



Exeter  
Cathedral

# Choral Eucharist

Palm Sunday

29 March 2026

9.45am

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

*#ExeterCathedral #YourCathedral*

## **Welcome to the Cathedral**

The Cathedral Church of St Peter in Exeter, founded in 1050, has been the seat (*cathedra*) of the bishops of Exeter, the symbol of their 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 here.

## **Ministers**

President and Preacher:

The Very Revd Jonathan Greener - *Dean*

Deacon The Revd Canon Deborah Parsons - *Canon Chancellor*

Subdeacon Corinne de Klerk - *Ordinand*

## **Donkeys**

We welcome donkeys Billy and Pepper, and their handlers, who will lead our procession.

## **Music**

Mass Setting: Mass for Five Voices – *William Byrd (1543-1623)*

Conductor: Timothy Noon - *Director of Music*

Organist: Michael Stephens-Jones - *Assistant Director of Music*

## **Holy Communion**

Communion will be offered in two kinds, bread and wine. Please do not dip the host in the wine. Please follow the directions of the sidesmen. Gluten-free wafers will be available at all communion stations, if you require a gluten-free wafer please indicate this to the clergy. If you wish to receive a blessing only please carry this order of service with you.

## Collection and Giving

A collection will be taken during this service. Please remember to use a Gift Aid envelope if you are a UK taxpayer. Also, you may support the work of the Cathedral by donating at the collection boxes and online terminals at the entrance and exit. Additionally, you may give to the Cathedral via this QR code or via the website: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/support-us/giving-to-exeter-cathedral/>



## Newcomer Cards

These are available on the Cathedral Community Table.

## Ordinands

We welcome this week Corinne de Klerk from Westcott House and Stella Stephens from Ripon College Cuddesdon on placement at the Cathedral as part of their theological studies.

## Safeguarding

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church. If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of or is being abused or presents a risk to others, email [safeguarding@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@exeter-cathedral.org.uk) or to speak to one of our local contacts below

Catherine Escott - *Chief Operating Officer* - 07914 901254

Jeremy Rawlings - *Cathedral Safeguarding Officer* - 07482 312299

If there is immediate risk or danger please contact the Police on 999, or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services without delay. **Please note that photography and recordings are not permitted during services.**

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## **Holy Week**

Holy Week is the period between Lent and Easter when Christians remember the last week of the life of Jesus. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday when we recall the time Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people welcomed him like a king, placing their coats on the ground like a 'red carpet', waving palm leaves in the air and shouting his praise. In many churches there will be a procession where palms are carried and those attending the service are given a small palm cross as a reminder. During Holy Week there are two other special days, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

## **Palm Sunday in 1400 and in 2026**

In mediaeval Europe, most people received Holy Communion only once a year, on Easter Day. Palm Sunday marked the start of a week of confession and absolution in preparation for the people's mass-communion at Easter; throughout Holy Week, churches, including this cathedral, would have been busy offering confession and absolution in preparation. Therefore Palm Sunday marked the start of a week of busy interaction between the Church and the whole population, and this was marked with elaborate, converging, civic and religious processions. Today's service reimagines aspects of Palm Sunday as it would have been celebrated here around the year 1400.

In 1400, the procession of cathedral clergy and laity began in the cathedral's Lay Cemetery, close to the New Cut gate. From the roof of the North Porch, a chorister dressed as the Prophet Baruch would sing. The procession would make its way to the Chapel of St Lazarus, a charnel chapel for the keeping of bones near the West Front, and retell the story of the raising of Lazarus. Holy Week was "bookended" by the resurrections of Lazarus and Jesus.

A second procession would greet the first at the West Doors with the Blessed Sacrament, making Jesus present at the entrance of the cathedral, suspending it over the West Doors (reimagining Jesus at the Gate of Jerusalem). Then, a third, civic procession of cloth-workers and city guilds would converge upon the West Front with banners and windsocks. Finally, all three processions would enter the cathedral via the Great West Door, passing under the sacrament while choristers sang above from the outside West gallery.

Today, we reimagine some aspects of that procession, starting at the New Cut gate, with our Cloister Club providing a chorus of prophets. Finally, the procession will enter the cathedral with a dialogue between singers on the gallery and the choir below. The opening texts are taken from or inspired by the Use of Exeter of Bishop John de Grandisson, Bishop of Exeter 1327-69, and the mediaeval Use of Salisbury.

## Order of service

*For the service in the Cathedral, please see page 40.*

### **The Liturgy of Palms at New Cut Gate**

*As the palms are distributed, the choir sings*

Hosanna to the Son of David.

Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna.

Thou that sittest in the highest heav'ns.

Hosanna in excelsis, Deo.

*Words: Matthew 21:9*

*Music: Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623)*

*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.**

### **Blessing of palms**

*The president says*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world.

Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

*The people hold up their palms whilst the president says*

God our Saviour, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die;  
bless these palms that they may be for us signs of his victory  
and grant that we who bear them in his name  
may ever hail him as our King,  
and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **Gospel Reading**

Matthew 21:1-11

*When the Gospel is announced the deacon says*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send

them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

## **Responsory**

President: Hail Jesus!

**All: Hail Jesus!**

President: Hail whom the Hebrew people come to meet with palms, shouting words of salvation.

**All: Hail King!**

President: This is he who comes from Edom, travelling in the greatness of great strength, not on war horses.

**All: Hail light of the world!**

President: This is he, the innocent lamb, handed over to death.

**All: Hail our salvation!**

President: This is our true peace, our salvation.

**All: Hail Prince of Peace!**

Subdeacon: Let us go forth in peace

**All: In the name of Christ. Amen!**

## Processional Hymn

*The congregation sings*

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry,  
thy humble beast pursues his road  
which palms and scattered garments strowed.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die:  
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
The wingèd squadrons of the sky  
look down with sad and wondering eyes  
to see the approaching sacrifice.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;  
the Father on his sapphire throne  
awaits his own anointed Son.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
in lowly pomp ride on to die;  
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,  
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.**

*The congregation repeats verse 1.*

*Words: Henry Milman (1791-1868)*

*Tune: Winchester New, Musicalisches Hand-Buch, 1690*

## At the North Porch

*The choir, Cloister Club and congregation gather and say*

Choir: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!

**All: Hosanna in the highest!**

*From the North Porch*

Cloister Club: Look towards the east, O Jerusalem,  
and see the joy that is coming to you from God.

Choir: Hosanna in the highest!

Cloister Club: Hosanna in the highest!

**All: Hosanna in the highest!**

*The Gospel reading continues:*

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Choir: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!

**All: Hosanna in the highest!**

Cloister Club: Your children are coming,  
gathered from east and west  
rejoicing in the glory of God.  
Choir: Hosanna in the highest!  
Cloister Club: Hosanna in the highest!  
**All: Hosanna in the highest!**

## Hymn

*The congregation sings. The procession continues to the West Front.*

<i>All glory, laud, and honour to thee, Redeemer, King, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.</i>	<b>4. The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went; our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present. <i>All glory, laud, and honour...</i></b>
<b>2. Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son, who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One. <i>All glory, laud, and honour...</i></b>	<b>5. To thee before thy passion they sang their hymns of praise; to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. <i>All glory, laud, and honour...</i></b>
<b>3. The company of angels are praising thee on high, and mortal men and all things created make reply. <i>All glory, laud, and honour...</i></b>	<b>6. Thou didst accept their praises, accept the prayers we bring, who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King. <i>All glory, laud, and honour...</i></b>
	<b>7. Thy sorrow and thy triumph grant us, O Christ, to share, that to the holy city together we may fare. <i>All glory, laud, and honour...</i></b>

*St Theodulph of Orleans d.821, tr. J.M. Neale 1818-66*

*Tune: St Theodulph, (Valet will ich dir Geben, melody by M. Teschner c.1613)*

*The procession arrives at the West Front of the cathedral representing the entrance to Jerusalem.*

## **At the West Front**

*At the West Front of the cathedral, the choir sings in dialogue with the cantors on the West screen.*

Choir: Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors : and the King of glory shall come in.

Cantors: Who is the King of glory?

Choir: it is the Lord strong and mighty,  
even the Lord mighty in battle.  
Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors : and the King of glory shall come in.

Cantors: Who is the King of glory

Choir: even the Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Cantors: Hail our King! Hosanna to the Son of David.

Choir: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

*Text: Psalm 24 and Sarum Missal*

*Music: Timothy Parsons (b. 1992)*

*Former Assistant Director of Music (2016-2021)*

## **Entrance Hymn**

*The servers, ministers and choir lead the congregation into the Cathedral by the Great West Doors. All sing*

**Christ triumphant, ever reigning,  
Saviour, Master, King!  
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,  
hear us as we sing:  
Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name!**

**2. Word incarnate, truth revealing,  
Son of Man on earth!  
Power and majesty concealing  
by your humble birth:  
*Yours the glory...***

**4. Priestly king, enthroned for ever  
high in heaven above!  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
stifle hymns of love:  
*Yours the glory and the crown...***

**3. Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,  
victim crucified!  
Death is through the cross defeated,  
sinners justified:  
*Yours the glory and the crown...***

**5. So, our hearts and voices raising  
through the ages long,  
ceaselessly upon you gazing,  
this shall be our song:  
*Yours the glory and the crown...***

*Words: Michael Saward (b.1932)*

*Tune: Guiting Power (John Barnard b.1948)*

## **The Collect**

*The president says*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the human race  
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take upon him our flesh  
and to suffer death upon the cross:  
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,  
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;  
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 congregation sits.*

## Reading

Philippians 2.5-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# **The Passion Gospel**

Matthew 26:14-end of 27

*All remain seated.*

*Evangelist*

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*Evangelist*

One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

*Judas*

What will you give me if I betray him to you?

*Evangelist*

They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus.

*Disciples*

Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?

*Jesus*

Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'

*Evangelist*

So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said,

*Jesus*

Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.

*Evangelist*

And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

*Disciples*

Surely not I, Lord?

*Jesus*

The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.

*Evangelist*

Judas, who betrayed him, said,

*Judas*

Surely not I, Rabbi?

*Jesus*

You have said so.

*Evangelist*

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

*Jesus*

Take, eat; this is my body.

*Evangelist*

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,

*Jesus*

Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

*Evangelist*

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

*Jesus*

You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.

*Evangelist*

Peter said to him,

*Peter*

Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.

*Jesus*

Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

*Peter*

Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

*Evangelist*

And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

*Jesus*

Sit here while I go over there and pray.

*Evangelist*

He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,

*Jesus*

I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.

*Evangelist*

And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

*Jesus*

My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.

*Evangelist*

Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

*Jesus*

So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

*Evangelist*

Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

*Jesus*

My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.

*Evangelist*

Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

*Jesus*

Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

*Evangelist*

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign:

*Judas*

The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.

*Evangelist*

At once he came up to Jesus and said,

*Judas*

Greetings, Rabbi!

*Evangelist*

and kissed him.

*Jesus*

Friend, do what you are here to do.

*Evangelist*

Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

*Jesus*

Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?

*Evangelist*

At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

*Jesus*

Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.

*Evangelist*

Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward.

*Witnesses*

This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'

*Evangelist*

The high priest stood up and said,

*Caiaphas*

Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

*Evangelist*

But Jesus was silent.

*Caiaphas*

I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.

*Jesus*

You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

*Evangelist*

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

*Caiaphas*

He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses?  
You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?

*Priests*

He deserves death.

*Evangelist*

Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him.

*Priests*

Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?

*Evangelist*

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,

*Servant-girl 1*

You also were with Jesus the Galilean.

*Evangelist*

But he denied it before all of them,

*Peter*

I do not know what you are talking about.

*Evangelist*

When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

*Servant-girl 2*

This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.

*Evangelist*

Again he denied it with an oath,

*Peter*

I do not know the man.

*Evangelist*

After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

*Bystanders (said by the choir)*

Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.

*Evangelist*

Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

*Peter*

I do not know the man!

*Evangelist*

At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: 'Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders.

*Judas*

I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.

*Priests*

What is that to us? See to it yourself.

*Evangelist*

Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

*Priests*

It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.

*Evangelist*

After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, 'And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me.'

*Evangelist*

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

*Pilate*

Are you the King of the Jews?

*Jesus*

You say so.

*Evangelist*

But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

*Pilate*

Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

*Evangelist*

But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

*Pilate*

Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

*Evangelist*

For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him,

*Pilate's wife*

Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.

*Evangelist*

Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

*Pilate*

Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

*Crowd (said by the congregation)*

Barabbas.

*Pilate*

Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?

*Crowd (said by the congregation)*

**Let him be crucified!**

*Pilate*

Why, what evil has he done?

*Crowd (said by the congregation)*

*(louder)* **Let him be crucified!**

*Evangelist*

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd.

*Pilate*

I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

*Crowd (said by the congregation)*

His blood be on us and on our children!

*Evangelist*

So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him.

*Soldiers*

Hail, King of the Jews!

*Evangelist*

They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads.

*Passers-by (said by the choir)*

You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.

*Evangelist*

In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him.

*Priests*

He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'

*Evangelist*

The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

*Jesus*

Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?

*Evangelist*

That is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

*Bystanders (said by the choir)*

This man is calling for Elijah.

*Evangelist*

At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

*Bystanders (said by the choir)*

Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

*Evangelist*

Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

*The congregation stands.*

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

### *Centurion*

Truly this man was God's Son!

### *Evangelist*

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

### *Priests*

Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead', and the last deception would be worse than the first.

### *Pilate*

You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.

*Evangelist*

So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

*Evangelist*

This is the Passion of the Lord.

*The congregation sits.*

## **Sermon**

The Very Revd Jonathan Greener - *Dean*

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

### **The Peace**

*The congregation stands. The president says*

Once we were far off,  
but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near  
through the shedding of Christ's blood,  
for he is our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## Offertory Collection

*A collection is taken. Please remember to use a Gift Aid envelope if you are a UK taxpayer. You may also donate by phone or cards at the contactless points as you leave. Additionally, you may give to the Cathedral by scanning this QR code or via <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/support-us/giving-to-exeter-cathedral/>*



## Preparation of the Table

*The altar is prepared and the congregation sings*

**My song is love unknown,  
my Saviour's love to me,  
love to the loveless shown,  
that they might lovely be.**

**O who am I,  
that for my sake  
my Lord should take  
frail flesh, and die?**

**2. He came from his blest throne,  
salvation to bestow;  
but men made strange, and none  
the longed-for Christ would know.  
But O, my friend,  
my friend indeed,  
who at my need  
his life did spend!**

**3. Sometimes they strew his way,  
and his sweet praises sing;  
resounding all the day  
hosannas to their King.  
Then "Crucify!"  
is all their breath,  
and for his death  
they thirst and cry.**

**4. In life, no house, no home  
my Lord on earth might have;  
in death, no friendly tomb  
but what a stranger gave.  
What may I say?  
Heaven was his home;  
but mine the tomb  
wherein he lay.**

**5. Here might I stay and sing,  
no story so divine:  
never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like thine!  
This is my friend,  
in whose sweet praise  
I all my days  
could gladly spend.**

*Words: Samuel Crossman, (1624-1683)*

*Tune: Love Unknown, John Ireland (1879-1962)*

*The president says*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.  
It will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

*The congregation remains standing until the Invitation to Communion.  
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 just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near  
the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty.  
The power of the life-giving cross  
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world  
and the triumph of Christ crucified.  
He is the victim who dies no more,  
the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,  
our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,  
exalting us there to join with angels and archangels,  
for ever praising you and saying:

*The choir 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 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.*

Father of all, we give you thanks

for every gift that comes from heaven.

To the darkness Jesus came as your light.

With signs of faith and words of hope

he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.

**This is our song:**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

The crowds came out to see your Son,

yet at the end they turned on him.

On the night he was betrayed

he came to table with his friends

to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.

**This is our song:**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;  
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:  
This is my body, given for you all.  
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;  
he took the cup, gave it and said:  
This is my blood, shed for you all  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me.  
This is our story.

**This is our song:**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate the cross  
on which he died to set us free.  
Defying death he rose again  
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.  
This is our story.

**This is our song:**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

Send your Spirit on us now  
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ  
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food  
offer ourselves to live for you  
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven  
where all creation worships you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Standing at the foot of the cross,  
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

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.**

## Agnus Dei

*The choir sings*

Agnus Dei,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.

*Lamb of God  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.

*Lamb of God  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.*

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

*Lamb of God  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.*

*The congregation sits. If you wish to receive communion please follow the directions of the sidesmen, joining the appropriate queue and returning to your seats via the side aisles. If you wish to receive a blessing please hold up this book to indicate that you wish to receive a blessing. Please do not dip the host in the wine.*

*Gluten-free hosts are available - simply say "gluten-free."*

*During Communion the choir sings*

Pueri Hebraeorum vestimenta  
prosternebant in via  
et clamabant dicentes:  
Hosanna Filio David,  
benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.

*The Hebrew children  
spread their garments in the way,  
and cried out, saying:  
Hosanna to the Son of David:  
blessed is He that cometh  
in the Name of the Lord.*

*Words: Antiphons for Palm Sunday  
Music: Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)*

## **Prayers after Communion**

*The president says*

Let us pray.

*The congregation stands.*

**Faithful God, may we who share this banquet  
glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
our salvation, life and hope,  
who reigns as Lord now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*The congregation sits. Notices are given.*

## The Dismissal

*The president says the following blessing*

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Christ crucified draw you to himself,  
to find in him a sure ground for faith,  
a firm support for hope,  
and the assurance of sins forgiven;  
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 the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

*The congregation stands and sings*

**The royal banners forward go,  
the cross shines forth in mystic glow;  
where he in flesh, our flesh was made,  
our sentence bore, our ransom paid.**

**2. There whilst he hung, his sacred side  
by soldier's spear was opened wide,  
to cleanse us in the precious flood  
of water mingled with his blood.**

**3. Fulfilled is now what David told  
in true prophetic song of old,  
how God the nations' King should be;  
for God is reigning from the tree.**

**4. O tree of glory, tree most fair,  
ordained those holy limbs to bear,  
how bright in purple robe it stood,  
the purple of a Saviour's blood!**

**5. Upon its arms, like balance true,  
he weighed the price for sinners due,  
the price which none but he could pay,  
and spoiled the spoiler of his prey.**

**6. To thee, eternal Three in One,  
let homage meet by all be done:  
as by the cross thou dost restore,  
so rule and guide us evermore. Amen.**

*Words: Venantius Fortunatus (530-609)*

*Tr J.M. Neale (1818-1866)*

*Tune: Gonfanlon Royal (Percy Buck 1871-1947)*

## **Organ Voluntary**

*Valet will ich der geben BWV 736 -J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

*The choir and ministers depart. The congregation sits and is invited to listen to the organ voluntary.*

*Tea and coffee are served in the South Transept following the service. All are welcome.*

*The Dean and Chapter wish you a holy and blessed Holy Week.*

## **Commemoration of the Lord's Entry into Jerusalem**

*The Liturgy of Palms ceremony at the Cathedral begins here.*

*The congregation stands. The people are greeted.*

**Hosanna to the Son of David.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Behold your king comes to you, O Zion,  
meek and lowly, sitting upon an ass.

**Hosanna to the Son of David.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

## **Blessing of Palms**

*The president says*

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

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection.

Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

*The people hold up their palms whilst this prayer of blessing is said*

God our Saviour, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem  
as Messiah to suffer and to die;  
bless these palms that they may be for us signs of his victory  
and grant that we who bear them in his name  
may ever hail him as our King,  
and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **Gospel Reading**

Matthew 21:1-11

*When the Gospel is announced the deacon says*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

*The service continues with the procession at the West Front on page 10.*

## **Pastoral Care Team**

Members of the Pastoral Care Team are entrusted to visit the sick and the housebound with Communion. If you would like a member of the Pastoral Care Team to contact you, please email: [pastoral.care@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:pastoral.care@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

If you would like a conversation whether in joy or sorrow, please contact the Canon Chancellor, Canon Deborah Parsons: 07776359402

([deborah.parsons@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:deborah.parsons@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)) or Canon Ian Morter 07527735640 ([ian.morter@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:ian.morter@exeter-cathedral.org.uk))

For wedding enquiries, please contact Prebendary Nigel Guthrie ([nigel.guthrie@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:nigel.guthrie@exeter-cathedral.org.uk))

For baptism enquiries, please contact Prebendary Nigel Guthrie ([nigel.guthrie@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:nigel.guthrie@exeter-cathedral.org.uk))

## **Readings for 10am Choral Eucharist next Sunday:**

(05 April, Easter Sunday ) Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18

## **For your prayers**

**Please pray for** Staff, pupils and parents of Exeter Cathedral School.

### **Those who are sick or in need:**

Ex-pats from the Gulf States

Sue, Dick, Arnold Harding, Penelope, Sandy, Peter Vincent-Smith, Ken Parry, John Baker, Sally, Marion Newbery, Sarah Huxtable, Rosemarie, Penny Endersby, Rosemary Henry, Olivia Parkinson, Sarah, Ann, John Bowers, John, Jonathan Bush

**Departed:** Martin Summers

## **Notices**

### **Contemplative Prayer Group**

Contemplative praying is simply a way of perceiving the Godhead with the heart, rather than with the mind, the latter of which is our usual modus operandi for most of our daily waking hours. The only skill that is required is the ability to sit still for a while. The group meets in the St. Gabriel Chapel (to the right of the Lady Chapel) on the first Tuesday of every month from 1.00-2.00pm so please “come and see.” (Judith Yeo)

### **In Conversation with Dr. Alison Perham on:**

**“Is it helpful to talk about Dying?”**

**Sunday 10 May 2026 6:30pm The Chapter House**

(Refreshments served from 6.00pm)

Alison Perham is a retired physician, initially working in General Practice, before specialising in Palliative Medicine. She has worked in different settings, hospitals, hospices and the community. Having this experience made her appreciate the value for families, individuals and communities of discussions around older care, and end of life care. Her intention during the conversation, is not to set herself up as an expert, but as someone who has been privileged to have witnessed, the complexities surrounding the end of our lives. Her faith has always been, she hopes, at the core of her practice, and at the heart of her own decision making.

Join us for an evening of conversation and exploration followed by a short service of compline.



**Sunday 29**

PALM SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion *BCP p95 for Collect, Epistle and Gospel*

Nave

9.00am Morning Prayer *CW*

St. John the Baptist

9.45am **The Liturgy of Palms including**

New Cut and Nave

**Choral Eucharist** *CW Order 1*

Hosanna to the Son of David *Thomas Weelkes*

Palm Sunday liturgy *Timothy Parsons*

Mass for Five Voices *William Byrd*

*Pueri hebraeorum Tomás Luis de Victoria*

**Monday 30**

Monday of Holy Week

8.15am Morning Prayer *CW*

Lady Chapel

8.35am The Eucharist *CW*

Lady Chapel

9.00am Morning Prayer *CW*

www.zoom.us

5.30pm **Choral Evensong** *BCP*

Psalm 25

Plainsong

Quire

Emendemus in melius *William Byrd*

Responses

*Plainsong*

**7.00pm Compline with Address**

Quire

**Tuesday 31**

Tuesday of Holy Week

8.15am Morning Prayer *CW*

Quire

8.35am The Eucharist *CW*

Quire

9.00am Zoom Morning Prayer *CW*

www.zoom.us

5.30pm **Choral Evensong** *BCP*

Psalm 55 (13-24)

Plainsong

Quire

O saviour of the world *Fredrick Ouseley*

Responses

*Plainsong*

**7.00pm Compline with Address**

Quire

**Wednesday 01**

Wednesday of Holy Week

8.15am Morning Prayer *CW*

Quire

8.35am The Eucharist *CW*

Quire

9.00am Zoom Morning Prayer *CW*

www.zoom.us

1.15pm The Eucharist *CW*

Lady Chapel

5.30pm Evening Prayer *BCP*

St. John the Baptist

**7.00pm Compline with Address**

Quire

The Very Revd Jonathan Greener – *Dean*

The Revd Canon James Mustard – *Canon Precentor*

Timothy Noon – *Director of Music*

# 29 March-05 April 2026

## Thursday 02

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

8.15am	Morning Prayer <i>CW</i>	Quire
9.00am	Zoom Morning Prayer <i>CW</i>	<a href="http://www.zoom.us">www.zoom.us</a>
10.30am	<b>Diocesan Chrism Eucharist</b> <i>CW</i> <i>Gloria David Thorne</i> <i>Francis Jackson in G</i> <i>The Lord is my shepherd John Rutter</i>	Nave
5.30pm	Evening Prayer	St John the Baptist
7.30pm	<b>The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday</b> <i>In ieuinio et fletu Thomas Tallis</i> <i>Mass Igor Stravinsky</i> <i>Sicut cervus Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina</i>	Nave

## Friday 03

## GOOD FRIDAY

8.15am	Morning Prayer <i>CW</i>	St John the Baptist
9.00am	Zoom Morning Prayer <i>CW</i>	<a href="http://www.zoom.us">www.zoom.us</a>
10.00am	<b>Good Friday service given by CTAX</b>	Nave
1.30pm	<b>The Liturgy of Good Friday</b> <i>CW</i> Psalm 22	Nave
5.30pm	Evening Prayer	St John the Baptist
7.30pm	Performance of 'The Crucifixion' by <i>John Stainer</i> <i>Sung by the University of Exeter Chapel Choir</i>	Nave

## Saturday 04

## EASTER EVE

8.15am	Morning Prayer <i>CW</i>	St John the Baptist
5.30pm	Evening Prayer <i>BCP</i>	St John the Baptist

## Sunday 05

## EASTER DAY

6.00am	<b>Easter Vigil</b> <i>CW</i>	Nave
8.00am	Holy Communion <i>BCP p128 for Collect, Epistle and Gospel</i>	Quire
10.00am	<b>Choral Eucharist</b> <i>CW Order 1</i> <i>This joyful Eastertide</i> <i>arr, Charles Wood/Thomas Armstrong</i> <i>Krönungsmesse K 317 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart</i> <i>Ecce vicit Leo Peter Philips</i>	Nave
11.45am	<b>Choral Matins</b> <i>BCP</i> Psalms 114, 117 <i>Collegium Regale Herbert Howells</i> <i>Blessed be the God and Father</i> <i>Samuel Sebastian Wesley</i>	Quire Responses <i>Michael Walsh</i>
4.00pm	<b>Choral Evensong</b> <i>BCP</i> Psalm 66 (1-11) <i>Charles Villiers Stanford in A</i> <i>Hallelujah George Frederic Handel</i>	Quire Responses <i>Michael Walsh</i>

*CW – Common Worship, services and prayers for the Church of England (2000)*

**Zoom Morning Prayer:** [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) Meeting ID: 99638985011, Passcode: 1F0puR

*BCP – Book of Common Prayer (1662)*

## Holy Week 2026

### TODAY

4.00pm: Performance of J.S. Bach 'St John Passion'

### Monday 30 March - Wednesday 01 April

5.30pm Choral Evensong (Wed: Said Evening Prayer)

6.15pm Holy Week Soup Suppers in the Chapter House Café.

Please book in advance via the QR code or via

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/exetercathedral/e-emerzv>

**7.00pm**, Compline and Address



### Maundy Thursday 02 April

10.30am Chrism Eucharist with Renewal of Ministerial Vows

7.30pm The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday

### Good Friday 03 April

10.00am Good Friday service given by Churches Together across Exeter

1.30pm The Liturgy of Good Friday

7.30pm Performance of 'The Crucifixion' *John Stainer*  
*sung by the University of Exeter Chapel Choir*

### Easter Sunday 05 April

6.00am Easter Vigil: *Gather in the Cloister Gallery*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Choral Eucharist:

11.45am Choral Matins

4.00pm Choral Evensong

### Easter Monday 06 April

***Services today sung by the Old Choristers' Association***

11.30am Choral Eucharist

3.00pm Choral Evensong