

Evening Prayer for Palm Sunday

*with sacred music for meditation and devotion
from Tallis's Lamentations of Jeremiah*
29th March 2026, 4pm

Welcome to Coventry Cathedral

During the season of Lent, our usual pattern of Choral Evensong gives way on these Sundays to a quieter form of Evening Prayer, shaped by music offered by the Cathedral Choir. In these weeks, sacred music becomes a companion to the liturgy, helping us to listen more deeply to scripture and to the still, small voice of God.

The music you will hear this evening is offered not as a performance but as prayer. Through the gift of sung prayer, the Choir carries the words of faith, lament, hope, and devotion on behalf of us all. You are warmly invited simply to rest in the beauty of the music, to allow the words and harmonies to speak to the heart, and to be held by the rhythm of prayer that has echoed in cathedrals and churches for centuries.

Whether you come in faith, curiosity or quiet seeking, may this time of prayer and music offer space for reflection, peace and a deeper awareness of God's presence among us.

The Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister, is presiding. The Lay Clerks are directed by Joe Watson, Acting Director of Music. The organists are Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music and Adam Heron, Organ Scholar.

The image on the front cover is 'Prophet Jeremiah' (1508-1512), painted by Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni (1475-1564), Sistine Chapel ceiling, Apostolic Palace, Vatican City.

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The Congregation are invited to be seated in the stalls in the chancel.

Introduction

The Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister, presiding, says;

Dearly beloved in Christ,
in this holy season of Lent we are called again to walk with our Lord in the way of penitence, renewal, and hope. This evening's service gives place for a time of listening and stillness; wherein sacred music shall be our teacher and our prayer.

For music has ever served the Church not only to adorn our worship, but to deepen it: to give voice to grief we cannot name, to longing we scarcely understand, and to the promise of redemption set before us in Christ Jesus.

Tonight, we are invited to listen and to dwell: to let these sacred sounds of our worship shape our thoughts, still our hearts, and draw us more fully into the mystery of these days that lead us towards Holy Week and the Cross.


This evening, within our prayer, the Choir offers Thomas Tallis's *Lamentations of Jeremiah*. These ancient words were first sung in a time of devastation, giving voice to the grief of a people who had seen their city laid waste and their hopes undone.

Let us therefore keep silence before the Lord,
and receive this offering of music as prayer,
that our hearts may be prepared for the passion of Christ.
and our lives renewed in his mercy.

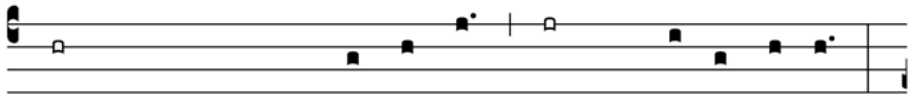
We keep a moment of silence.

Opening Responses


We *STAND*. All join in singing;



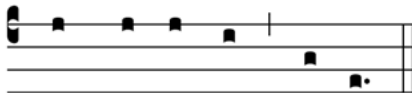
God, come to our aid. O Lord, make haste to help us.



Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit,



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and e-ver shall be,



world without end. A-men.

We *SIT*.

Psalm 80

1. Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep ♦
shew thyself also, thou that sittest upon the cherubims.
2. Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasses ♦
stir up thy strength, and come, and help us.
3. Turn us again, O God ♦
shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.
4. O Lord God of hosts ♦
how long wilt thou be angry with thy people that prayeth?
5. Thou feedest them with the bread of tears ♦
and givest them plenteousness of tears to drink.
6. Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbours ♦
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7. Turn us again, thou God of hosts ♦

shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

8. Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt ♦
thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.

9. Thou madest room for it ♦
and when it had taken root it filled the land.

10. The hills were covered with the shadow of it ♦
and the boughs thereof were like the goodly cedar-trees.

11. She stretched out her branches unto the sea ♦
and her boughs unto the river.

12. Why hast thou then broken down her hedge ♦
that all they that go by pluck off her grapes?

13. The wild boar out of the wood doth root it up ♦
and the wild beasts of the field devour it.

14. Turn thee again, thou God of hosts, look down from heaven ♦
behold, and visit this vine;

15. And the place of the vineyard that thy right hand hath planted ♦
and the branch that thou madest so strong for thyself.

16. It is burnt with fire, and cut down ♦
and they shall perish at the rebuke of thy countenance.

17. Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand ♦
and upon the son of man, whom thou madest so strong for thine own
self.

18. And so will not we go back from thee ♦
O let us live, and we shall call upon thy Name.

19. Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts ♦
shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

Reading

The president reads from the precentor's stall.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

³³ 'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' ⁴¹They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

⁴² Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes"?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Matthew 21:33-End.

Here ends the lesson.

We *STAND*. The choir sing;

Magnificat, Tone I

My soul doth magnify the Lord ♦
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded ♦
the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth ♦
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me ♦
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him ♦
throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm ♦
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat ♦
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things ♦
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel ♦
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

We *SIT* or *KNEEL*. The president says,

Father, we remember how your Son Jesus turned towards suffering and death. When we face suffering, give us grace to accept it through the power of your Spirit and knowing that this is a path that He himself has trodden.

We pray for your Church throughout the world: for our Bishop, Sophie; for all the people, communities and churches of this Diocese. As the disciples who followed Jesus to the cross later became the foundation of your Church, so bring into our fellowship a varied company who will look to you for inspiration, guidance and help in building your Body, in our generation and in this place.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

As we think of the actions of those in power during the time of our Lord, we pray for all those who exercise power today, and those whose hearts are hardened by the making of difficult decisions that affect the lives of others. We pray for world leaders, especially those in situations of conflict or unrest. As we reflect too on the fickle nature of the crowds who welcomed Jesus on Palm Sunday, we ask for constancy in the commitment to justice and truth.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We hold before you all who are sick or in any kind of need. Bless our families, friends and neighbours, both near and far, especially those in need of any kind whom we name before you in the silence of our hearts... Hold them in your loving arms, and be with them always.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We thank you now for the lives of those who have died. Give hope and faith to the dying and the bereaved, gentleness to all who minister to them, and confidence that nothing can separate us or them from your love.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

In communion with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Michael and all the saints, let us commend the world to the mercy and protection of God.

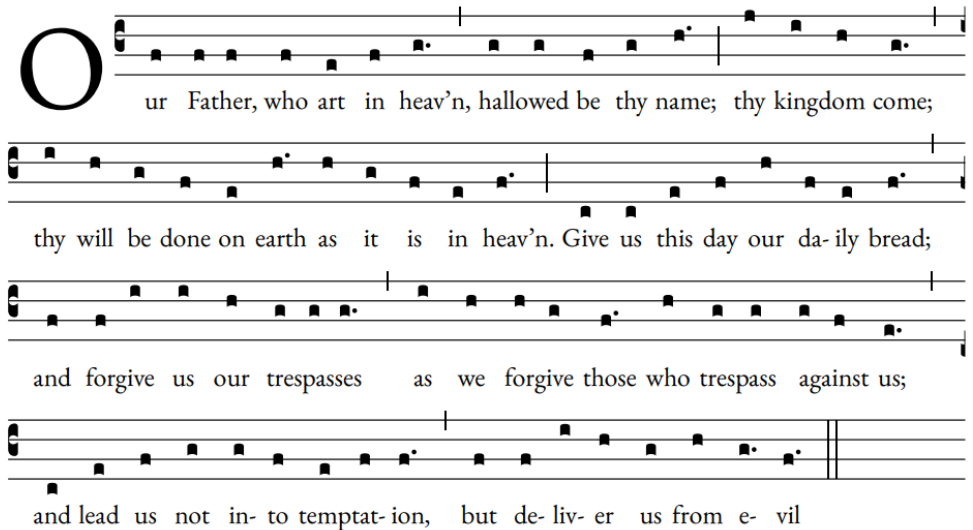
Silence

The Lord's Prayer

The president says;

Gathering our prayers into one,
as Christ has taught, we are bold to pray:

All join in singing;



Our Father, who art in heav'n, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heav'n. Give us this day our da-ily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not in- to temptat-ion, but de- liv- er us from e- vil

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.



A- men.

Introduction to the sacred music meditation

The president says;

Friends in Christ, as our prayer continues, the Choir now offers music from Thomas Tallis's *Lamentations of Jeremiah*. These ancient words were first sung in a time of devastation, giving voice to the grief of a people who had seen their city laid waste and their hopes undone.

In setting these texts, Tallis does not rush us past sorrow, but invites us to dwell within it. Here, lament becomes prayer: honest, unguarded, and offered before God. In this season of Lent, we are given permission to do the same, to bring before God the burdens we carry, the wounds of our world, and the longing for renewal.

This music is offered not as performance, but as prayer. As you listen, you are invited simply to be still, to receive these sounds as they are given, and to allow them to carry your own unspoken prayers into the presence of God.

Sacred Music Meditation – Tallis’s ‘Lamentations of Jeremiah’

Thomas Tallis’s Lamentations of Jeremiah is a Renaissance choral work, setting verses from the biblical Book of Lamentations, which mourns the destruction of Jerusalem. Written for Holy Week, the music reflects themes of grief, loss, and repentance. Slow, flowing lines and gentle harmonies create a powerful atmosphere of sorrow, reflection, and quiet intensity, preparing us for the journey to the resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday.

Part I

Incipit lamentatio
Jeremiæ prophetæ:

ALEPH

Quomodo sedet sola
civitas plena populo:
facta est quasi vidua
domina gentium,
princeps provinciarum
facta est sub tributo.

BETH

Plorans ploravit in
nocte, et lacrimæ eius
in maxiliis eius: non est
qui consoletur eam ex
omnibus caris eius:
omnes amici eius
spreverunt eam, et facti
sunt ei inimici.
Jerusalem, Jerusalem,
convertere ad
Dominum Deum tuum.

*Here beginneth the
lamentation of Jeremiah
the prophet:*

*How doth the city sit
solitary, that was full of
people! How is she
become as a widow!
She that was great among
the nations, and princess
among the provinces, How
is she become tributary!*

*She weepeth sore in the
night, and her tears are on
her cheeks; among all her
lovers she hath none to
comfort her:*

*all her friends have dealt
treacherously with her, they
are become her enemies.
Jerusalem, Jerusalem,
return unto the Lord thy
God.*

Lamentations 1:1-2

Part II

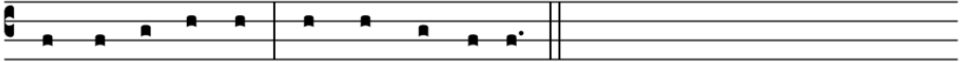
<i>GHIMEL</i>	De lamentatione Jeremiæ prophetæ: Migravit Juda propter afflictionem ac multitudinem servitutis, habitavit inter gentes, nec invenit requiem.	<i>From the lamentation of Jeremiah the prophet: Judah is gone into captivity because of affliction, and because of great servitude; she dwelleth among the heathen, she findeth no rest.</i>
<i>DALETH</i>	Omens persecutores eius apprehenderunt eam inter angustias: Lugent, eo quod non sint qui veniat ad solemnitatem. Omnes portæ eius destructæ, sacerdotes eius gementes, virgines eius squalidæ, et ipsa oppressa amaritudine.	<i>All her persecutors overtook her within the straits: they mourn, because none comes to the solemn assembly. All her gates are desolate, her priests sigh, her virgins are afflicted, and she herself is in bitterness.</i>
<i>HETH</i>	Facti sunt hostes eius in capite, inimici illius locupletati sunt; quia Dominus locutus est super eam propter multitudinem iniquitatum eius: parvuli eius ducti sunt captivi ante faciem tribulantis. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, convertere ad Dominum Deum tuum.	<i>Her adversities are become the head, her enemies prosper; for the Lord hath afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions; her children a are gone into captivity before the adversary. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return unto the Lord thy God</i>

Lamentations 1:3-5

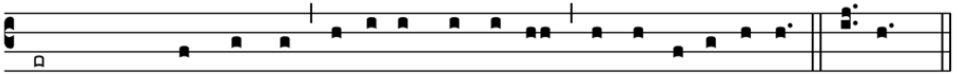
Music by Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

A brief moment of silence is observed, before the president stands to pronounce the blessing.

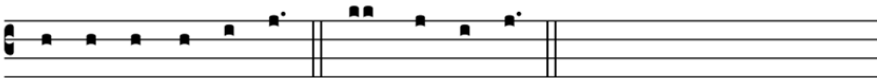
Blessing



The Lord be with you. **And with thy Spi-rit.**



May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Ho-ly Spi-rit. **A-men**



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

We **STAND** as the Ministers and Choir process out in silence.

If you would like to make a one-off donation to the Cathedral via your phone, or set up a recurring donation, please use the QR code below. There are also contactless donation points and collection boxes near the entrance.

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: *Choral Evensong*

COMMUNITY NEWS

Acting Dean

Bishop Sophie has appointed Canon Kate as Acting Dean, working of course closely with Canon Nitano and Simon, taking up her role (in addition to her existing responsibilities) from June 1st. Bishop Sophie has full confidence in the Cathedral team and the well-established direction the Cathedral has been taking for many years.

It is also important to note that whilst only one person can hold the office of Acting Dean, this is in many ways a shared appointment, as Kate and Nitano, along with Simon's support, hold the Cathedral together through these coming months. Recognising the additional workload, Bishop Sophie intends to appoint another priest to a temporary role to provide additional support capacity through this period.

The post of Dean is now advertised, and interviews are due to take place early in June. We all hope that a new Dean will take up their post before the end of the year. Please pray for the recruitment process and those involved.

Cathedral AGM

Sunday 19th 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. 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.



HOLY WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL

Holy Week invites us to walk with Christ through the final days of his earthly ministry, from the joy of Palm Sunday to the light of Easter morning. Through worship, music and prayer, we enter the heart of the Christian story together.

A list of our services and events for Holy Week can be found here

<https://tinyurl.com/53259d36>

Paper copies are also available by the West Screen.

All are warmly invited to share in this sacred journey from the Cross to the empty tomb, and into the hope and joy of Easter.

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 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

Safeguarding Survey

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.

