

# Lincoln Cathedral

Yesterday, Today, Forever

Enduring faith, inspiring stories, living history



## Midnight Mass

The First Eucharist  
of Christmas



Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024

11.30 pm

# Welcome to Lincoln Cathedral

We are delighted to welcome you to Lincoln Cathedral for this Christmas service. Whether you are a visitor, a newcomer or a regular, we are glad to be worshipping with you tonight.

If you need any help or directions about the service, the facilities, the children's activities or anything else, please ask one of the stewards (wearing a blue sash). They will be pleased to help you.

Members of all Christian Churches who receive communion in their own church are warmly invited to do so here tonight – please wait for the stewards to direct you to your closest communion station. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please come forward as the stewards direct and bring this service paper as a signal to the priest.

If you need a gluten-free wafer, please tell a steward. They will direct you to receive holy communion from the appropriate station.

The mass setting is sung by the cathedral choir is Jonathan Dove's Missa brevis.

## ***Retiring Collection***

*A collection will be taken as you leave the service. This will support the ministry of the Cathedral (we receive no public funding). If you are a taxpayer, you can enhance the value of your contribution substantially by taking a few moments to complete the Gift Aid Envelope which you should have found on your seat and sealing your contribution inside. This will enable us to reclaim 25% of your gift from HMRC. Thank you in advance for your generosity.*

*Donations can also be made online  
by using the QR code:*



## **Organ Music Before the Service**

*played by*

**Jeffrey Makinson, Cathedral Organist**

*Les Bergers Olivier Messiaen*

# The Gathering

*All stand at the entry of the choir and clergy. The lights are dimmed, and a chorister sings*

Once in royal David's city,  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

*Choir* He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and mean and lowly  
lived on earth our saviour holy.

*All* **And through all his wondrous childhood  
day by day like us he grew,  
he was little, weak, and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us he knew:  
and he feeleth for our sadness,  
and he shareth in our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love,  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him; but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
where like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.**

*Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-95)*

*Music: H.J. Gauntlett (1805-76)*

## GREETING

*Bishop* In the name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

*Bishop* Peace be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

*The bishop welcomes the congregation and introduces the Prayers of Penitence.*

## PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

*Bishop* Christ the light of the world has come  
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.  
Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

*All call to mind their sins in silence.*

God our Father, you sent your Son  
full of grace and truth;  
forgive our failure to receive him.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus our Saviour,  
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger;  
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of love,  
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call;  
forgive the hardness of our hearts.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*The bishop gives the absolution, to which all respond*  
**Amen.**

## GLORIA *sung by the choir*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo  
et in terra pax hominibus bonae  
voluntatis.*

*Laudamus te, benedicimus te,  
adoramus te, glorificamus te  
gratias agimus tibi propter magnam  
gloriam tuam.*

*Domine Deus, Rex caelestis  
Deus Pater omnipotens.  
Domine Fili unigenite, Iesu Christe  
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis;*

*qui tollis peccata mundi,  
suscipe deprecationem nostram;  
qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,  
miserere nobis.*

*Quoniam tu solus sanctus,  
tu solus Dominus,  
tu solus Altissimus, Iesu Christe,  
cum Sancto Spiritu  
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.*

Glory be to God on high,  
in earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we worship thee, we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for  
thy great glory,

O Lord God, heavenly King,  
God the Father almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ.  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of  
God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy;  
thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,  
art the Most High,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*Setting: Missa Brevis Dove*

## COLLECT

*The bishop introduces a time of silent prayer and then prays the Collect of the  
day, to which all respond*

**Amen.**

*Sit*

## The Liturgy of the Word

### FIRST READING

ISAIAH 52.7-10

*At the end the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*           **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Choir* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*All* **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*Choir* The Word became flesh and dwelt among us:  
and we have seen his glory.

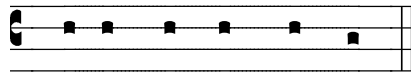
*All* **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

## GOSPEL READING JOHN 1.1-14

*Gospeller* The Lord be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

*Gospeller* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.



*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end of the Gospel the reader says*  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*All* **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*Sit*

## SERMON The Rt Rev'd Stephen Conway, The Bishop

*A brief period of silent reflection is kept.*

*Stand.*

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

*All* I believe in God  
**the Father almighty,**  
**creator of heaven and earth.**  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**  
**born of the Virgin Mary,**  
**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**  
**was crucified, died, and was buried;**  
**he descended to the dead.**  
**On the third day he rose again;**  
**he ascended into heaven,**  
**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**  
**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
**the holy catholic Church,**  
**the communion of saints,**  
**the forgiveness of sins,**  
**the resurrection of the body,**  
**and the life everlasting.**  
**Amen.**

*Sit*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*During these, the following response is used*

*Reader* Holy God  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

*Stand*

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### THE PEACE

*The Bishop introduces the Peace and then says*

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

We offer each other a sign of peace.

## OFFERTORY HYMN

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,  
from heaven’s all-gracious King!”  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled;  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o’er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing;  
and ever o’er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and man, at war with man, hears not  
the love-song which they bring:  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on  
by prophet bards foretold,  
when, with the ever-circling years,  
comes round the age of gold;  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

*Words: Edmund Sears (1810-76)*

*Music: Traditional English Tune, adapted by A. Sullivan*



## PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

*The bishop prays the prayer of preparation, at the end of which all respond*

*All*           **Amen.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*Bishop*       The Lord be with you

*All*           **and also with you.**

*Bishop*       Lift up your hearts

*All*           **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Bishop*       Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All*           **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The bishop praises God for his mighty acts, and the choir sings the **Sanctus & Benedictus***

*Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus*

*Dominus Deus Sabaoth.*

*Pleni sunt caeli 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.

*Setting: Missa Brevis Dove*

*The bishop recalls the Last Supper, and this acclamation is used*

Great is the mystery of faith:

*All*           **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology, which ends*

...for ever and ever.

*All*           **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Bishop* Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

*All* **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.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Bishop* We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

*All* **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

*The bishop invites the people to receive communion*

God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people.

*All* **Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*Bishop* If you are worshipping with us online, you are invited to  
make your spiritual communion, praying that by God's  
grace, united with all the baptised and with Christ who  
gave his life for us, you may be filled with his indwelling  
presence.

Sit

**Act of Spiritual Reception to say at home:**

O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though I am exiled from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us. Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence. Amen.

*All baptised Christians who usually receive communion are invited to do so. Please follow the directions of the stewards. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please carry this service booklet as a signal to the priest.*

*Those who wish to receive communion in both kinds are reminded that intinction (dipping an individual host into the wine) is not permitted in order to prevent the spread of infection and contamination for those who are gluten intolerant. Also, please assist those administering the chalice by gently guiding the chalice to your lips and tilting it sufficiently.*

## AGNUS DEI

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata  
mundi, miserere nobis*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata  
mundi miserere nobis*

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

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

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

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

*Setting: Missa Brevis Dove*

*During the distribution of communion, the choir sing a selection of carols.*

## POST-COMMUNION HYMN

*Please remain seated to sing*

**In the bleak midwinter  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone:  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter,  
long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.**

**Enough for him, whom Cherubim  
worship night and day,  
a breastful of milk,  
and a mangerful of hay:  
enough for him, whom angels  
fall down before,  
the ox and ass and camel  
which adore.**

**what can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him  
give my heart.**

*Words: Christina Rossetti  
Music: Gustav Holst*

*Stand*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Bishop* Let us pray.  
God our Father,  
in this night you have made known to us again  
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him  
until the day dawns  
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

*All* **To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**

*During the following carol the bishop and cathedral clergy move to stand before the Crib at the rear of the nave.*

**O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him  
born the King of Angels:**

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

**God of God,  
Light of Light,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten not created:**

*O come, let us adore him ...*

**See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps:**

*O come, let us adore him ...*

**Child for us sinners  
poor and in the manger,  
fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;  
who would not love thee,  
loving us so dearly?**

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

**Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
in the highest.**

*O come, let us adore him ...*

#### THE BLESSING OF THE CRIB

*The bishop prays for God's blessing on the crib, to which all respond*

*All*            **Amen.**

*All sing as the crib is greeted with incense*

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:**

*O come, let us adore him ...*

*Words: Latin, 18<sup>th</sup> century tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-80) and others*

*Music: unknown, arr. David Wilcocks*

## The Dismissal

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

*Bishop* May the Father,  
who has loved the eternal Son  
from before the foundation of the world,  
shed that love upon you his children.

*All* **Amen.**

*Bishop* May Christ,  
who by his incarnation  
gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with joy and peace.

*All* **Amen.**

*Bishop* May the Holy Spirit,  
by whose overshadowing  
Mary became the God-bearer,  
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

*All* **Amen.**

*Bishop* And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

*Gospeller* Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

*All* **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

### CLOSING VOLUNTARIES

Choral Prelude, 'Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her', BWV 606 *J.S. Bach*

Toccata from Symphony 5 *Charles-Marie Widor*

**We wish you all a joyful and blessed Christmas  
and a happy New Year.**

# Services on Christmas Day 2024

*Rejoicing at Christ's birth: love dwelling among us.*

- 7 45am LITANY  
8am HOLY COMMUNION  
9 30am MATTINS (*said*)  
10 30am FESTAL EUCHARIST WITH CAROLS  
*sung by the Cathedral Choir with the  
Lincolnshire Chamber Orchestra*  
12 30pm HOLY COMMUNION (*a quiet, said service*)  
3 45pm FESTAL EVENSONG

# Services for Epiphany-tide 2025

*Remembering the visit of the Magi, and  
the gifts that symbolise Christ as God, King and Saviour*

## **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January: The Eve of Epiphany**

- 5 30pm CHORAL EVENSONG  
7pm ORGAN RECITAL: Olivier Messiaen's 'La  
Nativité', performed by Jeffrey Makinson

## **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January: The Feast of the Epiphany**

- 10 30am SUNG EUCHARIST  
3 45pm FESTAL EVENSONG

## **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January: The Second Sunday of Epiphany**

- 3 45pm EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

## **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February: The Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas)**

*Celebrating Christ as a light for all peoples and  
marking the end of the Christmas season!*

- 10 30am SUNG EUCHARIST  
3 45pm FESTAL EVESONG

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