



The Cathedral & Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York

THE EUCHARIST

ON THE

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday 4th January 2026
at 11.00am

The Eucharist

Welcome to this service of Holy Communion on the Second Sunday of Christmas. We welcome those live-streaming from home, who share this service with those present in the Minster.

We are grateful to the Chapel Choir of Pembroke College, Cambridge for singing our services today while the Choir of York Minster is on holiday. The setting of the Eucharist is the MASS IN A MINOR by Imogen Holst (1907–1984).

The President is the Reverend Canon Maggie McLean, Missioner.

The Preacher is the Reverend Canon James Milne, Precentor.



Information about this Service

- ◆ This service is being live-streamed, but care is taken to focus on the clergy and choir and not the congregation. For licensing and safeguarding reasons, please do not record this service on your own devices.
- ◆ Please follow the directions of the stewards. Where "Sit" or "Stand" are indicated, these are given simply as a guide. Throughout the service please feel free to adopt the posture that is most comfortable for you.
- ◆ Please join in singing the congregational responses, as well as in saying together the words printed in **bold** type.
- ◆ It is the custom at the Minster to receive the wine from the chalice only and not to intinct; please do not dip the wafer into the wine. Gluten-free wafers are available. If you do not wish to take communion but would like to receive a blessing, please come forward and let the minister know.
- ◆ We are grateful for all who give to support the mission and ministry of York Minster. You can offer a gift, or set up regular giving, by using the following QR code. 10% of all giving offered during this service will be given to three charities York Minster supports, HOPE Africa, a charity which was initiated by our companion link dioceses in SA; Mustard Seed, a York Diocese based organisation which works in the most deprived areas of our diocese; and a variety of Refugee charities based in the City of York. Thank you for all you are able to give.
- ◆ Donations can be made via the following QR code:



The Gathering

Prayers are said. Stand for the Processional Hymn.

Processional Hymn



1. Of the Father's heart begotten,
ere the world from chaos rose,
he is Alpha: from that Fountain
all that is and hath been flows;
he is Omega, of all things
yet to come the mystic Close,
evermore and evermore.

2. By his word was all created;
he commanded and 'twas done;
earth and sky and boundless ocean,
universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft radiance,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore.

3. He assumed this mortal body,
frail and feeble, doomed to die,
that the race from dust created
might not perish utterly,
which the dreadful Law had sentenced
in the depths of hell to lie,
evermore and evermore.

4. This is he, whom seer and sibyl
sang in ages long gone by;
this is he of old revealed
in the page of prophecy;
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.

5. Sing, ye heights of heav'n, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Whereso'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
ev'ry tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.

Words NEH 33, Latin, Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348–c 413)
translated into English by Robert Furley Davis (1866–1937) alt.

Tune DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, NEH 33, melody from *Piae Cantiones* (1582)

The Greeting

The President says:

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

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The President introduces the service.

Prayers of Penitence

A Deacon says:

Christ the Light of the World
has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour,
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
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 grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

The President says:

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

*Remain standing as the choir sings the Gloria.
Children's Church please follow the cross.*

Gloria in Excelsis

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 coelestis, Deus
Pater omnipotens. Domine Fili unigenite,
Jesu 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, Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu,
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

*Glory to God in the highest, and peace to
his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly
King, almighty God and Father, we
worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.*

*Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the
Father: receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the
Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Remain standing.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,
and shown us the fullness of your love:
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love
that we may know the fullness of his joy;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Sit.

The Liturgy of the Word

New Testament Reading

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

EPHESIANS 1.3–14

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand.

Gradual Hymn

Turn to face the Deacon as the Gospel Procession moves down the Nave.



1. A great and mighty wonder,
a full and holy cure!
the Virgin bears the Infant
with virgin-honour pure.

Repeat the angels' call!
'To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth to all!'

2. The Word becomes incarnate
and yet remains on high!
and Cherubim sing anthems
to shepherds from the sky.

Repeat the angels' call...

4. Since all he comes to ransom,
by all be he adored,
the infant born in Beth'lem,
the Saviour and the Lord.

Repeat the angels' call...

3. While thus they sing your Monarch,
those bright angelic bands,
rejoice, ye vales and mountains,
ye oceans clap your hands.

Repeat the angels' call...

5. And idol forms shall perish,
and error shall decay,
and Christ shall wield his sceptre,
our Lord and God for ay.

Repeat the angels' call...

Words NEH 21, Greek, St Germanus (634–734)

translated into English by the Reverend John Mason Neale (1818–1866) and others

Tune ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN, NEH 21, German carol melody

Remain standing.

Gospel Reading

The choir begins the Alleluia; the congregation then joins in the response, which is sung before and after the verse:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of

me because he was before me.”) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

JOHN 1.1–18

After the Gospel the Deacon says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



The organist plays a musical response to the Gospel.

Sit for the sermon.

Sermon

The Reverend Canon James Milne, Precentor

The organist plays a musical response to the sermon.

Stand to say the Creed.

The Creed

Let us affirm our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

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

Prayers of Intercession

The President introduces the prayers with these words:

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Sit or kneel.

This response is used:

Holy God,
hear our prayer.

The President concludes with these words

Father, at this holy time
angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne.
Receive the worship we offer
in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints
through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Stand.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The President introduces the Peace:

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

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

A Deacon says:

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All are invited to exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn



No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

2. They lookèd up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far:
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night:

Nowell, Nowell...

3. And by the light of that same star,
three Wise Men came from country far:
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wheresoever it went:

Nowell, Nowell...

4. This star drew nigh to the north-west;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay:

Nowell, Nowell...

5. Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presènce
both gold and myrrh and frankincense:

Nowell, Nowell...

6. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of naught,
and with his blood our life hath bought:

Nowell, Nowell...

Words NEH 36, traditional alt.

Tune THE FIRST NOWELL, NEH 36, English third mode melody

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Let us pray.

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
and was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

The choir sings:

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth,
pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Benedictus qui venit in nomine
Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

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

Remain standing.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.
On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

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

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

A Deacon says:

Great is the mystery of faith:



Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Peter the Apostle, William of York, and all the saints,
to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.



A short silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
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, saying:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

The President says an invitation to communion:

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

*Sit or kneel whilst making your preparation to receive communion
and for prayerful reflection afterwards.*

During the distribution of communion the choir sings:

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: *Lamb of God, you take away the sin of*
miserere nobis. *the world, have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: *Lamb of God, you take away the sin of*
dona nobis pacem. *the world, grant us peace.*

and

Unto you is born this day in the city of David,
a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
And this shall be a sign to you;
ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes,
and lying in a manger.

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee to-night.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Words LUKE 2.11–12 and Phillips Brooks (1835–1893)

Music Sir Henry Walford Davies (1869–1941)

*Communion is administered at a number of places. You will be guided by the stewards.
If your child has been at Children's Church, please collect them now.*

Prayer after Communion

Stand.

The President says:

Let us pray.

All praise to you,
almighty God and heavenly king,
who sent your Son into the world
to take our nature upon him
and to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that, as we are born again in him,
so he may continually dwell in us
and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven,
now and for ever.

Amen.

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.**

Amen.

Remain standing.

Hymn



1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Words AM 72, Issac Watts (1674–1748)

Tune ANTIOCH, AM 72, early-nineteenth-century melody
adapted by Lowell Mason (1792–1872)

The Dismissal

Remain standing.

The President says:

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Deacon sings:



Everyone responds:



Voluntary

There will be an opportunity to make a donation to support the music, ministry and mission of York Minster as you leave.

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