



SAINT FIN BARRE'S
CATHEDRAL + CORK



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Choral Eucharist

Sunday 22nd December 2024
11.15am

MUSICAL SETTING

Missa brevis in C (organ solo) - W. A. Mozart (1756 - 1791)

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Monday

12 noon The Eucharist (said, in the Deans' Chapel)

Tuesday (Christmas Eve)

12 noon The Eucharist (said, in the Deans' Chapel)

4.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Wednesday (CHRISTMAS DAY)

11.15am Blessing of the Crib & Festal Eucharist of the Nativity
Celebrant & Preacher: The Bishop

Thursday 26th December 2024 - The Feast of Saint Stephen

12 noon The Eucharist (said, in the Deans' Chapel)

Friday 27th December 2024 - The Feast of Saint John the Evangelist

12.00 noon The Eucharist (said, in the Deans' Chapel)

Saturday 28th December 2024 - The Feast of the Holy Innocents

12 noon The Eucharist (said, in the Deans' Chapel)

Sunday 29th December 2024 - The First Sunday of Christmas

11.15am The Eucharist (said, with hymns)
Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Martin Steele (Dean's Vicar)

LIVE-STREAMING

In line with the first of the Five Marks of Mission ('To proclaim the good news of the kingdom') this service is being live-streamed and recorded via www.churchservices.tv. The camera is at the back of the Cathedral and covers the Nave, Crossing, Choir Stalls and High Altar. It does not cover the North and South Aisles, Dean's Chapel and Ambulatory. If you do not wish to appear on camera please consult the churchwardens/stewards and they will guide you to a seat out of shot.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Please ensure that all cellphones are switched off.
Photography of any kind is not permitted during the Service.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Cathedral is fitted with a Deaf Loop System. Those who have digital hearing aids should set them to "T". Large print copies of this order of service are available.

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THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All stand for the

HYMN OF THE PROCESSION 186

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;

Tender to me the promise of his word;
In god my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:
make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;

His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

Based on St Luke 1. 46-55 in the New English Bible

GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The service is introduced.

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

TRADITIONALLY SYMBOLISING THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Choir sings:

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your light has shone in our darkened world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary; grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Saviour of all. Blessed be God for ever.

PENITENCE

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins:

All say:

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned in thought and word and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may walk in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

The choir sing the **KYRIES**

The Absolution is pronounced.

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY *is sung*

God our redeemer,
who prepared the blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
Grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

Sit for

THE FIRST READING

Micah 5: 2-5a

At the end of the reading the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Choir sings the canticle

PSALM 80: 1-8

1. Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock;
2. Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
3. Stir up your mighty strength
and come to our salvation.
4. Turn us again, O God;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
5. O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?
6. You feed them with the bread of tears;
you give them abundance of tears to drink.
7. You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
8. Turn us again, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
18. Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand,
the son of man you made so strong for yourself.
19. And so will we not go back from you;
give us life, and we shall call upon your name.
20. Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

THE SECOND READING

Hebrews 10: 5-10

At the end of the reading the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand for the

HYMN OF THE GRADUAL - 161

The last verse of this hymn is sung after the Gospel

For Mary, Mother of the Lord
God's holy name be praised,
who first the Son of God adored
as on her child she gazed.

The angel Gabriel brought the word
she should Christ's mother be;
Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord
made answer willingly.

The heavenly call she thus obeyed,
and so God's will was done;
The second Eve love's answer made
which our redemption won.

She gave her body for God's shrine,
her heart to piercing pain,
and knew the cost of love divine
when Jesus Christ was slain.

Dear Mary, from your lowliness
and home in Galilee,
there comes a joy and holiness
to every family.

Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,
above all women blest;
Blest in your Son, whom your embrace
in birth and death confessed.

J.R. Peacey (1896-1971)

All face the reader for

THE GOSPEL

Luke 1: 39-45

Reader: Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Saint Luke,
chapter one, beginning at verse thirty-nine.

All sing: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

At the end of the Gospel

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All sing: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sit for

THE SERMON

Rev. Martin Steele (Dean's Vicar)

Stand to say

THE NICENE CREED

**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 by the Holy Spirit of 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.

Kneel for

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The following response is used at the end of each petition:
Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

At the end of the prayers:

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

Stand for

THE PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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

Stand to sing

THE HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY - 19

A collection for Cathedral funds is taken during the singing of this hymn.

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
and manifest the virgin-birth:
Let every age adoring fall,
such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will,
but of the Spirit, thou art still
the Word of God, in flesh arrayed,
the Saviour, now to man displayed.

The virgin womb that burden gained
with virgin honour all unstained,
the banners there of virtue glow,
God in his temple dwells below.

Forth from that chamber goeth he,
that royal home of purity,
a giant in twofold substance one,
rejoicing now his course to run.

From God the Father he proceeds,
to God the Father back he speeds,
runs out his course to death and hell,
returns on God's high throne to dwell.

O equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,
the weakness of our mortal state
with deathless might invigorate.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
and darkness glow with new-born light,
no more shall night extinguish day,
Where love's bright beams their power display.

O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee
eternal praise and glory be,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

*St Ambrose (340-397);
Tr. J.M. Neale 1818-66 and others*

CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise a dwelling place for your glory.
Blessed be God for ever.

THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us celebrate the feast.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

Father, almighty and everliving God,
at all times and in all places
it is right to give you thanks and praise.

And now we give you thanks
because when your Son Jesus Christ humbled himself
to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed long ago
and opened for us the way of salvation.

So now we watch for the day,
knowing that the salvation promised us will be ours
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so with all your people, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

*The **SANCTUS** and **BENEDICTUS** are sung.*

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things;
you made us in your own image, male and female you created us;
even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us,
but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin;
giving your only begotten Son to become man
and suffer death on the cross to redeem us;

he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world:
he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue,
a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again:

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you, 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 when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying,
Drink this, all of you,
for 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.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we do as Christ your Son commanded:
we remember his passion and death,
we celebrate his resurrection and ascension,
and we look for the coming of his kingdom.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving;
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts,
grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit
that we may be made one in your holy Church
and partakers of the body and blood of your Son,
that he may dwell in us and we in him;

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:
Our Father who art in heaven ...

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ
We, being many, are one body for we all share in the one bread.

The **AGNUS DEI** *is sung.*

THE COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*Communicant members of all Christian traditions
are most welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

The Choir sings the

COMMUNION MOTET

Hymn to the Virgin - *Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976)*

THE GREAT SILENCE

Silence is kept for thanksgiving and reflection

GOING OUT AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Stand to sing the

POST-COMMUNION HYMN - 185

Sing we of the blessed Mother
who received the angel’s word,
and obedient to his summons
bore in love the infant Lord;
Sing we of the joys of Mary
at whose breast that child was fed
who is Son of God eternal
and the everlasting Bread.

Sing we, too, of Mary’s sorrows,
of the sword that pierced her through,
when beneath the cross of Jesus
she his weight of suffering knew,
looked upon her Son and Saviour
reigning high on Calvary’s tree,
saw the price of man’s redemption
paid to set the sinners free.

Sing again the joys of Mary
when she saw the risen Lord,
and in prayer with Christ’s apostles,
waited on his promised word:
From on high the blazing glory
of the Spirit’s presence came,
heavenly breath of God’s own being,
manifest through wind and flame.

Sing the chiefest joy of Mary
when on earth her work was done,
and the Lord of all creation
brought her to his heavenly home:
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed.
raised on high and crowned with grace,
May your Son, the world's redeemer,
grant us all to see his face.

G. B. Timms (1910-1997)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS

Heavenly Father,
you have given us a pledge of eternal redemption.
Grant that we may always eagerly celebrate
the saving mystery of the incarnation of your Son.
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of 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.

THE BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

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

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Fuga sopra il Magnificat – *J. S. Bach (1685-1750)*

Please remain seated in silence until the Organ Voluntary is over.