



LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL

Eucharist

for Second Sunday of Advent

6th December, 2020

Welcome to Liverpool Cathedral for the Eucharist on the Second Sunday of Advent, and welcome back after the last four weeks of lockdown!

We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors. The Stewards will assist you to find your seats which have been arranged so that we may observe social distancing and keep everyone safe this morning. The services today are sung by the boys' and girls' voices of the Cathedral Choir. The musical setting is the Missa Brevis by Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976)

We are very grateful for the generosity of those who have supported the Cathedral financially during the last few months. Alms boxes will be available for you to leave your gift to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral as you leave the service this morning.

Please note that at the receiving of Communion, you are asked to remain in your seats and the ministers will come to you. Holy Communion (or a blessing, if you prefer) will be given in silence. If you wish to receive a gluten-free wafer, please approach the Minister who will be standing close to the Rankin Porch.

Please wear a face covering throughout the service, except when receiving Communion, in accordance with Government and National Church requirements.

An induction loop system is in operation: hearing aids should be switched to the 'T' position. Please ensure that all mobile telephones and devices are silenced before the service begins.

Throughout this order of service, indications of where the congregation should stand, sit or kneel are given for guidance only; please feel free to follow your own practice if this is different.

The Gathering

The President greets the people

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
and also with you.

The President welcomes the people.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Greeting

Prayer of Preparation

Prayers of Penitence

We sit as the choir sings

Kyrie eleison

Christe eleison

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

The Deacon says

When the Lord comes,

he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

The President says
Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

The President says
Let us pray.

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him
who is our Lord and our God. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading: *Isaiah 40. 1 - 11*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and cry to her

that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Verses from Psalm 85

We remain seated as the choir sings

I will hearken what the Lord God will say concerning me : for he shall speak peace unto his people, and to his saints, that they turn not again.

For his salvation is nigh them that fear him : that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth are met together : righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall flourish out of the earth : and righteousness hath looked down from heaven. Yea, the Lord shall shew loving-kindness : and our land shall give her increase. Righteousness shall go before him : and he shall direct his going in the way.

We stand.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1. 1 - 8

The Deacon says

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

The choir sings

Glory to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight” ’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

The choir sings
Praise to you, O Christ.

A fanfare is sounded upon the organ.

Sermon
Canon Neal Barnes

After the sermon, the organist may improvise during a time of reflection or silence may be kept.

The Nicene Creed

We stand and the President says
Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten not made,
of one being with the Father,
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**
We sit.

Prayers of Intercession

These responses are used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

And at the end

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

We stand and the President says
In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

The ministers prepare the bread and wine at the altar.

The President says

As this bread was scattered
and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom.

Glory to you, O God for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine, she has set her table.

Glory to you, O God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day

when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory
for ever praising you and singing:

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.

(Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.)

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of
your glory. Hosanna in the highest. (Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.)*

The President continues

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

The Deacon says

Great is the mystery of faith.

The choir sings

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

The President continues

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

The choir sings

Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

We sit.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory.

for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The President breaks the consecrated bread.

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Giving of Communion

The President says the invitation to communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God

who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,

but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

The body of Christ, broken for us. The blood of Christ shed for us.

All reply **Amen.**

The President receives Communion and the ministers distribute Communion in silence to the people. Please remain in your place as Communion is brought to you. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please indicate this by bowing your head when the minister approaches you. Blessings will be given silently. Holy Communion is administered under the form of bread alone at this time. If you wish to receive a gluten free wafer, please go to the minister standing close to the Rankin Porch on the right hand side of the Cathedral.

During Communion the choir sings
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, **dona nobis pacem.**

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.*

Motet

There is no rose of such virtue
as is the rose that bare Jesu: Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
heaven and earth in little space: Res Miranda.

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three: Pares Forma.

The aungels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gaudeamus.

Leave we all this worldly mirth
and follow we this joyful birth: Transeamus.

Words: Early English
Music: From A Ceremony of Carols; Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976)

Prayer after Communion

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility: that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Advent Wreath

The second of the candles on the Advent Wreath is lit.

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever. Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets, but in our days you speak through your Son, whom you have appointed the heir of all things. Grant us, your people, to walk in his light, that we may be found ready and watching when he comes again in glory and judgement; for you are our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Dismissal

We stand.

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is included in this service, is copyright The Archbishops' Council 2000.

Common Worship: Times and Seasons, material from which is included in this service, is copyright The Archbishops' Council 2006.

Scripture Quotations are from *New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicised Edition*, copyright 1989, 1995. National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Hymns are reproduced under the terms of Christian Copyright Licence Number 176768

E-Bulletin

You can access details of what is happening in and around the Cathedral over the next few weeks via our e-bulletin. The e-bulletin replaces our paper-based weekly newssheet. It contains information about worship, discipleship, community life, events, our shop, how to donate and other news that may be of interest. Please go to the link below to download it.

liverpoolcathedral.org.uk/newsandblog



Scan the QR code to access Liverpool Cathedral page