

**YORK
MINSTER**

The Cathedral & Metropolitical Church of St Peter in York

THE EUCHARIST

THE CONVERSION OF PAUL

**Sunday 25th January 2026
at 11.00am**

The Eucharist

Welcome to this service of Holy Communion celebrating Paul the Apostle.

Today's service is sung by the Choir of York Minster. The setting of the Eucharist is the MISSA BELL' AMFITRIT ALTERA by Orlande de Lassus (c 1532–1594).

The President is the Reverend Canon James Milne, Precentor. The Preacher is Canon Peter Collier, Cathedral Reader.



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.
- ◆ The Chapter of York Minster is committed to the safeguarding and protection of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. If you therefore have any concerns about the welfare of a child, a young person or a vulnerable adult, or about the behaviour of someone in relation to safeguarding, please do not hesitate to contact our Safeguarding Officer, Caroline Wood: Tel: 01904 559542, Mobile: 07843 339980, Email: carolinew@yorkminster.org. If you believe someone is at immediate risk of harm, please call the emergency services on 999.
- ◆ 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 received during this service will be given to charities York Minster supports – HOPE Africa, a charity initiated by our companion link dioceses in SA; Mustard Seed, a York Diocese organisation which works in the most deprived areas of our diocese; and a number of charities who work locally with homeless people 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 sung. Stand for the Processional Hymn.

Processional Hymn



1. We sing the glorious conquest
before Damascus' gate,
when Saul, the Church's spoiler,
came breathing threats and hate;
the ravening wolf rushed forward
full early to the prey;
but lo! The Shepherd met him,
and bound him fast today!
2. O Glory most excelling
that smote across his path!
O Light that pierced and blinded
the zealot in his wrath!
O Voice that spake within him
the calm reproving word!
O Love that sought and held him
the bondman of his Lord!
3. O wisdom, ordering all things
in order strong and sweet,
what nobler spoil was ever
cast at the Victor's feet?
What wiser master-builder
e'er wrought at thine employ,
than he, till now so furious
thy building to destroy?
4. Lord, teach thy Church the lesson,
still in this darkest hour
of weakness and of danger
to trust thy hidden power.
Thy grace by ways mysterious
all earthly wrath can bind,
and in thy foes so bitter
thy chosen saints can find!

Words NEH 155, John Ellerton (1826–1893) alt.

Tune ELLACOMBE, NEH 117, *Gesangbuch* (Mainz, 1833)

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:

We were once dead through the trespasses and sins in which we lived,
but now we are alive together with Christ.
Through him we have access in one Spirit to the Father,
to whom we humbly 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.

Gloria in Excelsis

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax
hominibus bona voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te,
glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter
magnum 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,
suscite 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.

Remain standing.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
who caused the light of the gospel
to shine throughout the world
through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;
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.

Sit.

*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.*

The Liturgy of the Word

New Testament Reading

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

ACTS 9.1-22

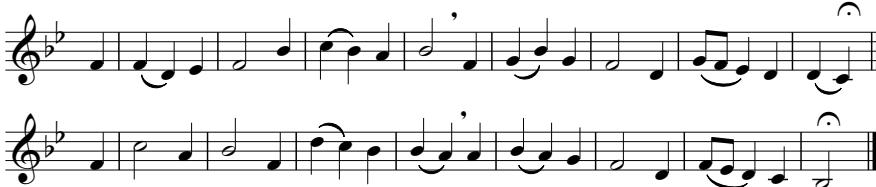
This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand.

Gradual Hymn

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



1. A heavenly splendour from on high,
a light too great for mortal eye,
deprives the hunter of his prey
and turns his threatening wrath away.
2. In darkened eyes, an inward light
begins to shine upon his sight,
as in his heart he hears the call
to follow, and surrender all.
3. The Christ, for sinners crucified,
whose risen power he had denied,
now claims this servant for his own,
and bids him make the gospel known.
4. The nations listen to his voice,
and in the peace of Christ rejoice;
the Church on earth his praises sing,
who led the Gentiles to their King.
5. Blest Paul, the convert of the Lord,
may heaven's light to us afford
a blindness to the lures of sin,
that we with thee a crown may win.
6. To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
from saints on earth and saints in heaven,
let everlasting praise be given.

Words NEH 154, George Bourne Timms (1910–1997) © SCM Canterbury Press
Tune ST PETERSBURG, NEH 154ii, Dmitry Stepanovich Bortniansky (1752–1825)

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!



Music notation for the Alleluia. The melody is in G major, common time. The lyrics are: Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

Many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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



Music notation for the organ response. The melody is in G major, common time. The lyrics are: Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Peter said to Jesus: 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

MATTHEW 19.27–30

After the Gospel the Deacon says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Music notation for the organ response. The melody is in G major, common time. The lyrics are: Praise to you, O Christ.

The organist plays a musical response to the Gospel.

Sit for the sermon.

Sermon

Canon Peter Collier, Cathedral Reader

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 the power of the Spirit,
and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

Sit or kneel.

One of these responses may be used:

The President concludes with these words

Rejoicing in the fellowship of
the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Peter, St William of York and of all your saints,
we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Stand.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The President introduces the Peace:

Let the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

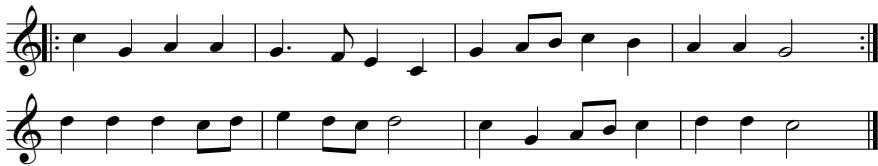
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

A Deacon says:

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All are invited to exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn



1. Who are these, like stars appearing,
these before God's throne who stand?
each a golden crown is wearing;
who are all this glorious band?
Alleluya, hark! they sing,
praising loud their heavenly King.
2. Who are these of dazzling brightness,
these in God's own truth arrayed,
clad in robes of purest whiteness,
robes whose lustre ne'er shall fade,
ne'er be touched by time's rude hand—
whence comes all this glorious band?
3. These are they who have contended
for their Saviour's honour long,
wrestling on till life was ended,
following not the sinful throng;
these, who well the fight sustained,
triumph through the Lamb have gained.
4. These are they whose hearts were riven,
sore with woe and anguish tried,
who in prayer full oft have striven
with the God they glorified;
now, their painful conflict o'er,
God has bid them weep no more.
5. These like priests have watched and waited,
offering up to Christ their will,
soul and body consecrated,
day and night to serve him still:
now, in God's most holy place
blest they stand before his face.

Words NEH 231, German, Heinrich Theobald Schenck (1656–1727)

translated into English by Frances Cox (1812–1897)

Tune ALL SAINTS, NEH 231, melody from *Geistreiches Gesangbuch* (Darmstadt, 1698)

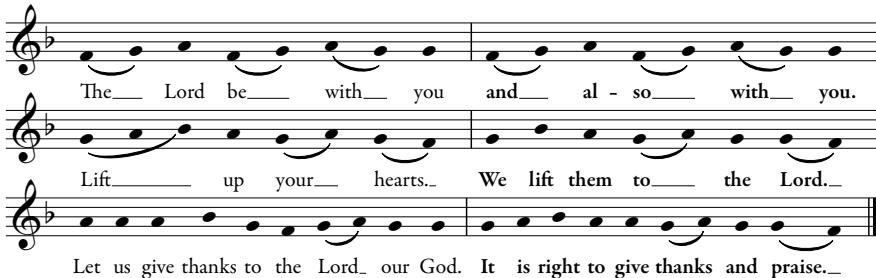
Taking of the Bread and Wine

Let us pray.

Almighty Father,
as we celebrate this holy sacrament of our redemption
may your Spirit fill us with the light of faith;
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

It is indeed right and good,
our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
For on this day he called to his service
the blasphemer and persecutor of your Church.
Saul, who had resisted your grace,
became Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles.
Because he was faithful and true in his ministry,
you made him an example of patient service,
to instruct in the way of eternal life
all those who heard his preaching and believed your word.
Now, therefore, he who became your chosen instrument
for the salvation of the nations
has made us also eager to proclaim your mercy,
and sing in union with all the powers of heaven
the joyful hymn of your praise:

The choir sings:

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 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.*

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:



Christ has died: Christ is ris - en: Christ will come a-gain.

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

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.*

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

and

O salutaris hostia
quae caeli pandis ostium,
bella premunt hostilia:
da robur, fer auxilium.

*O saving Victim! opening wide
the gate of heaven to us below,
our foes press hard on every side,
thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.*

Words St Thomas Aquinas (c 1225–1274)

Music Ian Wicks (b 1963)

Communion is administered at a number of places. You will be guided by the stewards.

Prayer after Communion

Stand.

The President says:

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
who on the day of Pentecost
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:
by the power of the same Spirit
strengthen us to witness to your truth
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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. Thanks be to God for his saints of each past generation,
one with us still in one body, one great congregation;
with them proclaim
Jesus for ever the same,
author of life and salvation.
2. Thanks be to God for his blessings which daily surround us;
glory to Christ, the Redeemer who sought us and found us,
who from the grave
rose, the almighty to save,
breaking the fetters that bound us.
3. Thanks be to God for the years that are yet in his keeping,
trusting each day to the care of a Father unsleeping,
on to the end,
Christ our companion and friend,
joy at the last for our weeping.
4. Thanks be to God who has called us and daily defends us,
who with the Son and the Spirit unchanging befriends us;
now in that name,
Jesus for ever the same,
forth to his service he sends us.

Words AM 310, Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926–2024)

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Tune LOBE DEN HERREN, AM 310, Seventeenth-century German melody

The Dismissal

Remain standing.

The President says:

May Christ who called Paul to his service,
and to preach the good news to the world,
strengthen you to witness to his grace and love.
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:

Recessional Psalm

Psalm 150 is sung by the choir as the procession leaves.

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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