

Choral Evensong

Sunday 6th April 2025

The Fifth Sunday in Lent



Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, led by The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry. The Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome, will be 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 Responses are the Ferial setting by Thomas Tallis (1505 – 1585).

Psalm 35:1-9

- 1 Plead thou my cause, O Lord, with them that strive with me: and fight thou against them that fight against me.
- 2 Lay hand upon the shield and buckler: and stand up to help me.
- 3 Bring forth the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me: say unto my soul, I am thy salvation.
- 4 Let them be confounded and put to shame, that seek after my soul: let them be turned back and brought to confusion, that imagine mischief for me.
- 5 Let them be as the dust before the wind: and the angel of the Lord scattering them.
- 6 Let their way be dark and slippery: and let the angel of the Lord persecute them.
- 7 For they have privily laid their net to destroy me without a cause: yea, even without a cause have they made a pit for my soul.
- 8 Let a sudden destruction come upon him un-awares, and his net, that he hath laid privily, catch himself: that he may fall into his own mischief.
- 9 And, my soul, be joyful in the Lord: it shall rejoice in his salvation.

The First Lesson

¹ Josiah kept a passover to the Lord in Jerusalem; they slaughtered the passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the first month. ² He appointed the priests to their offices and encouraged them in the service of the house of the Lord.

³ He said to the Levites who taught all Israel and who were holy to the Lord, 'Put the holy ark in the house that Solomon son of David, king of Israel, built; you need no longer carry it on your shoulders. Now serve the Lord your God and his people Israel. ⁴ Make preparations by your ancestral houses by your divisions, following the written directions of King David of Israel and the written directions of his son Solomon. ⁵ Take position in the holy place according to the groupings of the ancestral houses of your kindred the people, and let there be Levites for each division of an ancestral house. ⁶ Slaughter the passover lamb, sanctify yourselves, and on behalf of your kindred make preparations, acting according to the word of the Lord by Moses.'

¹⁰ When the service had been prepared for, the priests stood in their place, and the Levites in their divisions according to the king's command. ¹¹ They slaughtered the passover lamb, and the priests dashed the blood that they received from them, while the Levites did the skinning. ¹² They set aside the burnt-offerings so that they might distribute them according to the groupings of the ancestral houses of the people, to offer to the Lord, as it is written in the book of Moses. And they did the same with the bulls. ¹³ They roasted the passover lamb with fire according to the ordinance; and they boiled the holy offerings in pots, in cauldrons, and in pans, and carried them quickly to all the people. ¹⁴ Afterwards they made preparations for themselves and for the priests, because the priests the descendants of Aaron were occupied in offering the burnt-offerings and the fat parts until night; so the Levites made preparations for themselves and for the priests, the descendants of Aaron. ¹⁵ The singers, the descendants of Asaph, were in their place according to the command of David, and Asaph, and Heman, and the king's seer Jeduthun. The gatekeepers were at each gate; they did not need to interrupt their service, for their kindred the Levites made preparations for them. ¹⁶ So all the service of the Lord was prepared that day, to keep the passover and to offer burnt-offerings on the altar of the Lord, according to the command of King Josiah.

2 Chronicles 35:1-6,10-16

The Magnificat

Evening Service in B minor by Thomas Noble (1867 – 1953)

The Second Lesson

¹ Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. ² The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people. ³ Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; ⁴ he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. ⁵ They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. ⁶ So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present. ⁷ Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, 'Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it.' ⁹ They asked him, 'Where do you want us to make preparations for it?' ¹⁰ 'Listen,' he said to them, 'when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters ¹¹ and say to the owner of the house, "The teacher asks you, "Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"'" ¹² He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there.' ¹³ So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

Luke 22:1-13

The Nunc Dimittis

Evening Service in B minor by Thomas Noble (1867 – 1953)

The Collect of the Day

We beseech thee, Almighty God, mercifully to look upon thy people; that by thy great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore, both in body and soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Anthem

Lo, the full, final sacrifice
On which all figures fix'd their eyes,
The ransom'd Isaac, and his ram;
The Manna, and the Paschal lamb.
Jesu Master, just and true!

Our Food, and faithful Shepherd too!
O let that love which thus makes thee
Mix with our low Mortality,
Lift our lean Souls, and set us up
Convictors of thine own full cup,
Coheirs of Saints. That so all may
Drink the same wine; and the same way.

Nor change the Pasture, but the Place
To feed of Thee in thine own Face.
O dear Memorial of that Death
Which lives still, and allows us breath!
Rich, Royal food! Bountiful Bread!
Whose use denies us to the dead!

Live ever Bread of loves, and be
My life, my soul, my surer self to me.
Help Lord, my Faith, my Hope increase;
And fill my portion in thy peace.
Give love for life; nor let my days
Grow, but in new powers to thy name and praise.

Rise, Royal Sion! rise and sing
Thy soul's kind shepherd, thy heart's King.
Stretch all thy powers; call if you can
Harps of heaven to hands of man.
This sovereign subject sits above
The best ambition of thy love.

Lo the Bread of Life, this day's
Triumphant Text provokes thy praise.
The living and life-giving bread,
To the great twelve distributed
When Life, himself, at point to die
Of love, was his own Legacy.

O soft self-wounding Pelican!
Whose breast weeps Balm for wounded man.
All this way bend thy benign flood
To a bleeding Heart that gasps for blood.
That blood, whose least drops sovereign be
To wash my worlds of sins from me.
Come love! Come Lord! and that long day
For which I languish, come away.
When this dry soul those eyes shall see,
And drink the unseal'd source of thee.
When Glory's sun faith's shades shall chase,
And for thy veil give me thy Face.

Amen.

*Words based on the poetry of Richard Crashaw (1613 – 1649)
Music by Gerald Finzi (1901 – 1956)*

The Hymn

**O love, how deep, how broad, how high!
It fills the heart with ecstasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.**

**He sent no angel to our race
of higher or of lower place,
but wore the robe of human frame
himself, and to this lost world came.**

**For us he was baptized, and bore
his holy fast, and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.**

**For us to wicked men betrayed,
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us at length gave up his breath.**

**For us he rose from death again,
for us he went on high to reign,
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.**

**To him whose boundless love has won
salvation for us through his Son,
to God the Father, glory be
both now and through eternity. Amen.**

*Words by Thomas à Kempis (1379-1471)
tr. Benjamin Webb (1819-1885)
Tune CP 118 Einsenach by J.H. Schein (1586-1630)
harmonised by J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

Lent Meditation

Please do stay for our Lent Meditation, performed today by Luke Fitzgerald.

Excerpts from Stations of the Cross by Marcel Dupré (1886 – 1971)

*Jésus meurt sur la Croix (Jesus dies upon the Cross)
Jésus est mis dans le sépulcre (The body of Jesus is laid in the tomb)*

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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*

SAFEGUARDING AT COVENTRY CATHEDRAL

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 Canon Nitano Muller, Chapter Safeguarding Lead, at

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

COMING SOON

Lent Course 2025

Every Tuesday in Lent, 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.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Sunday 13th April – Sunday 20th April

Details of our Holy Week and Easter services can be found on the community table at the back and on our website:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/easter/easter-services>

'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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is a register of everyone that considers a particular church their chosen place of worship. The Roll is updated every year in advance of the Annual General Meeting, but every 6 years it has to be completely refreshed, and this year is the 6th year. If you consider the Cathedral to be your place of worship and you have been attending for more than 6 months then you are able to join the Electoral Roll. Please ask the stewards for the form and return to them upon completion.