

HTC
HOLY TRINITY COVENTRY

COVENTRY
CATHEDRAL



Choral Evensong

Thursday, 22nd October 2026, at 5.15pm

A warm welcome to Choral Evensong

Welcome to this Choral Evensong, marking the visit of Trustees from the World Monuments Fund celebrating our shared commitment to the care, conservation and interpretation of the medieval stained glass associated with the Old Cathedral.

The medieval glass associated with the Old Cathedral of St Michael is a precious inheritance, bearing witness to the artistry, imagination and faith of those who worshipped here centuries ago. Though the glass is not housed in the present Cathedral building, it remains an integral part of our story: a fragile yet enduring connection with the generations who have prayed and borne witness to the Christian faith in this place.

Coventry knows that beauty and destruction are never far apart. The medieval glass belongs to a history shaped by the passage of time, just as the ruins of the Old Cathedral bear witness to the devastation of war and the possibility of reconciliation. This evening's anthem, *God omnipotent reigneth*, offers a fitting reflection on this history. Its proclamation of God's sovereignty speaks into the story of a Cathedral shaped by both destruction and renewal: where the work of preservation, reconciliation and hope continues. As we give thanks for this remarkable collection, we remember that our calling to safeguard its legacy for generations yet to come.

This project represents an important continuation of our stewardship of this extraordinary collection.

We are delighted to welcome Donald Parr, Cathedral Lay Reader and Chaplain, who leads this service, and the choir of Holy Trinity Church, Coventry, singing under the direction of Alexander Norman, their Director of Music.

The responses are those by Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995). The setting for the Canticles is Fourth Evening Service by Adrian Batten (1591-1637).

The congregation then STANDS as the choir and ministers process to the Chancel. The choir sings;

Introit

Domine, Jesu Christe,
qui me creasti,
redemisti, et preordinasti
ad hoc quod sum,
tu scis quid de me facere vis;
fac de me secundum
voluntatem tuam
cum misericordia.
Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,
who created,
redeemed, and preordained
me to be this that I am,
you know what you wish to do with
me;
do with me in accordance
with your will, with mercy.
Amen.

Words - A Prayer of King Henry VI (1421 – 1471)

Music by Henry Ley (1887 – 1962)

The minister welcomes the congregation.

The Opening Responses

A minister and the choir sing these versicles and responses

℣ O Lord, open thou our lips;
℞ And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.
℣ O God, make speed to save us;
℞ O Lord, make haste to help us.

The congregation STANDS.

℣ 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.
℣ Praise ye the Lord;
℞ The Lord's name be praised.

Psalm 138

The congregation SITS while the choir remains standing to sing the Psalm set for the day. Psalms are songs drawn from Jewish worship in which individuals and communities bring their experiences and feelings to God.

1. I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, with my whole heart ♦
even before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.
2. I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy Name,
because of thy loving-kindness and truth ♦
for thou hast magnified thy Name and thy word above all things.
3. When I called upon thee, thou heardest me ♦
and enduedst my soul with much strength.
4. All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O Lord ♦
for they have heard the words of thy mouth.
5. Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the Lord ♦
that great is the glory of the Lord.
6. For though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly ♦
as for the proud, he beholdeth them afar off.
7. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, yet shalt thou refresh me ♦
thou shalt stretch forth thy hand upon the furiousness of mine
enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.
8. The lord shall make good his loving-kindness toward me ♦
yea, thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever; despise not then the
works of thine own hands.

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.

The First Lesson

A minister or lay person reads today's passage from the Old Testament.

¹Then he brought me to the gate, the gate facing east. ²And there, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east; the sound was like the sound of mighty waters; and the earth shone with his glory. ³The vision I saw was like the vision that I had seen when he came to destroy the city, and like the vision that I had seen by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face. ⁴As the glory of the LORD entered the temple by the gate facing east, ⁵the spirit lifted me up, and brought me into the inner court; and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

⁶ While the man was standing beside me, I heard someone speaking to me out of the temple. ⁷He said to me: Mortal, this is the place of my throne and the place for the soles of my feet, where I will reside among the people of Israel for ever. The house of Israel shall no more defile my holy name, neither they nor their kings, by their whoring, and by the corpses of their kings at their death. ⁸When they placed their threshold by my threshold and their doorposts beside my doorposts, with only a wall between me and them, they were defiling my holy name by their abominations that they committed; therefore I have consumed them in my anger. ⁹Now let them put away their idolatry and the corpses of their kings far from me, and I will reside among them for ever.

¹⁰ As for you, mortal, describe the temple to the house of Israel, and let them measure the pattern; and let them be ashamed of their iniquities. ¹¹When they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the plan of the temple, its arrangement, its exits and its entrances, and its whole form—all its ordinances and its entire plan and all its laws; and write it down in their sight, so that they may observe and follow the entire plan and all its ordinances. ¹²This is the law of the temple: the whole territory on the top of the mountain all around shall be most holy. This is the law of the temple.

Ezekiel 43:1-12

The Magnificat

This is Mary's revolutionary song of praise when she heard that she would become the mother of Jesus.

Everyone STANDS as the choir sings

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.

The Second Lesson

Everyone SITS and a minister or lay person reads today's passage from the New Testament.

¹ 'I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling. ²They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you will think that by doing so they are offering worship to God. ³And they will do this because they have not known the Father or me. ⁴But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

'I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹² 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

John 16:1-15

The Nunc Dimittis

This is Simeon's song after he had blessed the Christ-child in the Temple.

Everyone STANDS and the choir sings

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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.

Everyone remains STANDING.

The Apostles' Creed

The minister begins, and everyone joins in saying

I believe in God

the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead and buried.

He descended into hell;

the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;

the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Amen.

The Lesser Litany

The minister and choir sing

℣ The Lord be with you;

℞ And with thy spirit.

℣ Let us pray.

The congregation SITS or KNEELS.

℞ Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

The choir sings the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name:
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

The Responses

The minister and choir sing these versicles and responses

- ℣ O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
℞ And grant us thy salvation.
℣ O Lord, save the King;
℞ And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
℣ Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
℞ And make thy chosen people joyful.
℣ O Lord, save thy people;
℞ And bless thine inheritance.
℣ Give peace in our time, O Lord;
℞ Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.
℣ O God, make clean our hearts within us;
℞ And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect

The minister sings the first Collect, a special prayer which reflect the season of the Church's year.

O Almighty and most merciful God, of thy bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech thee, from all things that may hurt us; that we, being ready both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things that thou wouldest have done; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Then these two Collects are sung

The Second Collect: A Prayer for Peace

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

The Third Collect: A Prayer for Help

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Anthem

The congregation SITS and the choir sings the Anthem.

God omnipotent reigneth, clad in apparel bright;
Sov'ran King He remaineth, girded about with might;
By him the world alone immutably was grounded;
In heav'n hath He His throne, from everlasting founded.

Ocean billow and breaker uplift the voice of pride;
But their mightier Maker governeth wind and tide.
His laws and sure decree of holiness are telling,
Which evermore shall be sole inmate of His dwelling.
Amen.

Words paraphrase of Psalm 113

by George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)

16th century melody by Pierre Daques, arr. Charles Wood (1866 – 1926)

The Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray.

Eternal God, creator of all things,
you have filled the world with beauty,
and given to humanity gifts of imagination,
skill and understanding.
We thank you for the makers of the medieval glass,
for the faith and vision that shaped their work,
and for all who have preserved its fragments through the centuries.
Bless those who study, conserve and interpret this and similar
collections,
and grant that their work may open new windows
onto the lives, hopes and beliefs of those who came before us.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of history and eternity,
you are present in times of flourishing and in seasons of loss.
We remember the Old Cathedral of St Michael,
the generations who worshipped within its walls,
and all that has been lost through time, neglect and destruction.
As we remember the devastation of Coventry in war,
keep us attentive to the suffering of those whose homes,
places of worship and cultural treasures
are destroyed by violence today.
Give wisdom to those who work for peace,
courage to those who protect the vulnerable,
and perseverance to all who rebuild what has been broken.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of wisdom and generosity,
we give thanks for the World Monuments Fund
and for all who make possible the preservation
of our shared cultural inheritance.
Bless those who provide funding,
those who undertake research and conservation,
those who share their knowledge,
and those who help others encounter the stories
held within works of art and places of worship.
May this project deepen our understanding
of the past and its complexities,
and strengthen our resolve to care faithfully
for what has been entrusted to us.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of generations,
you call us not to possess the gifts of the past,
but to receive them with gratitude
and hand them on with care.
Inspire this Cathedral in its ministry of worship, welcome
and reconciliation.
Help us to cherish our heritage without becoming captive to it,
to learn honestly from history,
and to make room for the voices and stories
that have too often been overlooked.
May the beauty we preserve
enlarge our capacity for wonder,
deepen our compassion,
and encourage us to build a world
in which future generations may flourish.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of every gift,
we thank you for the music that carries prayer
beyond the limits of speech,
and for all who serve the Church through their musical gifts.
We pray for the clergy and people of Holy Trinity Church, our
neighbours here on Hill Top,
for Richard and Carolynne, their clergy. For Alexander and the
choir and all who have prepared for this service. May their offering
draw us into the praise of your Church throughout the ages and
turn our hearts towards your enduring goodness.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Faithful God,
you hold in your love all those whose lives
are marked by grief, uncertainty or change.
We pray for those who mourn what has been lost,
those who fear for the future,
and those who labour quietly to protect
the gifts entrusted to their care.
Bring comfort to the sorrowful,
hope to the discouraged,
and strength to all who seek to repair
the wounds of people, communities and creation.
Gather us, with all your saints,
into the fullness of your eternal kingdom,
where beauty is never diminished,
love is never destroyed,
and all things are made new.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Everyone STANDS for

The Closing Responses

The minister and choir sing

✠ Keep us, O Lord, so awake in the duties of our calling;
℞ that we may sleep in thy peace, and wake in thy glory.
✠ God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest;
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth
and all the world, peace and concord;
℞ and to us and all his servants, life everlasting.
✠ Let us bless the Lord.
℞ Thanks be to God.

The Procession of the Choir and Ministers

*The congregation remains STANDING as the choir and ministers leave
the Chancel.*

The Organ Voluntary

You are welcome to SIT when the procession has left, and we invite you to stay and listen to the organ music.

Master Tallis's Testament by Herbert Howells (1892 - 1983)

The explanatory text in this booklet was inspired by our colleagues at Liverpool Cathedral.

The Book of Common Prayer is © Crown Copyright in perpetuity.

Other material is from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, copyright © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England 2000