

Choral Evensong

Sunday 24th August, 2025

The Feast of Saint Bartholomew

Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by Donald Parr, Cathedral Reader. The Reverend Gillian Roberts will be preaching. We are grateful to the choir of Saint Thomas' Episcopal Church, Medina, Washington, USA, who will lead our worship today. They are joined by their Rector, the Reverend Liz Costello. The choir are directed by Paul Meier and the organist is Douglas Cleveland. The responses are those by Richard Ayleward (1626 – 1669).

Psalm 119:49-56

49. O think upon thy servant, as concerning thy word ♦
wherein thou hast caused me to put my trust.
50. The same is my comfort in my trouble ♦
for thy word hath quickened me.
51. The proud have had me exceedingly in derision ♦
yet have I not shrunk from thy law.
52. For I remembered thine everlasting judgements, O Lord ♦
and received comfort.
53. I am horribly afraid ♦
for the ungodly that forsake thy law.
54. Thy statutes have been my songs ♦
in the house of my pilgrimage.
55. I have thought upon thy Name, O Lord, in the night-season ♦
and have kept thy law.
56. This I had ♦
because I kept thy commandments.

The First Lesson

⁸ Go now, write it before them on a tablet,
and inscribe it in a book,
so that it may be for the time to come
as a witness for ever.

⁹ For they are a rebellious people,
faithless children,
children who will not hear
the instruction of the LORD;
¹⁰ who say to the seers, 'Do not see';
and to the prophets, 'Do not prophesy to us what is right;
speak to us smooth things,
prophesy illusions,
¹¹ leave the way, turn aside from the path,
let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel.'
¹² Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel:
Because you reject this word,
and put your trust in oppression and deceit,
and rely on them;
¹³ therefore this iniquity shall become for you
like a break in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse,
whose crash comes suddenly, in an instant;
¹⁴ its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel
that is smashed so ruthlessly
that among its fragments not a sherd is found
for taking fire from the hearth,
or dipping water out of the cistern.
¹⁵ For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel:
In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.
But you refused ¹⁶ and said,
'No! We will flee upon horses'—
therefore you shall flee!
and, 'We will ride upon swift steeds'—
therefore your pursuers shall be swift!
¹⁷ A thousand shall flee at the threat of one,
at the threat of five you shall flee,
until you are left
like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain,
like a signal on a hill.
¹⁸ Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you;
therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you.

For the LORD is a God of justice;
blessed are all those who wait for him.

¹⁹ Truly, O people in Zion, inhabitants of Jerusalem, you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when he hears it, he will answer you. ²⁰ Though the Lord may give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself any more, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. ²¹ And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'

Isaiah 30:8-21

The Magnificat

Magnificat in A Major by Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

The Second Lesson

¹ Now it is not necessary for me to write to you about the ministry to the saints, ² for I know your eagerness, which is the subject of my boasting about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year; and your zeal has stirred up most of them. ³ But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you may not prove to have been empty in this case, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be; ⁴ otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—in this undertaking. ⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you, and arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised, so that it may be ready as a voluntary gift and not as an extortion.

⁶ The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having

enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹ As it is written,

‘He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness^[9] endures for ever.’

¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹² for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9

The Nunc Dimittis

Nunc Dimittis in A Major by Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

The Collect of the Day

O Almighty and everlasting God, who didst give to thine Apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach thy Word: Grant, we beseech thee, unto thy Church, to love that Word which he believed, and both to preach and receive the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Anthem

All wisdom cometh from the Lord, and is with him for ever. Who can number the sand of the sea and the drops of rain and the days of eternity? Who can find out the height of the heaven, and the breadth of the earth and the deep and wisdom. Wisdom hath been created before all things and the understanding of prudence from everlasting. The word of God most high is the fountain of wisdom, and her ways are everlasting commandments. To whom hath the root of wisdom been revealed? Or who hath known her wise counsels? There is one wise and greatly to be feared, the Lord sitting upon his throne. He created her, and saw her and numbered her, and poured her out upon all his works. She is with all flesh according to his gifts, and he hath given her to them that love him. The fear of the Lord is honour and glory and gladness, and a crown of rejoicing. The fear of the Lord maketh a merry heart and bringeth joy and gladness and a long life. Teach me O Lord the way of thy statutes: and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding and I shall keep thy law; yea I shall keep it with my whole heart. Make me to go in the way of thy commandments: for therein is my desire. O stablish thy word in thy servant that I may fear thee. Behold my delight is in thy commandments: O quicken me in thy righteousness.

Words from Ecclesiasticus 1: 1-6, 8-12, Psalm 119: 33-35, 38-40

Music by Philip Moore (b. 1943)

The Hymn

**Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength that we may ever
live our lives courageously.**

**Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.**

**Not for ever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.**

**Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wanderings be our guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.**

*Words by Love Maria Willis (1824-1908)
Tune CP 416 Sussex English traditional melody
adapted by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

Voluntary

Please do stay for the organ voluntary, performed by Douglas Cleveland.

Prelude in C Major by Edward Bairstow (1874-1946).

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Thank you for your support.



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: BCP Evening Prayer (*Choral Evensong during term time*)

JOINING OUR CHOIRS

Do you know a child who loves to sing? Boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 10 are welcome to audition for the Cathedral Boys' and Girls' Choirs. They sing an average of four times per week during term time in recordings, services and concerts. Children receive a world-class music education completely free and even receive scholarship payments. Please get in touch with the Director of Music to learn more:

rachel.mahon@coventrycathedral.org.uk

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We are committed to the safeguarding of all people. For details, please visit www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding

You can report a concern using the same link or by contacting Jane Williams, Cathedral Safeguarding Officer, calling 024 7650 2349 or by emailing janeMLWill@aol.com

Alternatively, you can contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team led by Sarah Price: 024 7652 1345 or safeguarding@coventry.anglican.org

COMING SOON

Summer Organ Recital Series

Monday, 25th August, 12:30pm

Our 2025 summer organ recital series continues with a recital from
Alexander Finch.

J.S. Bach - Pièce d'Orgue BWV 572

A.Guilmant - Marche Funèbre et Chant Séraphique

D.Bourgeois - Serenade

F. Liszt - Fantasia and Fugue 'Ad nos, ad salutarem undam'

Adagio - Allegro deciso – Fuga

Details of the rest of the series can be found here:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/worship-music/the-organ/organ-recitals>

Cathedral's Summer Holiday Program

Theme: "All our Feelings"

Bring your little ones to the Cathedral over the summer to explore all we have to offer through games, crafts and fun activities for the family.

Let's Play! Together and Alone

28th August, 10.30am-12pm

FREE Games, Crafts and Activities

Our Director of Music at the BBC Proms

Thursday, 28th August, 7:30pm, BBC Radio 3

Rachel will be playing Saint-Saëns's 'Organ' Symphony at the Royal Albert Hall alongside the BBC Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Marie Jacquot.

Funeral of Canon John Randall

Friday, 5th September

The funeral will be held at 2pm at Saint Mark's Church, Bilton, Rugby, and then at 3pm at Rainsbrook Crematorium, Ashlawn Road, Rugby.