



Exeter  
Cathedral

# Choral Eucharist

*Wednesday 17 February 2021*  
1730

**ASH WEDNESDAY**



[www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk](http://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

## Welcome to the Cathedral

The Cathedral Church of St. Peter in Exeter, founded in 1050, has been the seat [*cathedra*] of the bishop of Exeter, the symbol of his spiritual and teaching authority, for nearly 1000 years. As such the Cathedral is a centre of worship and mission for the whole of Devon. A centuries-old pattern of daily worship continues, sustained by the best of the Anglican choral tradition. The cathedral is a place of outreach, learning, and spirituality, inviting people into a richer and more engaged discipleship. The Cathedral is a destination for many pilgrims and visitors who come from near and far, drawn by the physical and spiritual heritage of this place. Exeter Cathedral belongs to all the people of Devon, and we warmly welcome you to this online service.

### Ministers

President and Preacher: The Very Revd Jonathan Greener - *Dean*

### Music

Conductor: Timothy Noon - *Director of Music*

Organist: Timothy Parsons - *Assistant Director of Music*

Mass Setting: *Missa Cineris* - *Timothy Parsons*  
(b1992)

The Cathedral's Consort, its professional adult singers, will be singing at this act of worship.

### Giving

We rely significantly upon the generosity of our congregations and the people of Devon to sustain the Cathedral's worship and ministry. We are grateful for any donations or gifts in support of the Cathedral.

For more information about planned and regular giving, please go to:

**<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/support-us/how-to-donate/>**

## The Gathering

## Introit

*The ministers enter. The Consort stands and sings*

Miserere nostri, Domine. Miserere nostri.  
*Have mercy on us, Lord. Have mercy on us.*

*Words: Cantiones Sacrae (c.1575)*

*Music: Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)*

## The Greeting

*The President says*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*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.**

## Introduction

*The President explains the meaning of Lent and invites the people to observe it faithfully*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting. By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

## **The Collect**

*The President introduces the collect with the words*

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
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 Liturgy of the Word**

### **First Reading**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

*The Consort sits.*

A reading from the book of the prophet Joel.

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
    sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
    for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
    a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread upon the mountains  
a great and powerful army comes;  
their like has never been from of old,  
nor will be again after them  
in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain-offering and a drink-offering  
for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;

call a solemn assembly;  
gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;  
assemble the aged;

gather the children,  
even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.

Let them say, 'Spare your people, O Lord,  
and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,  
"Where is their God?"'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*The Consort stands. The president says*

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts.

*cf Psalm 95.3, 8*

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

## Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples, 'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The Consort sits.*

**Sermon**

The Very Revd Jonathan Greener - *Dean*

## **The Liturgy of Penitence**

### **Self-examination and Confession**

*A minister and the Consort sing*

Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

God the Father,  
**have mercy upon us.**

God the Son,  
**have mercy upon us.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
**have mercy upon us.**

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,  
**have mercy upon us.**

From all evil and mischief;  
from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;  
from envy, hatred, and malice;  
and from all evil intent,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;  
from hardness of heart  
and contempt for your word and your laws,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

From sins of body and mind;  
from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

In all times of sorrow;  
in all times of joy;  
in the hour of death,  
and at the day of judgement,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;  
by your birth, childhood and obedience;  
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

By your ministry in word and work;  
by your mighty acts of power;  
and by your preaching of the kingdom,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

By your agony and trial;  
by your cross and passion;  
and by your precious death and burial,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

By your mighty resurrection;  
by your glorious ascension;  
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

Give us true repentance;  
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance  
and our deliberate sins;  
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit  
to amend our lives according to your holy word.  
**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

*Silence is kept. The president says*

Make our hearts clean, O God;  
**and renew a right spirit within us.**



**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 Imposition of Ashes**

*The President says*

Dear friends in Christ,  
we receive these ashes  
as a sign of the spirit of penitence  
with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

God our Father,  
you create us from the dust of the earth:  
grant that these ashes may be for us  
a sign of our penitence  
and a symbol of our mortality;  
for it is by your grace alone  
that we receive eternal life  
in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.**

*The Dean and Precentor receive the ashes, the Dean first receiving  
the imposition from the Precentor. At the imposition the clergy say  
to one another:*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.  
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

*During the preparation of the altar the Consort sings*

Miserere mei, Deus, secundum magnam misericordiam tuam;  
et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum, dele iniquitatem  
meam.

Amplius lava me ab iniquitate mea: et a peccato meo munda me.  
Quoniam iniquitatem meam ego cognosco, et peccatum meum  
contra me est semper.

Tibi soli peccavi, et malum coram te feci; et justificeris  
in sermonibus tuis, et vincas cum judicaris.

Ecce enim in iniquitatibus conceptus sum: et in peccatis concepit me  
mater mea.

Ecce enim veritatem dilexisti; incerta et occulta sapientiae tuae  
manifestasti mihi.

Asperges me hyssopo, et mundabor; lavabis me,  
et super nivem dealabor.

Auditui meo dabis gaudium et laetitiam: et exultabunt ossa  
humiliata.

Averte faciem tuam a peccatis meis, et omnes iniquitates meas dele.  
Cor mundum crea in me, Deus, et spiritum rectum innova in  
visceribus meis.

Ne projicias me a facie tua, et spiritum sanctum tuum ne auferas a  
me.

Redde mihi laetitiam salutaris tui, et spiritu principali confirma me.  
Docebo iniquos vias tuas, et impii ad te convertentur.

Libera me de sanguinibus, Deus, Deus salutis meae, et exultabit  
lingua mea justitiam tuam.

Domine, labia mea aperies, et os meum annuntiabit laudem tuam.  
Quoniam si voluisses sacrificium, dedissem utique; holocaustis non  
delectaberis.

Sacrificium Deo spiritus contribulatus; cor contritum et humiliatum,  
Deus, non despicies.

Benigne fac, Domine, in bona voluntate tua Sion, ut aedificentur  
muri Jerusalem.

Tunc acceptabis sacrificium justitiae,  
oblaciones et holocausta;  
tunc imponent super altare tuum vitulos.

*Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness: according to  
the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences.*

*Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness: and cleanse me from my  
sin.*

*For I acknowledge my faults: and my sin is ever before me.  
Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that  
thou mightest be justified  
in thy saying, and clear when thou art judged.  
Behold, I was shapen in wickedness: and in sin hath my mother  
conceived me.*

*But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts: and shalt make me to  
understand wisdom secretly.*

*Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:  
thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

*Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness: that the bones which  
thou hast broken may rejoice.*

*Turn thy face from my sins: and put out all my misdeeds.*

*Make me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me.*

*Cast me not away from thy presence: and take not thy holy Spirit  
from me.*

*O give me the comfort of thy help again: and stablish me with thy  
free Spirit.*

*Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked: and sinners shall be  
converted unto thee.*

*Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of my  
health: and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.*

*Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord: and my mouth shall shew thy praise.*

*For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee: but thou  
delightest not in burnt-offerings.*

*The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit: a broken and contrite heart,  
O God, shalt thou not despise.*

*O be favourable and gracious unto Sion: build thou the walls of  
Jerusalem.*

*Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with  
the burnt-offerings and oblations: then shall they offer young  
bullocks upon thine altar.*

*Text: Psalm 51*

*Music: Gregorio Allegri (1582-1652)*

*The President says*

God our Father,  
the strength of all who put their trust in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers;  
and because, in our weakness,  
we can do nothing good without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in keeping your commandments  
we may please you, both in will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

### **The Peace**

*The President says*

Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*The President says*

Merciful Father,  
turn us from sin to faithfulness  
and from disobedience to love,  
and prepare us to celebrate  
the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

*The President says*

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 in these forty days  
you lead us into the desert of repentance  
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline  
we may grow in grace  
and learn to be your people once again.  
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service  
you bring us back to your generous heart.  
Through study of your holy word  
you open our eyes to your presence in the world  
and free our hands to welcome others  
into the radiant splendour of your love.  
As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast  
with joyful hearts and minds  
we bless you for your mercy  
and join with saints and angels  
for ever praising you and singing:

*The Consort sings*

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt coeli,  
et terra gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.  
Benedictus qui venit  
in nomine Domini.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy,  
Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth  
are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee O Lord most high.  
Blessed is he that cometh  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
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.

Jesus Christ is Lord  
**Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of St Peter and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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**

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 clergy receive Holy Communion. The Consort sings*

Agnus Dei,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.

*O Lamb of God  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.*

Agnus Dei,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.

*O Lamb of God  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.*

Agnus Dei,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
dona nobis pacem.

*O Lamb of God  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us thy peace.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*The President says*

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life. Give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive these his inestimable gifts, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**God of our pilgrimage,  
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.  
Refresh and sustain us  
as we go forward on our journey,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

*The President says*

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*A minister says*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Organ Voluntary**