



# The Easter Liturgy



**The Service of Light,  
the Liturgy of Initiation and  
the First Eucharist of Easter**

5<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, 6am

# Welcome to Coventry Cathedral

We are delighted that you have come to worship with us to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This Easter Liturgy is a modern form of ceremonies which date from the very beginning of the life of the Church.

Today's service is in three sections:

The Service of Light takes place in the Ruins. The Easter Candle is lit, symbolising the Light of Christ which even death was not able to put out. A version of the traditional *Exsultet* is sung: an ancient Easter song of praise to the risen Christ.

The Liturgy of Initiation recalls the early centuries of the Church's life, when new converts came for baptism at Easter. We welcome candidates for baptism and confirmation from across the diocese, and also renew our own baptism vows, recalling Paul's teaching that, as in baptism we died with Christ to sin, so we will rise with him to new life.

The Eucharist is always a celebration that the Lord is risen, and none more so than the Eucharist of Easter. The risen Lord Jesus comes among us, and we receive his life in order to live for him in the world.

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*The artwork on the cover is "Easter Morning" (circa 1818) by Johann Friedrich Overbeck (1789–1869), Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, Germany.*

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***Of your goodness, please pray for our candidates***

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Grace Buxton*            | St Andrew, Rugby                         |
| Derron Baily             | St Andrew, Rugby                         |
| Anita Annakesavan        | St Andrew, Rugby                         |
| Elizabeth Tasker         | St Nicholas with St Barnabas, Kenilworth |
| Elinor Griffiths         | St Nicholas with St Barnabas, Kenilworth |
| Sarah Jones              | St Martin-in-the-Field, Finham           |
| Wendy Foxwell            | St Martin-in-the-Field, Finham           |
| Michael Manda            | St George, Rugby                         |
| Future Manda             | St George, Rugby                         |
| Millicent Thandiwe Manda | St George, Rugby                         |
| Prosper Tinashe Manda    | St George, Rugby                         |
| Nieve Howe               | St Mary Magdalene, Lillington            |
| Gary Smith               | St Lawrence, Napton-on-the-Hill          |
| Britanny Potter          | St Lawrence, Napton-on-the-Hill          |
| Stewart Palmer           | St John Baptist, Berkswell               |
| James Tripp              | St Paul, Foleshill                       |
| Tarsem Lal               | St Paul, Foleshill                       |

*\*To be baptised*

# **The Service of Light**

*Before the service, the candidates meet the Bishop at the West Screen of the Cathedral whilst the congregation gathers in silence in the Ruins facing the Dais. The clergy and ministers enter the Ruins at 5.55am, escorting the Bishop and the candidates and their families.*

*The Right Reverend Sophie Jelley, Bishop of Coventry, presiding, greets the people and then says,*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light.

*Genesis 1:1*

*The Bishop says,*

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.**

## **The Easter Candle**

*The Very Reverend, John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry, sub-deacon, presents the Easter Candle to the Bishop, who traces on it a cross, the Greek letters alpha and omega, and the year 2026.*

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

*The Bishop inserts five grains of incense into the Easter Candle, saying,*

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

**Amen.**

## **The Presentation of the Candidate**

*The Bishop invites Grace to step forward and asks her,*

Do you wish to be baptized?

**It is.**

*The Bishop invites the candidates for confirmation who have been baptized to step forward. She asks,*

Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

**I have.**

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

**I am.**

*The Bishop addresses the whole congregation:*

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome this candidate and uphold her in her new life in Christ?

**With the help of God, we will.**

## **The Decision**

*Standing before the Easter Candle, the Bishop says to Grace, those to be confirmed and to all who wish to renew their baptismal vows,*

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. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all 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.**

*The Bishop lights the Easter Candle and says,*

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

*The Bishop says,*

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous  
light. Therefore I ask:

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.**

## **Signing with the Cross**

*The Bishop signs the cross on Grace's forehead.*

Grace, Christ claims you for his own.  
Receive the sign of his cross.

*The Bishop says,*

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.  
**Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ  
against sin, the world and the devil,  
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,  
restore in you the image of his glory,  
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **Amen.**

The Easter Candle is raised, and the sub-deacon says and everyone responds:

The light of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

This dialogue is repeated several times, rising in volume each time, as the deacon, bearing the Easter Candle, leads everyone into the New Cathedral to **STAND** amongst the rows of seats facing the font.

The Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for worship and welcome, deacon, begins to sing the *Exsultet*, during which the ministers light their candles from the Easter Candle and then share the light with the congregation. We join in the singing as indicated in bold.

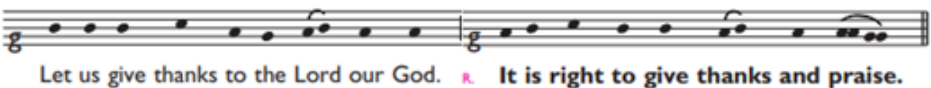
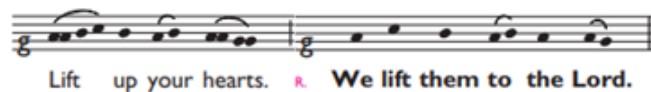
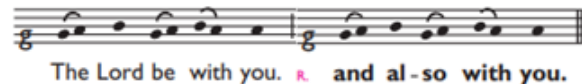
## The Exsultet

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!  
O Universe, dance around God's throne!  
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!  
Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in glory, revealing the splendour of your creation,  
radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!  
Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you!  
Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!  
The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you!  
Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.

The deacon continues, and everyone replies:



It is right and good that with hearts and minds and voices  
we should praise you, Father almighty, the unseen God,  
through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who has saved us by his death,  
paid the price of Adam's sin,  
and reconciled us once again to you.  
For this is the Passover feast,  
when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain,  
whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.  
This is the day when you first saved our ancestors,  
freeing Israel from her slavery  
and leading her safely through the sea.  
This is the day when Jesus Christ vanquished hell,  
broke the chains of death  
and rose triumphant from the grave.  
This is the day when all who believe in him are freed from sin,  
restored to grace and holiness,  
and share the victory of Christ.  
This is the day that gave us back what we had lost;  
beyond our deepest dreams  
you made even our sin a happy fault.  
Crowning glory of all feasts!  
Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away,  
lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.  
Night truly blessed, when hatred is cast out,  
peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth  
and all creation reconciled to you.  
Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy  
accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering,  
this wax, the work of bees and the hands of your ministers.  
As we gaze upon the splendour of this flame  
fed by melting wax conceived by mother bee,  
grant that this Easter Candle may make our darkness light.  
For Christ the morning star has risen in glory;  
Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love still burns within us!  
Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world!  
Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever!



A - men.

## The Easter Acclamation

*After a short period of silence, the Bishop says,*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*Everyone responds:*

**He is risen indeed!**

**Alleluia!**

*At this point, the organist plays a paean of praise, the Peace Bell is rung continually, and the Cathedral is flooded with light. After extinguishing your candles, please clap, cheer, dance, sing and let off party poppers with all the enthusiasm you can muster to celebrate the risen Christ!*

## The Collect

*When the organist has concluded, and the Bell ceases to be rung, the Bishop says,*

God of glory,

by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell:

fill your Church with faith and hope;

for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open.

**Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Old Testament Reading

*We SIT to hear the Old Testament reading, given by the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry, sub-deacon.*

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness?"

What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, “Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians”? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.’ But Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.’

Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.’

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, ‘Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.’

Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.’

So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:  
'Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.'

*Exodus 14:10 – end, 15:20 – 21*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel**

*We STAND to sing:*

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

*The Reverend Canon Nitano Muller, deacon, says,*

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

**Alleluia! Glory to you, O Lord!**

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow.

<sup>4</sup> For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”.

*Matthew 28: 1-10*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Alleluia! Praise to you, O Christ!**

*We sing:*

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
who endured the Cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

*CP 147 Easter Hymn Lyra Davidica 1708 and others*

## **The Sermon**

*The Right Reverend Sophie Jelley, Bishop of Coventry, prays and then we SIT.  
Silence is kept at the end for reflection.*

## **The Liturgy of Initiation**

*The Bishop and other ministers move to the Font. The Bishop invites  
everyone to STAND.*

### **Prayer over the Water**

*The President says,*

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 thanks and praise.**

*The president stretches her hands over the water and says,*

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ  
was baptized 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!**

Let this water remind us that in our baptism  
we have been made one with Christ  
in his death and in his resurrection,  
and have been cleansed and delivered from all sin.  
**Saving God, give us life!**

Grant that we who have been brought to new birth  
by water and the Spirit  
may be raised with Christ to full and eternal life;  
for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours,  
now and for ever.  
**Saving God, give us life!**  
**Alleluia! Amen!**

## **Profession of Faith**

*The Bishop says to everyone,*

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?  
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

## **Baptism**

*The Bishop pours water on each candidates head, saying,*

*NN, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and  
of the Holy Spirit.*

**Amen.**

*Then the Bishop and attending deacons sprinkle the whole congregation with  
water as a reminder of the sacrament of baptism in which all Christians  
share.*

*Everyone then says:*

**Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the  
household of faith with all who have been baptized into  
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.**

## Welcome

*The Bishop says,*

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:  
by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.  
**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;  
we are children of the same heavenly Father;  
we welcome you.**

## Confirmation

*The candidates for confirmation come forward and stand in front of the Bishop and are joined by those presenting them. The Bishop says,*

Our help is in the name of the Lord  
**who has made heaven and earth.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord  
**now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Bishop extends her hands towards those to be confirmed and says,*  
Almighty and ever-living God,  
you have given these your servants new birth  
in baptism by water and the Spirit,  
and have forgiven them all their sins.  
Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;  
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;  
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;  
and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord.  
**Amen.**

*Members of the congregation are encouraged to pray quietly for all the candidates.*

*The Bishop goes to each candidate in turn and anoints them with holy oil, saying,*

N, God has called you by name and made you his own.

*She then lays hands on each candidate and continues,*  
Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*The Bishop then leads the congregation in this prayer:*

Defend, O Lord, these your servants  
**with your heavenly grace,**  
**that they may continue yours for ever,**  
**and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more,**  
**until they come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.**

## ***The Liturgy of the Eucharist***

### **The Peace**

*The Bishop introduces 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.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you  
**and also with you. Alleluia.**

*The deacon says,*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Everyone shares an appropriate sign of peace.*

### **Hymn**

*We remain STANDING to sing. During the hymn we follow the cross to the front of the Nave, taking our places amongst the rows of seats at the front.*

**Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,**  
**endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;**  
**angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,**  
**kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.**

***Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,***  
***endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.***

**Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;**  
**lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;**  
**let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,**  
**for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;  
life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors through thy deathless  
love;  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:**

*Words by E.L. Budry (1854-1932) translated by R.B. Hoyle (1875-1939)  
Tune CP 160 Maccabaeus G.F. Handel (1685-1759)*

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

*The Bishop says,*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

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

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

We give you thanks and praise  
for the Gospel we have received.  
Christ died for our sins. Alleluia!  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Death comes to all through Adam,  
and sin reigns for a time.  
New life without end comes through Christ,  
and he reigns for ever. Alleluia!  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?  
Death is swallowed up in victory,  
the victory you give us in Christ. Alleluia!  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

We have been crucified with Christ, and live his risen life,  
to praise you for ever with angels and archangels:

Everyone sings:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho ly, ho ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes, comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Bishop continues,*

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.

*The deacon says,*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus.

*and everyone responds:*

**Dying you destroyed our death.  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

*The Bishop continues,*

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:

*Everyone says:*

**Alleluia! Amen!**

## The Lord's Prayer

*The Bishop says,*

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

*The Bishop breaks the consecrated bread.*

Lord, we died with you on the cross.

**Now we are raised to new life.**

We were buried in your tomb.

**Now we share in your resurrection.**

Lord, our hearts hunger for you.

**Give us this bread always.**

## The Invitation to Communion

*The Bishop says,*

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

## **The Giving of Communion**

*Please wait in your seat to be directed by a churchwarden or steward. Those who do not intend to receive Communion, but would prefer to receive a blessing, are asked to carry this booklet with them as an indication of your preference. If you wish to receive gluten-free bread, please ask and we will be happy to accommodate you.*

### **Hymn**

**Jesus lives! thy terrors now  
can, O death, no more appal us;  
Jesus lives! by this we know  
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.  
Alleluia.**

**Jesus lives! henceforth is death  
but the gate of life immortal:  
this shall calm our trembling breath,  
when we pass its gloomy portal.  
Alleluia.**

**Jesus lives! for us he died;  
then, alone to Jesus living,  
pure in heart may we abide,  
glory to our Saviour giving.  
Alleluia.**

**Jesus lives! our hearts know well  
naught from us his love shall sever;  
life nor death nor powers of hell  
tear us from his keeping ever.  
Alleluia.**

**Jesus lives! to him the throne  
over all the world is given:  
may we go where he is gone,  
rest and reign with him in heaven.  
Alleluia.**

*Words by C.F. Gellert (1715-1769)  
translated by Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812-1897)  
Tune CP 148 St Albinus by H.J. Gauntleay (1805-1876)*

# ***The Dismissal***

## **Commission**

*The Bishop invites the congregation to join the candidates in saying:*

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.  
Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil,  
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example  
the good news of God in Christ?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,  
loving your neighbour as yourself?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,  
by prayer for the world and its leaders,  
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

**With the help of God, I will.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,  
that you may be rooted and grounded in love  
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The candidates are invited to come and receive a lighted candle.*

*The Bishop says,*

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has  
given us a place with the saints in light. You have received the  
light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

**Shine as a light in the world  
to the glory of God the Father.**

We *STAND* to sing:

**Christ triumphant, ever reigning,  
Saviour, Master, King!  
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,  
hear us as we sing:  
*Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name.***

**Word incarnate, truth revealing,  
Son of Man on earth!  
power and majesty concealing  
by your humble birth:  
*Yours the glory...***

**Suffering servant, scorned, ill - treated,  
victim crucified!  
death is through the cross defeated,  
sinners justified:  
*Yours the glory...***

**Priestly king, enthroned for ever  
high in heaven above!  
sin and death and hell shall never  
stifle hymns of love:  
*Yours the glory...***

**So, our hearts and voices raising  
through the ages long,  
ceaselessly upon you gazing,  
this shall be our song:  
*Yours the glory...***

*Words by Michael Seward (1932-2015)  
Tune CP 398 Guiting Power by John Barnard (1948-)*

## The Blessing

*The Bishops says:*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*The Bishop continues,*

God the Father,  
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,  
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.  
**Alleluia! Amen!**

God the Son,  
who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,  
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.  
**Alleluia! Amen!**

God the Holy Spirit,  
whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,  
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.  
**Alleluia! Amen!**

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

*The deacon says,*

With the risen life of Christ within you,  
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## The Organ Voluntary

*Please do stay and enjoy the organ voluntary, played by Joe Watson, Acting Director of Music.*

*The Prince of Denmark's March by Jeremiah Clarke (c.1674–1707).*

We invite those joining us for worship to contribute to the costs of mission at the Cathedral. Please use the cash or contactless donation points, or the QR code below. This will take you to the Cathedral's page for the Parish giving Scheme which will enable you to make a one-off donation, or set up a regular gift should you wish. Thank you so much for your support and generosity.



If you would like to revisit this morning's sermon, please visit this page:  
<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/worship-music/services/sermons>

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### **Daily Services at the Cathedral:**

Regular services at the Cathedral follow this pattern. For special services and up-to-date information about one-off cancellations of the services below, please check the calendar on the Cathedral website:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/full-calendar>

#### **Monday - Friday**

8:30 – 9:00am: *Morning Prayer & Holy Communion*

12 – 12:10pm: *The Litany of Reconciliation*

*(followed on Thursdays by BCP Holy Communion)*

4 – 4:30pm: *Evening Prayer*

*(or Wednesday and Thursday during school terms: Choral Evensong, 5:15 - 6pm)*

#### **Saturday**

12 – 12:10pm: *The Litany of Reconciliation*

#### **Sunday**

10:30 – 11:45am: *The Cathedral Eucharist*

4 – 5pm: *Choral Evensong*

## **JOINING OUR CHOIRS**

Boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 11 are welcome to audition for our Cathedral Choir. Do you know a child who loves to sing?

There are many benefits to joining the choir – new friends, a free, world-class music education, choir pay, singing services and at special events in amazing places, choir tours, broadcasts, recordings and social events too. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining the choir, please be in touch with the Acting Director of Music to arrange a meeting. Email:

[Music.Administrator@CoventryCathedral.org.uk](mailto:Music.Administrator@CoventryCathedral.org.uk)

### ***Our Cathedral Chamber Choir***

Our Cathedral Chamber Choir sing voluntarily at various services throughout the year and are currently open for auditions on all voice parts. Rehearsals usually take place on occasional Thursday evenings in the lead up to a service. If you would be interested in joining our Chamber Choir, please get in touch with Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music, for an audition.

Email: [Liam.Condon@coventry.anglican.org](mailto:Liam.Condon@coventry.anglican.org)

### ***Coventry Cathedral Chorus***

The Chorus is one of the Midlands' leading amateur choirs, bringing together around 60 singers to perform a wide range of choral music in and beyond Coventry. Founded shortly after the consecration of Coventry Cathedral in 1963, the Chorus continues a rich tradition of singing in notable venues across the UK and Europe.

Rehearsals take place at the Cathedral on Tuesday evenings, 7.15–9.30pm. New singers are always welcome. To find out more or arrange to attend a rehearsal, visit [coventrycathedralchorus.com](http://coventrycathedralchorus.com) or contact the Membership Secretary at

[membership@coventrycathedralchorus.com](mailto:membership@coventrycathedralchorus.com). Follow Coventry Cathedral Chorus on Facebook and [@CovCathChorus](#) on X.

## Safeguarding at Coventry Cathedral

We are committed to the safeguarding of all people. For details, please visit <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/safeguarding>

Our Safeguarding Team are:



**Canon Kate**  
Chapter  
Safeguarding  
Lead



**Jane Williams**  
Cathedral  
Community  
Safeguarding  
Officer



**Jo Brake**  
Safeguarding  
Lead for Policy  
and Process

You can report a concern to our Safeguarding Team by emailing [cathedral.safeguarding@coventrycathedral.org.uk](mailto:cathedral.safeguarding@coventrycathedral.org.uk) or phoning 02476 52 1360

Alternatively, you can contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team led by Sarah Price by phoning 024 7652 1345 or emailing [safeguarding@coventry.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@coventry.anglican.org)

### INEQE Survey & Audit

The Cathedral welcomes the INEQE Audit as an opportunity to learn. We want to understand how we can continue to improve our safeguarding culture and practice and keep everyone safe. You can help with this learning by completing an INEQE survey. We want to hear from as many voices as possible. The surveys are completed online. You can use the QR Code or go to: <https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/coventry/> You are welcome to complete more than one survey e.g. if you are a congregation member AND a victim or survivor, you are welcome to complete both surveys. If you would like to feedback to INEQE, but cannot complete the survey, there is more information about how to do that at the bottom of the webpage. If you would like to complete a survey, but don't have a computer or smartphone, ask us and we can help.



## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Cathedral AGM**

*Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April, immediately following the Eucharist in JLC*

In advance of this anyone that considers the Cathedral to be their place of worship is encouraged to join the Electoral Roll so that they might take part in proceedings, as well as be nominated for any of the roles that require the meeting's approval. At the meeting we will be approving the roles of Churchwarden, members of the Deanery Synod, and members of St. Michael's Committee. Have a chat with Canon Kate or Canon Nitano if you want to know more about what the roles entail.

### **Dean John's Farewell Celebration**

As we prepare to give thanks for Dean John's ministry among us, all members of the congregation are warmly invited to his Farewell Do on Saturday, 9 May at 7pm. This will be a joyful moment to gather, share stories, and offer our appreciation for his leadership and friendship.



Dean John's final Eucharist service will be on Sunday, 17 May at 10.30am and his final Choral Evensong at 4pm, where he will preach and preside. If you wish to attend either or both of these, please scan this QR code to register your attendance.

There are lists at the back of the nave, should you prefer to register that way. We hope many of you will join us for this special occasion.



## **EASTER AT THE CATHEDRAL**

### **Cathedral Festal Eucharist**

**Today, 10.30am**

*A joyful celebration of the resurrection with word, sacrament and song, with Bishop Sophie Jelley preaching.*

### **Festal Choral Evensong**

**Today, 4pm**

*The Easter Day story is crowned with choral prayer and praise as the light of Resurrection lingers into the evening.*

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***On behalf of Bishop Sophie, Dean John and the Cathedral Chapter, we wish you and your loved ones a Blessed and Holy Easter. Christ is risen, Alleluia!***