

# **The Cathedral Eucharist**

## **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**

### **The Third Sunday in Lent**



*The President today is the Reverend Canon Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome. The Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister, is the deacon. The sub-deacon is The Reverend Sacha Slavic, Honorary Cathedral Canon. The Reverend Professor Ben Quash is preaching. The Cathedral Choir is directed by Luke Fitzgerald, Acting Director of Music. The organists are David Rice, Acting Assistant Director of Music, and Amelia Parkin, Organ Scholar. The Setting today is the Missa Brevis by Lennox Berkeley (1903-1989).*

***We are delighted to welcome our preacher, The Reverend Canon Professor Ben Quash, Canon Theologian at the Cathedral, and his family. Ben is as a Professor of Arts and Christianity at Kings College, London.***

## **The Collect**

Almighty God,

whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:

mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **The First Reading**

*Read by Chris Cliffe, Head Server, representing the Cathedral Community.*

<sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

*Isaiah 55:1-9*

## **Gradual Hymn**

**Rock of ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from thy riven side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure:  
cleanse me from its guilt and power.**

**Not the labours of my hands  
can fulfil thy law's demands;  
could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears for ever flow,  
all for sin could not atone:  
thou must save, and thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring,  
simply to thy cross I cling;  
naked, come to thee for dress;  
helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly;  
wash me, Saviour, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when my eyelids close in death,  
when I soar through tracts unknown,  
see thee on thy judgement throne;  
Rock of ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee.**

*Words by A.M. Toplady (1740-1778)*

*Tune CP 565 Petra by Richard Redhead (1820-1901)*

## **The Gospel Reading**

<sup>1</sup>At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’

<sup>8</sup> He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.' "

*Luke 13:1-9*

## **Offertory Hymn**

**Just as I am, without one plea  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidst me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea, all I need, in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, thy love unknown  
has broken every barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, of that free love  
the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,  
here for a season, then above,  
O Lamb of God, I come.**

*Words by Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)*

*Tune CP 308 Saffron Walden by A.H. Brown (1830-1926)*

## **Anthem**

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and forgive me all my sin.  
For I acknowledge my faults and my sin is ever before me.

*Words Psalm 51:2-3*

*Music by Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)*

## **Communion Hymn**

**Bread of heaven, on thee we feed,  
for thy flesh is meat indeed;  
ever may our souls be fed  
with this true and living bread;  
day by day with strength supplied  
through the life of him who died.**

**Vine of heaven, thy blood supplies  
this blest cup of sacrifice;  
Lord, thy wounds our healing give,  
to thy cross we look and live:  
Jesus, may we ever be  
grafted, rooted, built in thee.**

*Words by Josiah Conder (1789-1855)*

*Tune CP 284 Bread of Heaven by W.D. Maclagan (1826-1910)*

## **Closing Hymn**

**Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fiery cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs and praises  
I will ever give to thee.**

*Words by William Williams (1717-1791)*

*Tune CP 455 Cwm Rhondda by John Hughes (1873-1932)*

## **Voluntary**

*Please do stay for the organ voluntary, performed today by David Rice.*

*Toccata: Aberystwyth by David Bednall (b.1979)*

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*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.*



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

*We serve refreshments at the back of the Nave after this service, so please  
feel free to stay for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee!*

### **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*

### **SAFEGUARDING AT COVENTRY CATHEDRAL**

We are committed to the safeguarding of all people. For details, please visit [www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding](http://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding)

You can report a concern using the same link or by contacting Canon Nitano Muller, Chapter Safeguarding Lead, at [Nitano.Muller@Coventry.Anglican.org](mailto:Nitano.Muller@Coventry.Anglican.org) or call 07365 200 359 while Jane Williams is away.

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

### **COMING SOON**

#### **Lent Course 2025**

Every Tuesday in Lent 4th March, 7pm – 8:30pm, St Michael's House

*This year's Lent Course is titled 'Hope in Hard Places'. As our world faces huge challenges, the course invites us to ask, "Where is God in all of this?"*

*Written by the team at Embrace the Middle East, it is our hope that you will find encouragement and strength in stories that span over 3000 years of history - showing us that, no matter how dark the times we live in, God remains with us.*

*We will begin each week at 7pm and end at 8:30pm in the lounge at St Michael's House.*

## **Is a lasting and just peace possible in Israel and Palestine?**

Wednesday 2nd of April, 7pm

*Occupation, war, extremism, terrorism and fear are all words we hear used to describe what is happening in Israel and Palestine. In such a context it's hard to imagine a future where Israeli Jews and Palestinian Muslims and Christians may live in peace, either together or side by side.*

*Is that a pipe dream or is such a future still possible?*

Daniel Munayer, director of Musalaha - a reconciliation ministry in Israel and Palestine - and the only Palestinian ever to have addressed the UN Security Council, will explore this question at 7 pm on Wednesday 2nd of April here in the Cathedral. His talk will be followed by a conversation with Dean John and Jamie Eyre, CEO of Embrace the Middle East. Entry is free but you will need to register using the following link. <https://embraceme.org/events/lecture-is-peace-possible-in-israel-palestine> If you need help registering or have any questions, please do speak to Revd Su McClellan.

## **'Emmaus': The Way of Faith**

Tuesday 29th April, 7pm

Are you new to the Cathedral community? Do you have questions about faith, the church or what we believe? You are invited to a post-Easter course for those new or interested in exploring the Christian faith which will begin on Tuesday, 29 April at 7pm, St Michael's House with a bring-and-share meal. Emmaus is a 15 week course that explores topics such as believing in God, the role of prayer and the bible, and the life and ministry of Jesus and other exciting topics. For further information speak to Rob Halligan or Canon Nitano.

## **Holy Week and Easter Services**

Sunday 13th April – Sunday 20th April

Details of our Holy Week and Easter services can be found on our website: <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/easter/easter-services>

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Mothering Sunday, 30 March 2025**

All those interested in making posies for Mothering Sunday are invited to come along on Saturday, 29 March at 10am in the John Lang Centre. Further information and a sign-up list is available with Mandy Woltorton and Brenda Stokes.