



**BLACKBURN
CATHEDRAL**

The Parish Eucharist
on
The Fourth Sunday
of Lent
Mothering Sunday

15th March 2026

9.00am

Welcome to this morning's service

The President is
Canon Andrew Horsfall
Interim Dean

The Preacher is
Revd. Dr. Michael Leyden
Dean of Emmanuel Theological College

The service is sung by the
The Cathedral Youth Choir
Directed by
Helen Davies

The Organist is
Nigel Spooner
Associate Organist

The setting for the service is
St Anne's Mass - James Macmillan (b. 1959)

Preparation

For individual use before the service begins

Old Testament Reading

(1 Samuel 16.1-13)

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

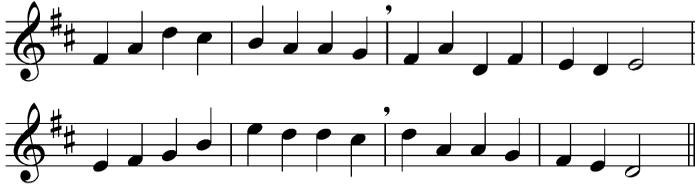
When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Gathering

Please stand to sing

Processional

ALL FOR JESUS 140



All for Jesus! All for Jesus!
This our song shall ever be;
for we have no hope nor Saviour
if we have not hope in thee.

All for Jesus! thou wilt give us
strength to serve thee hour by hour:
none can move us from thy presence
while we trust thy love and power.

All for Jesus! at thine altar
thou dost give us sweet content;
there, dear Saviour, we receive thee
in thy holy sacrament.

All for Jesus! thou hast loved us,
all for Jesus! thou hast died,
all for Jesus! thou art with us,
all for Jesus, glorified!

All for Jesus! All for Jesus!
This the Church's song shall be,
till at last the flock is gathered
one in love, and one in thee.

W.J. Sparrow-Simpson (1859-1952)

The Greeting

The president greets the people

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

The president introduces the celebration

The Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Prayers of Penitence

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:
fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:
fill us with your Spirit.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:
fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Everyone sings

4
Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, -have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy.

11
Christ, -have mer-cy Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, -have mer-cy.

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.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Silence is kept – please remain standing

Merciful Lord,
absolve your people from their offences,
that through your bountiful goodness
we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins
which by our frailty we have committed;
grant this, heavenly Father,
for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Please sit

The Liturgy of the Word

New Testament Reading

Read by John Wilson

(Ephesians 5.8-14)

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light – for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

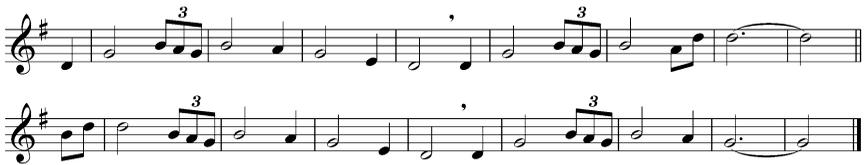
Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.'

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand to sing

Gradual hymn

AMAZING GRACE



Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace first taught my heart to fear
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

My rebel soul, that once withstood
the Saviour's kindest call,
rejoices now, by grace subdued,
to serve him with its all.

Through many dangers,
toils and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this heart
and flesh shall fail
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
a life of joy and peace.

*John Newton (1725–1807),
William Cowper (1731–1800), John Rees (1828–1900)*

The Gospel

(John 9.1-41)

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
The Lord is a great God,
O that today you would listen to his voice.
Harden not your hearts.

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

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him

before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.'

He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So, for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do

nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Revd Dr Michael Leydon

There is a period of silence after the sermon for reflection

Please stand with the president for

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God

All **We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and earth is named**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit
who strengthens us
with the power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The president invites the congregation to kneel or sit down

The Prayers of Intercession

Led by Mihaela Mladin

Please sit down or kneel for the prayers.

This response is used

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those who are sick

Arthur Blundell, Chris Drewe, Margaret Young, Liam Johnson, Graham Jordan,
Brian and Ruth Whittle, Jenni Bellamy, Ruth McGaughey, Harvey Stansfield, Eric
Barnes, Carol Fishwick, Frank Haworth, Patricia Matthews

and those who have requested prayer

Christopher Browne, Susan Garlick, Isla Smith, Tracey Riley, Peter Howell-Jones,
Sarah and Ian White, Andrew and Helen Sage

and those that mourn, remembering those who have died recently:

John Bertalot, Sheila Heap, June Hodge

and those whose anniversaries fall this week

Mary Sharples, Sheila Appleton, Gordon Pollock
Winifred Ellison Bennett, Cyril Jack Bolton, Toby Brown (15)
Joseph Slater, Stuart Parkinson (17) Adelaide Whalley (18)
Thomas Duerden (20)

numbers are days of the month

And at the end:

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

Please stand with the president for the peace

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The president says

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

Romans 5.1,2

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Please give what you prayerfully can in the collection basket. If you are a UK tax payer please use and sign the blue gift aid forms provided on your chair. Please do consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme.

Preparation of the Table

Please remain standing to sing

Offertory hymn

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Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours to-day.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

German, Martin Rinkart (1586-1649), Tr Catherine Winkworth (1827-78)

Taking of the Bread and Wine

God of mercy and compassion,
your Word calls us home to faith and love.
accept all we offer you this day;
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.
Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

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.

Father, you made the world and love your creation.

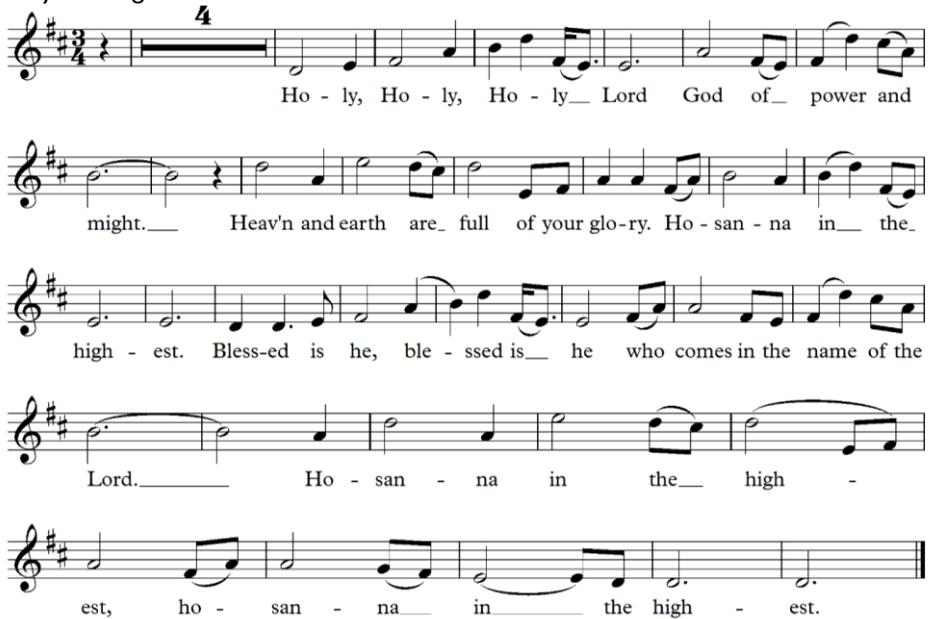
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.

His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.

And so we gladly thank you,

with saints and angels praising you, and saying:

Everyone sings



4

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of power and
might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless-ed is he, ble - ssed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high -
est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

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 Mary, Paul 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.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Joining our prayers with those of the Church Universal, so we
say, each in our own language, the prayer our Saviour taught us,

Notre père, qui es aux cieux ... Missierna, li inti fis-smewwiet...
Vater unser im Himmel ... Padre nosso, que estais nos céus...
Padre nostro che sei nei cieli ... Ojczy nasz, któryś jest w niebie...
Otče náš, jenž jsi na nebesích ... ي السَّمَاوَاتِ،
Têve Mûsu, kuris esi danguje! ... Ein Tad, yr hwn wyt yn y nefoedd...
Tatal nostru care esti in ceruri ...

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

The president breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

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

Everyone sings

Slowly

3 *mp*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the_ world, have

mer- cy_ on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the_ world, have

mer - cy_ on us. *mf* Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sins_ of the world, *mp* grant_ us peace.

The Giving of Communion

The president says

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The body of Christ.

Amen.

The blood of Christ.

Amen.

*If you wish to receive Holy Communion the stewards on duty will guide you
While you are waiting for Communion you may wish to sit*

During communion

The choir sings

My song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O who am I,
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh, and die?

Sometimes they strew His way,
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King:
Then "Crucify!"
Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done
To cause this rage and spite,
He made the lame to walk,
He gave the blind their sight,
What injuries,
Yet these are why
the Lord most high
so cruelly dies.

Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend.

*Words: Samuel Crossman (1623 - 1683)
Music: Molly Ijames (b. 1978)*

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

Lord God,
whose blessed Son our Saviour
gave his back to the smiters
and did not hide his face from shame:
give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time
with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed;
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.

Please stand

The Dismissal

The president pronounces God's blessing

God,
Who from the death of sin raised you to new life in Christ,
keep you from falling and set you in the presence of his glory.
and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be
with you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

The deacon says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Organ Voluntary

Sonata No. 3, 1st mov.

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Please do consider staying for tea or coffee after the service.

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Notices for the Week beginning Sunday 22nd March

Next Sunday

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Old Testament Reading Ezekial 37. 1-14

Psalm 130

New Testament Reading Romans 8. 6-11

Gospel Reading John 11 1-45

Prayer for Healing and Renewal During Lent

Throughout Lent, on Wednesdays 7pm - 8pm, the cathedral will hold a prayer meeting in the offices for healing and renewing of our communal life. We appreciate that not everyone is able to travel in the evenings but please pray with us from home. More details can be found on the letter available on the welcome desk. Canon James Lawrence, Canon Missioner

Cathedral Flowers

We would be grateful for any donations towards the cost of the Easter flowers.

If you would like to contribute, please see Pat Wedgeworth or one of the Wardens. Thank you.

Foodbank

Thank you for all your recent donations. This week we are collecting tinned goods.

Wednesday Organ Concerts

Starting at 12.15pm, there is no entry charge and no ticket is required. A donation of £5 per person is suggested and all are welcome to join us.

18th March

Roger Judd

25th March

Tom Bell

1st April

Milkica Radovanovic

New Centenary Vestments by Margo Selby March 26th

We are delighted that, in partnership with the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral, a new set of liturgical vestments has been commissioned. These vestments have been designed and created by British textiles designer Margo Selby. You are warmly invited to two parts of the day's events:

Afternoon talk – 3.45pm

Margo will speak about the design of the vestments, the creative process behind them, and the theological themes expressed through the work. All are welcome to remain afterwards for Choral Evensong.

Evening Unveiling and Blessing – 6.45pm

The vestments will be formally unveiled by the designer and her team. The Bishop of Blackburn will then bless the vestments and set them apart for liturgical use.

This is an important moment in the life of the Cathedral, and all members of the congregation are encouraged to attend as they are able.

Future Events: Dates for your Diary

International Evening around the Table for the Nations:

Wednesday 10th June 6pm - 7.30pm

Whalley Abbey Garden Party:

Wednesday 12th August 2.30pm - 4.00pm

Summer BBQ (with special guest: Chris Armstrong):

Sunday 6th September 12 noon