

CHELMSFORD
CATHEDRAL



***The Holy Eucharist
with the Procession of Palms***

Palm Sunday

Sunday 29th March 2026

at 11.15am

*President: The Very Revd Jessica Martin
Preacher: The Revd Professor Ben Quash*

Welcome to Chelmsford Cathedral. Everything you need for this celebration is in this booklet. Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off and keep your belongings with you.

Music. The mass setting is the *Missa Brevis* by Lennox Berkeley (1903-1989). The choir is directed by Emma Gibbins, Director of Music. The organ is played by Samuel Bristow, the Assistant Director of Music.

Receiving Communion. All who have been baptised are invited to receive Holy Communion or to receive a blessing as is your custom. Please come in two single files down the centre of the nave to one of the Communion stations, and hold out your hands to receive the consecrated bread. **Please do not intinct** (dip) the wafer into the consecrated wine. To receive a blessing, please bow your head. Gluten-free wafers are also available; please speak to one of the stewards on duty.

Hearing Aids. There is a loop system installed throughout the Cathedral. If you are a hearing aid user, please turn it to **T**.

If the alarm sounds, please exit the Cathedral and, if safe, assemble at the rear of the Shire Hall in the South Eastern corner of the churchyard. Please leave your belongings until it is safe to collect them.

Rubrics: Please stand or sit as is comfortable for you.

Please make a financial contribution to the maintenance and ministry of the Cathedral. You can use the contactless giving plates near the doors or by scanning the QR code here. A collection will be taken during the service.



Live stream: This service is being live streamed to the Chelmsford Cathedral Facebook page.

Car park code: 1215

Visit us at chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk.

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The Liturgy of Palm Sunday

We gather in the Cathedral grounds on the grass by the South Door.

The Commemoration of the Lord's Entry into Jerusalem.

*The choir sing: The children of the Hebrews, carrying palms and olive branches,
went forth to meet the Lord, crying out and saying.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna to the Son of David.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

The Greeting

President In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

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

All **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 palm crosses are held up and blessed.

God our Saviour, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die;

bless these palms and make them holy.

Let them 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.

All **Amen.**

The Palm Gospel

Matthew 21.1-11

Deacon The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

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

All **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 fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, '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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

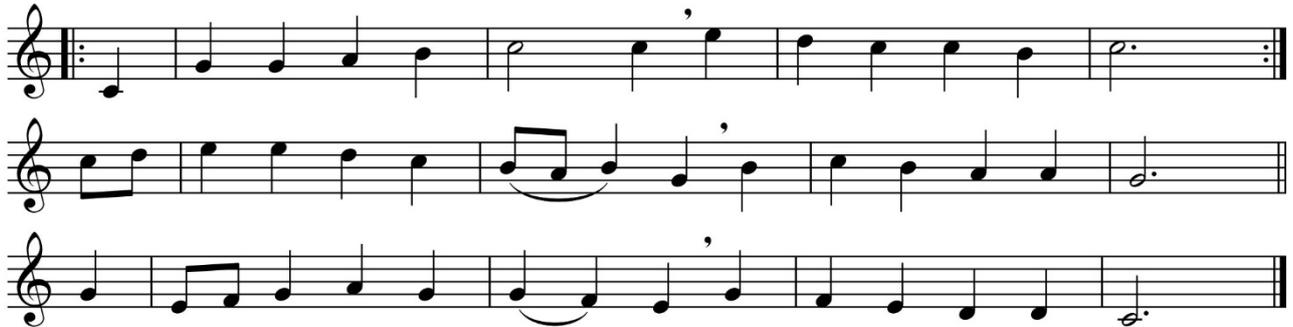
President Let us go forth in peace, praising Jesus our Messiah as did the crowds who welcomed him into Jerusalem.

The Palm Sunday Procession

We follow the servers and choir around the Cathedral grounds, regathering by the South Door.

Hymns

ST THEODULPH (VALET WILL ICH DIE GEBEN) Melody by Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), later form, c.1613



*All glory, laud and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!*

1 Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest,
the King and Blessèd One.

All glory...

2 The company of angels
are praising thee on high,
and mortal men and all things
created make reply.

All glory...

3 The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present.

All glory...

4 To thee before thy Passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee now high exalted
our melody we raise.

All glory, laud...

5 Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King.

All glory, laud...

Words: St Theodulph of Orleans (750-821), tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1886) alt.

Graham Kendrick b.1950



Make way, make way, for Christ the King
in splendour arrives.

Fling wide the gates and welcome him
into your lives.

*Make way! Make way!
For the King of kings.
Make way! Make way!
And let his kingdom in.*

He comes the broken hearts to heal,
the prisoners to free.
the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,
the blind shall see. *Make way! Make way...*

And those who mourn with heavy hearts,
who weep and sigh;
with laughter, joy and royal crown
he'll beautify. *Make way...*

We call you now to worship him
as Lord of all.
To have no other gods but him,
their thrones must fall! *Make way...*

WINCHESTER NEW

Words and music: Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)
Adapted from a chorale in *Musicalisches Hand-Buch*, Hamburg 1690



Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry.
Thy humble beast pursues his road
with 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!

Words: Henry Hart Milman (1791-1868)

Conclusion of the Procession

President True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.

All **Amen**

May Christ send you onwards to glory in his cross,
and live no longer for yourselves but for him,
who died and was raised to life for us.

All **Amen**

The 9.30 congregation are invited remain outside.

The 11.15 congregation process into the Cathedral via the West Door.



Morning glory, starlit sky, Open are the gifts of God,
 Soaring music, scholar's truth, Gifts of love to mind and sense;
 Flight of swallows, autumn leaves, Hidden is love's agony,
 Memory's treasure, grace of youth: Love's endeavour, love's expense

Love that gives, gives evermore,
 Gives with zeal, with eager hands,
 Spares not, keeps not, all outpours,
 Ventures all, its all expends.

Drained is love in making full, Therefore he who shows us God
 Bound in setting others free, Helpless hangs upon the tree;
 Poor in making many rich, And the nails and crown of thorns
 Weak in giving power to be. Tell of what God's love must be.

Here is God, no monarch he,
 Throned in easy state to reign;
 Here is God, whose arms of love,
 Aching, spent, the world sustain.

Words: W.H. Vanstone (1923-1999)

The Collect

President Let us pray.

We keep a moment of quiet prayer.

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.

All



A - men.

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading

Isaiah 55.1-9

A reading from the book of The Prophet Isaiah.

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The choir sings the Psalm.

Psalm 118.19-24

19 Open me the gates of righteousness : that I may go into them, and give thanks unto the Lord.

20 This is the gate of the Lord : the righteous shall enter into it.

21 I will thank thee, for thou hast heard me : and art become my salvation.

22 The same stone which the builders refused : is become the head-stone in the corner.

23 This is the Lord's doing : and it is marvellous in our eyes.

24 This is the day which the Lord hath made : we will rejoice and be glad in it.

The Second Reading

Philippians 2.5-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

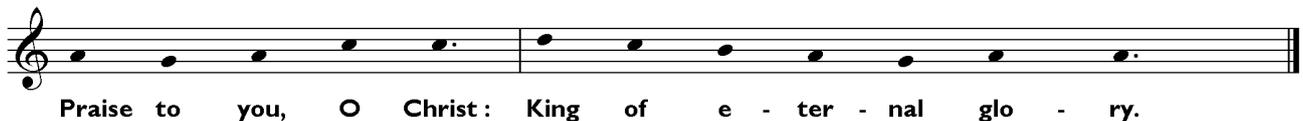
Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient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

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation



Choir Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

All **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

Choir Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him
and given him the name that is above every name.

All **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

The Passion Reading

The Passion according to St Matthew.

Please be seated. The text can be found in a the Passion Gospel booklet.

The Sermon

The Revd Professor Ben Quash

Prayers of Intercession

President We stand with Christ in his Suffering.

The congregation sits or kneels. The response to the prayer is:

All Let us pray to the Lord
Lord have mercy.

At the end of the prayers the intercessor says:

All Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.

At the end of the intercessions, please stand.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

President 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.

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

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We remain standing to sing the offertory hymn, during which a collection is taken.

Hymn

DIVA SERVATRIX

Bayeux Antiphoner 1739



There in God's garden stands the tree of wisdom,
whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations.
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion,
tree of all beauty.

Its name is Jesus, name that says, 'Our Saviour':
there on its branches see the scars of suffering;
see where the tendrils of our human selfhood
feed on its lifeblood.

Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage;
our greed has starved it; our despite has choked it.
Yet look, it lives! Its grief has not destroyed it,
nor fire consumed it.

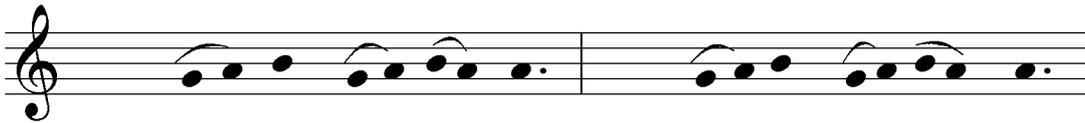
See how its branches reach to us in welcome;
hear what the voice says, 'Come to me, ye weary:
'give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow:
I will give blessing.'

All heaven is singing, 'Thanks to Christ, whose passion
offers in mercy healing, strength and pardon.
peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!'
Amen! My Master.

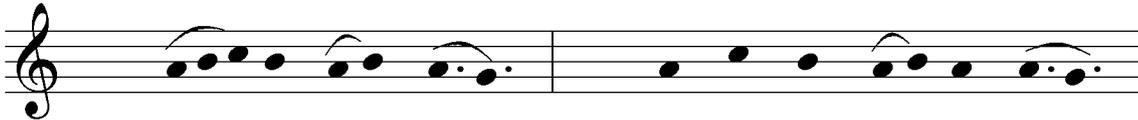
Words: Erik Routley (1917-1982) based on a hymn by Pecselyi Kiraly Imre (1590-1641)

Please remain standing.

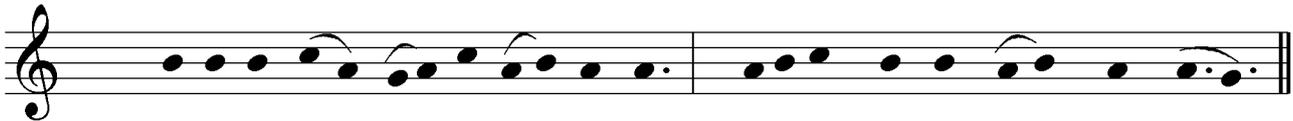
The Eucharistic Prayer



The Lord be with you *R:* And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. *R:* We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *R:* 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 singing:

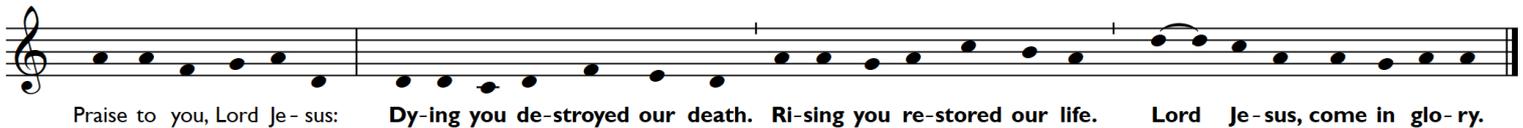
The choir sings the Sanctus and Benedictus:

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 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.*

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.



And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once
for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.
Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Mary, Peter, Cedd and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Please sit or kneel.

The Lord's Prayer

President Standing at the foot of the cross,
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.**

Breaking of the Bread

President Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
All **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

The choir sings the Agnus Dei:

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.

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

The Giving of Communion

President Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

To indicate if you wish to receive Communion, please hold out your hands. If you simply wish to receive a blessing, please keep your head bowed.

Motet

When Jesus Christ was yet a child
He had a garden small and wild,
Wherein He cherished roses fair,
And wove them into garlands there.

Now once, as summer time drew nigh,
There came a troop of children by,
And seeing roses on the tree,
With shouts they plucked them merrily.

Do you bind roses in your hair?
They cried, in scorn, to Jesus there,
The Boy said humbly: "Take, I pray,
All but the naked thorns away."

Then of the thorns they made a crown,
And with rough fingers pressed it down,
Till on His forehead fair and young,
Red drops of blood like roses sprung.

*Words: Russian poem
tr. by Geoffrey Dearmer (1893-1996)*

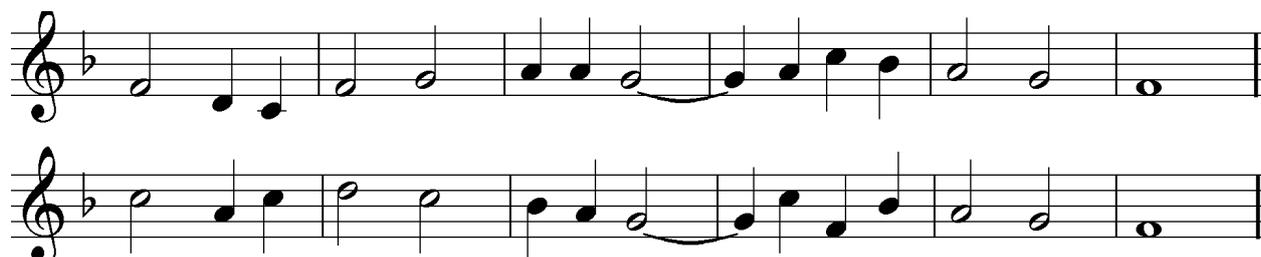
Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

We remain seated for the Communion hymn.

Hymn

NUN DANKET ALL

Melody from J. Crüger's *Praxis Pietatis Malica* (1647)



1 O dearest Lord, thy sacred head
with thorns was pierced for me;
O pour thy blessing on my head
that I may think for thee.

3 O dearest Lord, thy sacred feet
with nails were pierced for me;
O pour thy blessing on my feet
that they may follow thee.

2 O dearest Lord, thy sacred hands
with nails were pierced for me;
O shed thy blessing on my hands
that they may work for thee.

4 O dearest Lord, thy sacred heart
with spear was pierced for me;
O pour thy Spirit in my heart
that I may live for thee.

Words: Henry Ernest Hardy (1869-1946)

Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.

We keep a moment of quiet prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:
give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father.

All **Amen.**

All **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.**

Please remain seated for the notices.

Notices

The Dismissal

Please stand.

Hymn

CROSS OF JESUS

John Stainer (1840-1901) from *The Crucifixion*, 1887



Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow,
where the blood of Christ was shed,
perfect Man on thee did suffer,
perfect God on thee has bled!

2 Here the King of all the ages,
throned in light ere worlds could be,
robed in mortal flesh is dying,
crucified by sin for me.

3 O mysterious condescending!
O abandonment sublime!
Very God Himself is bearing
all the sufferings of time!

4 Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow,
where the blood of Christ was shed,
perfect Man on thee did suffer,
perfect God on thee has bled!

Words: William John Sparrow-Simpson (1859-1952)

The Blessing

May the Father, who so loved the world
that he gave his only Son, bring you by faith to his eternal life.

All

Amen.

May Christ, who accepted the cup of sacrifice
in obedience to the Father's will,
keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of his cross.

All

Amen.

May the Spirit, who strengthens us to suffer with Christ that we may share his glory, set your minds on life and peace.

All **Amen.**

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

All **Amen.**

Deacon 
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All 
In the name of Christ. A - men.

Organ Voluntary

Allegro moderato e serio
(Sonata in F minor Op. 65, No 1)

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Please remain standing as the ministers depart.

Music Notes

This morning's voluntary, the opening movement of Mendelssohn's first organ sonata, presents a fugue based on a motif from Bach's St. Matthew Passion. The motif, characterized by its descending, dissonant nature, imbued with palpable tension, originates from the recitative where Jesus prays in the garden of Gethsemane prior to his crucifixion. The fugal segment vividly portrays the tumult and anguish inherent in earthly existence. In a poignant contrast to the fugue, Mendelssohn introduces a tender chorale, 'Was mein Gott will, das g'scheh allzeit.' Translated as 'What my God wills, may it always happen,' this chorale serves as a further nod to the St. Matthew Passion, played softly as though offering solace and reassurance amidst adversity.

Safeguarding at Chelmsford Cathedral

Do you have a concern about a child or an adult at risk?

You can report any concern directly to the Diocesan Safeguarding team
Telephone: 01245 294444 Email: safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org

Or you can report your concern to our Cathedral Safeguarding Team
Telephone: 01245 294483

Email: safeguarding@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

If you have information about a safeguarding situation where a child or adult is in immediate danger call the emergency services on 999

To contact your local police to report a non-emergency concern call 101

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday

Sunday 29 March

9.30am Sung Eucharist with Palms,
Dramatic Passion reading and Sermon

10.45am Procession with Palms and Donkey
and the Reading of the Palm Gospel

11.15am Choral Eucharist with Palms,
Dramatised Passion reading and Sermon

3.30pm Passiontide

Sequence of Music and Readings for
Passiontide, including music by Purcell,
Leighton and Bairstow.

Holy Monday

30 March

7.00pm Choral Holy Week Service with
address by the Dean.

Holy Tuesday

31 March

7.00pm Choral Holy Week Service with
address by the Dean.

Holy Wednesday

1 April

7.00pm Service of Tenebrae

Maundy Thursday

2 April

11.00am Chrim Eucharist with Renewal of
Vows and Distribution of Oils

5.15pm Evening Prayer

7.00pm Solemn Eucharist with Washing of
the Feet and Stripping of the Altar
Watch of the Passion (to midnight)

Good Friday

3 April

12 noon – 3.00pm Three Hours Devotions

12.00 – 1.30pm Preaching of the Passion
Preacher: The Revd Professor Ben Quash

1.45pm – 3.00pm Good Friday Liturgy and
Veneration of the Cross

5.15pm Evening Prayer

Holy Saturday

4 April

5.15pm Evening Prayer

7.00pm Easter Vigil with Diocesan
Baptism and Confirmation

Easter Sunday

5 April

9.30am All-Age Easter Eucharist

11.15am Choral Eucharist for Easter
Vierne Messe Solennelle

Preacher: The Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-
Dehqani Bishop of Chelmsford

3.30pm Festal Evensong

Evening Service in E and "Blessed be the
God and Father" by S.S. Wesley

