

**The Cathedral Eucharist
Sunday, 22nd March, 2026
The Fifth Sunday of Lent
Passiontide Begins**



The President today is the Reverend Canon Sacha Slavic. The Deacon is Donald Parr, Cathedral Lay Reader. The sub-deacon and preacher is the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry.

The Cathedral Choir is directed by Joe Watson, Acting Director of Music. The organists are Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music, and Adam Heron, Organ Scholar.

The service setting is Missa Brevis by Nicholas Wilton (1960-2025).

*We encourage our visitors to take photographs of our beautiful cathedral, **but please no photography during the service.** Thank you.*

The Collect

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,
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 David Elsy, representing the Cathedral Community.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel.

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." ⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

Ezekiel 37:1-14

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” ¹¹After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” ¹²The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God,

the one coming into the world.”²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”³⁵ Jesus began to weep.³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.”⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

John 11:1-45

Offertory Hymn

**And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?**

**'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies!
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds enquire no more.**

**He left his Father's throne above –
so free, so infinite his grace –
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me!**

**Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.**

**No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Tune CP 376 Sagina from Thomas Campbell The Bouquet (1823)

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 from Psalm 51:2,3

Music by Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

Communion Hymn

**Jesu, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the gathering waters roll,
while the tempest still is high:
hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.**

**Other refuge have I none;
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah, leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenceless head
with the shadow of thy wing.**

**Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
more than all in thee I find;
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am,
thou art full of truth and grace.**

**Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cleanse from every sin;
let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within:
thou of life the fountain art;
freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.**

Words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Tune CP 96ii Aberystwyth Joseph Parry (1841-1903)

Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.
Amen.

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, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
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, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
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, songs and praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.**

*Words by W. Williams (1717-1791) translated by P. and W. Williams
Tune CP 455 Cwm Rhondda John Hughes (1873-1932)*

Voluntary

Prelude in E minor BWV 548i by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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>*

We serve refreshments at the back of the Nave after this service, please do join us and if you are visiting, please introduce yourself to one of the ministers.

~ INEQE SAFEGUARDING SURVEY ~

Immediately following the service, laptops will be available by the Baptistry Window to complete the INEQE Survey, with volunteers at hand to assist you should you need it. The survey is in preparation for the Cathedral and Diocesan audit in July.

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

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

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 or contact the Membership Secretary at 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 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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Clergy Preaching Away:

Canon Kate Massey- Hanau

Canon Nitano Muller- St Chad, Wood End

Revd Gillian Roberts, St Andrew, Shilton

Canon Heather Wallace - Rest in Peace

Canon Heather Wallace, a beloved and longstanding member of the Cathedral, died on Tuesday night after a few weeks in hospital and then a few days in Belvedere Care home. We will miss her very much. A small service will take place for Heather at Oakeley Wood crematorium at 3.30 on Wednesday April 1st. This is primarily for close invited friends, but please speak to the Dean if you would like to attend - you would be welcome. There will be a Celebration of Heather's life at Evensong on Sunday May 3rd at 4pm, and we hope that many will choose to gather on that occasion.

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.

PALM SUNDAY, 29th March

Cathedral Eucharist with Procession – 10.30am

The beginning of Holy Week, marking Christ's entry into Jerusalem and the opening of the Passion narrative.

Choral Evening Prayer with the Lamentations of Jeremiah – Today, 4pm

A solemn and reflective service shaped by ancient words of grief and hope.

HOLY MONDAY TO HOLY WEDNESDAY

Compline Sermon Series – 8pm

Night prayer during the first days of Holy Week, with addresses by Dean John Witcombe on the "Farewell Discourses" from St John's Gospel (Chapters 13-17). We will explore one chapter per service (incl. Thursday).

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 2nd April

Chrism Eucharist – 10.30am

A diocesan celebration in which the holy oils are blessed and clergy and licenced lay ministers renew their ministerial vows.

Maundy Thursday Evening Eucharist – 7.30pm

The Holy Eucharist with Foot-washing and the Stripping of the Altar, recalling Christ's commandment of love and the gathering darkness of the Passion.

GOOD FRIDAY, 3rd April

Liturgy of the Day – 9am

A solemn service of prayer and reflection at the foot of the Cross, this will be followed by a Walk of Witness in the City Centre (Broadgate) to Holy Trinity Church at 10.30am

Stainer: The Crucifixion - 6pm

Join Coventry Cathedral Chorus for a moving performance of The Crucifixion by John Stainer, a much-loved meditation on the Passion combining reflective choruses, recitatives and congregational hymns.

Tickets: £15 adults | £5 young adults (18–25) | Children free.

*Book at **coventrycathedralchorus.com**, or contact **tickets@coventrycathedralchorus.com** | 01676 532436.*

EASTER DAY, 5th April

Dawn Eucharist – 6am

The Service of Light with Baptism and Confirmation, proclaiming Christ's Resurrection at first light.

Cathedral Festal Eucharist – 10.30am

A joyful celebration of the resurrection with word, sacrament and song.

Festal Choral Evensong – 4pm

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

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.

Please take a copy of the full program from the Community table at the back of the nave.

Practical Peacemaking: From Global to Local

Wednesday 22nd April and Thursday 23rd April

Join us for speakers and discussion about how we can truly live out the imperative towards reconciliation: a partner event jointly held by the Third Order, Society of St Francis and the Community of the Cross of Nails.

**Practical Peacemaking:
from global to local**

What is the nature of peace?
How do we live it?

.....

Coventry Cathedral
22-23 April 2026

**Speakers include
Revd Dr Isabelle Hamley
and
Revd Dr Al Barrett**

.....

Tickets £72 (subsidised)
All welcome!

*Single day tickets also available
at £45/£35*











To book, go to
<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/practical-peacemaking>