



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

# Evensong

on the 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
Martyrdom of Thomas of Canterbury



29<sup>th</sup> December  
5.30pm

# Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

For your safety

**Please keep social distance at all times**



**Please stay in your seat as much as possible**



**Please use hand sanitiser on the way in and out**



**Please avoid touching your face and touching surfaces**



As part of our commitment to the care of the environment in our world, this Order of Service is printed on unbleached 100% recycled paper



Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off. No form of visual or sound recording, or any form of photography, is permitted during Services. Thank you for your co-operation.



An induction loop system for the hard of hearing is installed in the Cathedral. Hearing aid users should adjust their aid to T.



**Large print** orders of service are available from the stewards and virgers. Please ask.

Some material included in this service is copyright:

© The Archbishops' Council 2000

© The Crown/Cambridge University Press:  
The Book of Common Prayer (1662)

Hymns and songs reproduced under CCLI number: 1031280

Produced by the Music & Liturgy Department:

[precentor@canterbury-cathedral.org](mailto:precentor@canterbury-cathedral.org)

01227 865281

[www.canterbury-cathedral.org](http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org)

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*Stand as the choir enters*

## Introit

*Choir* Gaudeamus omnes in Domino, diem festum celebrantes sub honore Thomae Martyris: de cujus passione gaudent Angeli, et collaudant Filium Dei. Exultate justi in Domino: rectos decet collaudatio.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*Let us all rejoice in the Lord, celebrating the festival day in honour of Thomas the Martyr: the Angels rejoice in his passion, and highly praise the Son of God. Rejoice in the Lord, O righteous ones: it is right for the upright to praise Him highly.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

**Welcome and Introduction**                      The Dean

## Responses

*Precentor* Deus in adjutorium meum intende.

*Choir* Domine ad adjuvandum me festina.

*Precentor* Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto,

*Choir* sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in saecula saeculorum. Amen. Alleluia.

*O God, come to my aid.*

*O Lord, make haste to help me.*

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia.*

*Sit*

## Antiphon

*Choir* Summo sacerdotio Thomas sublimatus  
est in virum alium subito mutatus.

*When raised to the highest priestly office,  
Thomas was suddenly transformed into another man.*

## Psalm 61

[*Sung in Latin*]

Hear my crying, O God : give ear unto my prayer.  
From the ends of the earth will I call upon thee :  
when my heart is in heaviness.

O set me up upon the rock that is higher than I :  
for thou hast been my Hope,  
and a strong tower for me against the enemy.

I will dwell in thy tabernacle for ever :  
and my trust shall be under the covering of thy wings.

For thou, O Lord, hast heard my desires :  
and hast given an heritage  
unto those that fear thy name.

Thou shalt grant the King a long life :  
that his years may endure throughout all generations.

He shall dwell before God for ever :  
O prepare thy loving mercy and faithfulness,  
that they may preserve him.

So will I always sing praise unto thy Name :  
that I may daily perform my vows.

*Stand*

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

*Sit*

## **First Lesson**      Ecclesiasticus 2.1-11

My child, when you come to serve the Lord,  
prepare yourself for testing.

Set your heart right and be steadfast,  
and do not be impetuous in time of calamity.

Cling to him and do not depart,  
so that your last days may be prosperous.

Accept whatever befalls you,  
and in times of humiliation be patient.

For gold is tested in the fire,  
and those found acceptable, in the furnace of humiliation.

Trust in him, and he will help you;  
make your ways straight, and hope in him.

You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy;  
do not stray, or else you may fall.

You who fear the Lord, trust in him,  
and your reward will not be lost.

You who fear the Lord, hope for good things,  
for lasting joy and mercy.

Consider the generations of old and see:  
has anyone trusted in the Lord and been disappointed?

Or has anyone persevered in the fear of the Lord and been forsaken?  
Or has anyone called upon him and been neglected?

For the Lord is compassionate and merciful;  
he forgives sins and saves in time of distress.

*Please remain seated*

## **Office Hymn**

*A solis ortus cardine (Christmas Hymn for Vespers – Sung in Latin)*

From lands that see the sun arise,  
To earth's remotest boundaries,  
The virgin born today we sing,  
The Son of Mary, Christ the King.

Blest Author of this earthly frame,  
To take a servant's form He came,  
That liberating flesh by flesh,  
Whom He had made might live afresh.

In that chaste parent's holy womb,  
Celestial grace hath found its home:  
And she, as earthly bride unknown,  
Yet call that Offspring blest her own.

The mansion of the modest breast  
Becomes a shrine where God shall rest:  
The pure and undefiled one  
Conceived in her womb the Son. Amen.

*Translation: J. M. Neale (1818-1866)*

**Reading** *A reading from T.S. Eliot's 'Murder in the Cathedral':*

*Thomas reflects on his vocation.*

*Please stand*

## **Antiphon**

*Choir* Qui vult venire post me, abneget semet ipsum,  
et tollat crucem suam, et sequatur me.

*Whoever desires to come after me, let them deny themselves,  
and let them take up their cross and follow me.*

## **Magnificat** [*Sung in Latin*]

*Choir* My soul doth magnify the Lord :  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded :  
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

For behold, from henceforth :  
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me :  
and holy is his name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him :  
throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm :  
he hath scattered the proud  
in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat :  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things :  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :  
as he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed, for ever.

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

*The Antiphon is repeated.*

*Please sit*

## **Second Lesson** 1 Peter 4.12-19

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed.

If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief-maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name.

For the time has come for judgement to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And

'If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,  
what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?'

Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

## **Reading** *A reading from T.S. Eliot's 'Murder in the Cathedral':*

*Thomas commands that the doors be unbarred, despite the urgent warnings of the monks.*

*The doors burst open.*

*Silence is kept.*

*Please remain seated*

## **Antiphon**

*Choir* Salva nos, Domine, vigilantes, custodi nos dormientes:  
ut vigilemus cum Christo, et requiescamus in pace.

*Save us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping,  
that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep may rest in peace.*

## **Nunc Dimittis** [Sung in Latin]

*Choir* Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :  
According to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen :  
thy salvation,

Which thou hast prepared :  
before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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

*The Antiphon is repeated*

## **Reading** *A reading from T.S. Eliot's 'Murder in the Cathedral':*

*Two monks reflect upon the Archbishop's murder.*

## **Anthem**

*Choir* Opem nobis, O Thoma, porridge. Rege stantes, jacentes erige, mores,  
actus et vitam corrige, et in pacis nos viam dirige.

*Grant us help, O Thomas. Rule those who stand, raise up those who  
are brought low, correct our morals, deeds and lives, and guide us  
into the way of peace.*

*Music: Giovanni da Palestrina (c. 1525-8 – 1594)*

## **Prayers**      *led by the Archbishop*

O Lord, who didst give to thy servant Saint Thomas grace to lay aside the fear of man, and to be faithful even unto death; grant that we, unmindful of worldly honour, may fight the wrong, uphold thy rule, and serve thee to our lives' end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, who hast made us heirs of all victories of faith, and joint-heirs with Christ of thy glory, if so be that we suffer with him: arm us with such trust in the truth that is invincible, that we may ask no rest from its demands and have no fear in its service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*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.**

*All say the Foundation Prayer*

**Eternal God, you have brought us together into a noble company. We pray for one another and for the holy Church of Canterbury; that in this house of our most blessed Saviour, dignity of worship, preaching the faith and holiness of life may for ever abound and thence be spread through all the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Please remain seated while the choir sing*

## **Hymn**

*Sadly the congregation are **not permitted to join in** the singing at this time*

In our day of thanksgiving one psalm let us offer  
For the saints who before us have found their reward;  
When the shadow of death fell upon them, we sorrowed,  
But now we rejoice that they rest in the Lord.

In the morning of life, and at noon, and at even,  
He called them away from our worship below;  
But not till his love, at the font and the altar,  
Had girt them with grace for the way they should go.

These stones that have echoed their praises are holy,  
And dear is the ground where their feet have once trod;  
Yet here they confessed they were strangers and pilgrims,  
And still they were seeking the city of God.

Sing praise then, for all who here sought and here found Him,  
Whose journey is ended, whose perils are past:  
They believed in the Light; and its glory is round them,  
Where the clouds of earth's sorrows are lifted at last.

*Words:* William Draper (1855-1933)

*Tune:* ST CATHERINE'S COURT

*Please stand*

## **Blessing**      *The Archbishop*

God give you grace to follow Thomas and all his saints  
in faith, love and steadfastness;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

*All remain standing as the clergy depart*

For your safety

Please **leave the building straight away** after the service,  
it is safer to talk outside than to mingle in the building



Please remember to **keep social distance** at all times  
and give one another space as you exit through doorways



Please **take this order of service away** with you  
and dispose of it yourself

There is a retiring collection as you leave to support the Cathedral.  
Please give generously.

If you would prefer to make your offering online please visit  
[www.canterbury-cathedral.org/donate](http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/donate)

or use one of the collection boxes or card machines in the Cathedral

*giftaid it*

We encourage UK tax payers to use the Cathedral's Gift Aid envelope, ensuring that you complete all the sections. The Cathedral will reclaim an extra 25p for every £1 placed in the envelope. Gift Aid envelopes are available at the collection points at the doors.