

The Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity  
commonly called

**CHRIST CHURCH  
DUBLIN**



**Sunday 26 March 2023**

**15.30 Choral Evensong**

**Sung by the Cathedral Choir**

Choral Evensong is essentially a service of reflection—of leaving ourselves open that God may speak to us through the psalms, readings and canticles, which are the core of the service.

We welcome you to share with us in worship that has been offered here for nearly a thousand years. Cathedrals with a great choral tradition draw upon a rich inheritance of music, much of it sung by the choir alone. In the Anglican tradition this music finds its natural setting in the office of Evensong, a combination of the medieval offices of Vespers and Compline. Here beauty in language and music can speak to us of God in a rich and diverse way. Within this hallowed space you may forget the ceaseless activity of daily life and be still.

There are no announcements during services. Please join strongly in all spoken parts and in the singing of hymns (where these are appointed). To aid reflection you are invited to *sit* during the psalmody and canticles.

## Introit

Verily, verily I say unto you,  
except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man  
and drink His blood, ye have not life in you.  
Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath eternal life,  
and I will raise him up at the last day (bis)  
For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.  
He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood  
dwelleth in me, and I in him.

Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

John 6:53-56

*Please stand when the choir and clergy enter.*

*Following the reading of the sentence, the Priest introduces the Confession.*

Dearly beloved, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of almighty God; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by their infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at their hands, to set forth their most worthy praise, to hear their most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, as we sit or kneel and humbly confess our sins unto almighty God.

## The Confession

Almighty and most merciful God; We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto humankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful God, for their sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

## The Absolution

Almighty God, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to their Ministers, to declare and pronounce to their people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: They pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe their holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech them to grant us true repentance, and their Holy Spirit, that those things may please them which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to their eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Preces

Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

Cantor O Lord, open thou our lips;  
Choir and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise,  
Cantor O God, make speed to save us;  
Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.  
Cantor Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit;  
Choir as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.  
Cantor Praise ye the Lord.  
Choir The Lord's Name be praised

## The Choir sings the psalm(s) appointed for the day, Psalm 119: 129-144

*Please sit*

Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them. When thy word goeth forth: it giveth light and understanding unto the simple. I opened my mouth, and drew in my breath: for my delight was in thy commandments. O look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me: as thou usest to do unto those that love thy Name. Order my steps in thy word: and so shall no wickedness have dominion over me. O deliver me from the wrongful dealings of men: and so shall I keep thy commandments. Shew the light of thy countenance upon thy servant: and teach me thy statutes. Mine eyes gush out with water: because men keep not thy law. Righteous art thou, O Lord: and true is thy judgement. The testimonies that thou hast commanded: are exceeding righteous and true. My zeal hath even consumed me: because mine enemies have forgotten thy words. Thy word is tried to the uttermost: and thy servant loveth it. I am small, and of no reputation: yet do I not forget thy commandments. Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness: and thy law is the truth. Trouble and heaviness have taken hold upon me: yet is my delight in thy commandments. The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: O grant me understanding, and I shall live.

*Please stand*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

*Please sit*

## The First Lesson - Lamentations 3: 19-33

### The Magnificat *The song of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his hand-maiden. For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

*Please stand*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

*Please sit*

Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988) The Second Service

## The Second Lesson - Matthew 20: 17-37

### The Nunc Dimittis *The song of Simeon*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

*Please stand*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

## The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth:  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried,  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the Communion of Saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

## Responses

Cantor The Lord be with you

Choir and with thy spirit.

Cantor Let us pray

*Please kneel or sit*

Choir Lord have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

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

Cantor O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;

Choir and grant us thy salvation.

Cantor O Lord, guide and defend our rulers;

Choir and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Cantor Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

Choir and make thy chosen people joyful.

Cantor O Lord, save thy people;

Choir and bless thine inheritance.

Cantor Give peace in our time, O Lord;

Choir because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Cantor O God, make clean our hearts within us;

Choir and take not thy holy Spirit from us.

### *The Collect, of the Day*

We beseech thee, Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of thy humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of thy Majesty, to be our defence against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### *The Collect for Lent*

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### *The Second Collect, for Peace*

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

### *The Third Collect, for Aid against all Perils*

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

## **Anthem**

Drop, drop, slow tears,  
And bathe those beauteous feet,  
Which brought from heaven  
The news and Prince of peace.

Cease not, wet eyes,  
His mercies to entreat;  
To cry for vengeance  
Sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods  
Drown all my faults and fears;  
Nor let his eye  
See sin, but through my tears.

Kenneth Leighton (1929–88)

Phineas Fletcher (1582–1650)

## **The Prayers**

*Following the Prayers, we say together*

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all for evermore. Amen**

**Please stand**

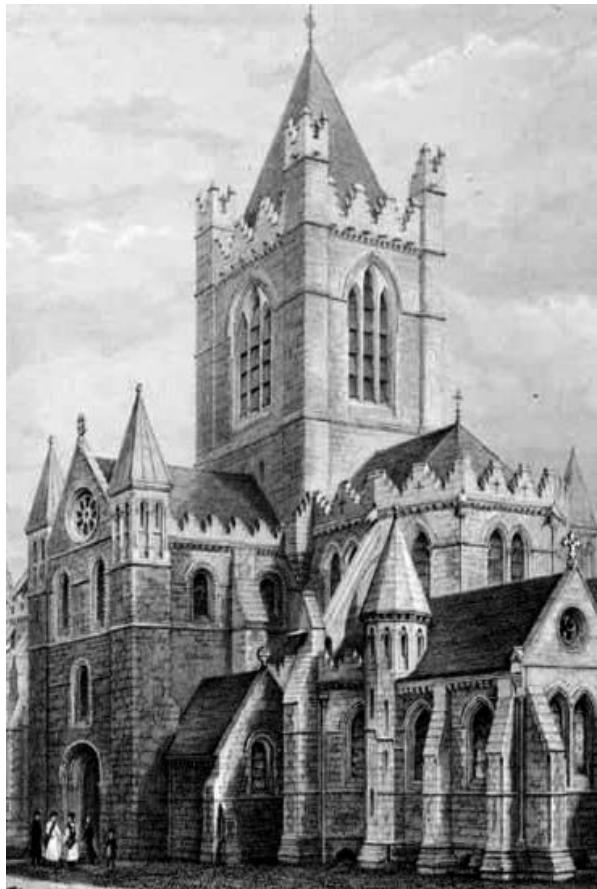
**The Hymn** *during which a collection will be taken in support of the Cathedral's mission*

## **The Blessing**

*The service concludes with the procession of the clergy and choir.*

*Please sit for the Organ voluntary*

O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig' BWV 618 JS Bach (1685-1750)



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