that day: give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name.

All sing the Refrain.

Cantor

Make known his deeds among the nations: proclaim that his name is exalted.

All sing the Refrain.

Cantor

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously:

let this be known in all the earth.

All sing the Refrain.

Cantor

Shout and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Sion:

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

All sing the Refrain.

PRAYER

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Sit for the
SIXTH READING
Ezekiel 36: 24-28

Stand to sing the

HYMN

As pants the hart for cooling streams
when heated in the chase,
so longs my soul, O God, for thee,
and thy refreshing grace.

For thee, my God, the living God,
my thirsty soul doth pine:
O when shall I behold thy face,
thou majesty divine?

Why restless, why cast down, my soul?
Hope still, and thou shalt sing
the praise of him who is thy God,
thy health's eternal spring.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom we adore,
be glory, as it was, is now,
and shall be evermore. Amen.

Nahum Tate (1652-1715) and Nicholas Brady (1659-1726)
based on Psalm 42

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.
Guide and strengthen us by that same Spirit,
that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love,
and grow into the full stature of your Son Jesus Christ;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE EASTER CELEBRATION

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*The organ sounds, the lights are turned on, the High Altar candles are lit
and the service continues as the choir sings the*

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

THE COLLECT

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 6: 3-11

At the end the reader says:
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand to sing the

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

John 20: 1-18

When the Gospel is announced the reader says
Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Saint John,
chapter twenty, beginning at verse one.

All sing: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

At the end of the Gospel the reader says
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All sing: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sit for

THE SERMON

Rev. Martin Steele - *Dean's Vicar*

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

All proceed to the font as the choir sings

VIDI AQUAM

I saw water flowing from the right side of the temple, Alleluia. It brought God's life, and his salvation, and the people sang in joyful praise. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Words from Ezekiel 47; Music by Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)

The celebrant says

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism.

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness in to his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all proud rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life?

I come to Christ.

THE BLESSING OF THE WATER

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
it is right to give him thanks and praise.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptised in the river Jordan,
we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse and revive us.

Saving God, give us life.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea
you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the promised land.

Saving God, give us life.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death
you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

Saving God, give us life.

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Saving God, give us life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them.

Bring them to new birth in the household of faith and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life; for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Saving God, give us life.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The celebrant addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father creator of heaven and earth?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed mankind?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

The water is sprinkled over the people.

Almighty God,

we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those who have been baptized in your name.

Keep us faithful to our baptism,

and so make us ready for that day

when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you!' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia! The peace of the risen Lord be always with you.

And also with you. Alleluia!

THE HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY - CHECK WORDS

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy footmarks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone;
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.

John Bode (1816-1874)

CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Lord of life, with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise.
As we are fed with the bread of heaven may we know your resurrection power;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE
Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;
therefore let us celebrate the feast. *1 Cor. 5. 7,8*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, almighty and everliving God, at all times and in all places
it is right to give you thanks and praise;

But chiefly are we bound to praise you
because you raised your Son gloriously from the dead.
For he is the true paschal lamb who was sacrificed for us,
and has taken away the sin of the world.
By his death he has destroyed death,
and by his rising again he has restored to us everlasting life.

And so with all your people, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

The choir sings the **SANCTUS** *and* **BENEDICTUS**

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things;
you made us in your own image, male and female you created us;
even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us,
but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin,
giving your only begotten Son to become man
and suffer death on the cross to redeem us:
he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world:
he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue,
a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again:

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you,
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 when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them saying,
Drink this, all of you, for 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.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we do as Christ your Son commanded:

**we remember his passion and death,
we celebrate his resurrection and ascension,
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving;
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts,
grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit
that we may be made one in your holy Church
and partakers of the body and blood of your Son,
that he may dwell in us and we in him;

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, **Our Father ...**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Jesus says, I am the bread of life, whoever eats this bread will live for ever.
Lord, our hearts hunger for you; give us this bread always.

The choir sings **AGNUS DEI**

THE COMMUNION

Bread and wine, the gifts of God for the people of God.
May we who share these gifts be found in Christ, and Christ in us.

COMMUNION MOTET

Sicut cervus - Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c. 1525 - 1594)

THE GREAT SILENCE

GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Stand to sing the

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

Good Christian men, rejoice and sing!

Now is the triumph of our King:

To all the world glad news we bring:

Alleluya!

The Lord of Life is risen for ay:
Bring flowers of song to strew his way;
Let all mankind rejoice and say:
Alleluya!

Praise we in songs of victory
That love, that Life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluya!

Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluya!

Cyril Alington (1872-1955)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God of Life, who for our redemption
gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross,
and by his glorious resurrection
have delivered us from the power of our enemy:
grant us so to die daily to sin,
that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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

THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in the peace of the Risen Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Incantation pour un jour saint - *Jean Langlais (1907-1991)*

Please remain seated until the Organ Voluntary has ended.