

GLoucester
CATHEDRAL

The Holy Eucharist
The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Sunday, 1 February 2026
10.15 a.m.

Safeguarding

Gloucester Cathedral is committed to being a **safe** and **welcoming** place for **all**. The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in the life of the Cathedral is everyone's responsibility.

If someone is in immediate danger, contact the police on 999.

If you have safeguarding concern as a member of the Cathedral Congregation please contact our Congregation Safeguarding Officer, Gill Brook, safeguarding@gloucestercathedral.org.uk or a member of the clergy, clergy@gloucestercathedral.org.uk



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Please turn off any mobile devices.



For safeguarding, photography and videography are not permitted during services.



An induction loop is available for those using hearing aids. Please turn your hearing aid to the 'T' position.



Large print booklets are available on request. Please ask a steward.

Welcome

Welcome to Gloucester Cathedral. There has been a place of worship on this site for over 1,300 years. Today, we join with the generations of people who have gone before us and with the whole company of heaven in the worship of God.

The Eucharist, which means ‘thanksgiving’, is perhaps the most important act of worship for Christians because it recalls the death and resurrection of Jesus, fulfilling his command at the Last Supper to remember him. Outwardly, the Eucharist takes the form of sharing bread and wine; inwardly, Christ is made present to us in a special way, and we are given a taste of the heavenly banquet, which God has prepared for those who love him.

If you are new and would like to discover more about congregational life, please do introduce yourself to a member of the clergy at the end of the service. There is also information about being part of the cathedral congregation on the website. You can contact the Cathedral clergy by emailing: clergy@gloucestercathedral.org.uk



*The musical setting of the Eucharist is
MISSA BREVIS IN C, K. 220 ('SPATZENMESSE') by W. A. Mozart*

*The president is the Canon Precentor
The Reverend Canon Craig Huxley-Jones*

*The preacher is the Dean of Gloucester
The Very Reverend Andrew Zihni*

¶ *The Gathering*

At 10.15 a.m., the congregation stands to sing the processional hymn



- 1. Hail to the Lord who comes,**
comes to his temple gate,
not with his angel host,
not in his kingly state:
no shouts proclaim him nigh,
no crowds his coming wait.
- 2. But borne upon the throne**
of Mary's gentle breast,
watched by her dutious love,
in her fond arms at rest;
thus to his Father's house
he comes, the heavenly guest.
- 3. There Joseph at her side**
in reverent wonder stands;
and, filled with holy joy,
old Simeon in his hands
takes up the promised child,
the glory of all lands.
- 4. Hail to the great First-born,**
whose ransom-price they pay,
the Son before all worlds,
the child of ours today,
that he might ransom us
who still in bondage lay.
- 5. O Light of all the earth,**
thy children wait for thee:
come to thy temples here,
that we, from sin set free,
before thy Father's face
may all presented be.

Words, John Ellerton 1826-1893

Tune, OLD 120TH; Melody Thomas Este's Psalter 1592

The president greets the people

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

All Amen.

The Greeting

The Lord of glory be with you

All and also with you.

Introduction

The president gives a welcome and introduces the service

Dear friends, forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

Gloria in Excelsis

The choir sings

Gloria in excelsis Deo
et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam tuam.

Domine Deus, Rex cælestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite,
Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Filius Patris,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe 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.

*Glory to God in the highest,
and in earth peace,
goodwill to all people.*

*We praise you, we bless you,
we worship you, we glorify you,
we give thanks to you
for your great glory.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us,
who takes away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer,
who sits at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.*

*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 Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer, singing

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



The congregation sits.

¶ *The Liturgy of the Word*

Old Testament Reading

A reading from the prophet Malachi.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

3.1-5

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The congregation stands to sing



**In our darkness light has shone, Alleluia,
still today the light shines on, Alleluia;
Word made flesh in human birth, Alleluia,
Light and Life of all the earth, Alleluia!**

**Christ the Son incarnate see, Alleluia,
by whom all things came to be, Alleluia;
through the world his splendours shine, Alleluia,
full of grace and truth divine, Alleluia!**

**All who now in him believe, Alleluia,
everlasting life receive, Alleluia;
born of God and in his care, Alleluia,
we his name and nature share, Alleluia!**

**Christ a child on earth appears, Alleluia,
crown of all creation's years, Alleluia;
God's eternal Word has come, Alleluia,
he shall lead his people home, Alleluia!**

*Words, Timothy Dudley-Smith 1926-2024, based on John 1.1-14
Tune, UPTON CHEYNEY; John Barnard 1948-*

Gospel Reading

The choir sings the acclamation and all repeat

To - day the Lord is pre - sen - ted in the Tem - ple
in sub - stance of our mor - tal na - ture. **A - lle - lu - ia.**
To - day the Bless - ed Vir - gin comes
to be pur - if - ied in acc - or - dance with the law. **A - lle - lu - ia.**
To - day old Si - me - on pro - claims Christ
as the light of the na - tions and the glo - ry of Is - ra - el. **A - lle - lu - ia.**
Praise to Christ, the light of the world.

When the Gospel is announced, the deacon says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

2.22-40

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

The congregation sits.

The Creed

The congregation stands and the president says

Let us declare our faith in God.

All **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 says

Let us pray to the Father through Christ,
who is our light and life.

The congregation sits.

Father, your Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel:
look in mercy on your Church, sharing his light.

Lord, have mercy.

All Christ, have prayer.

Father, your Christ in his temple brings judgement on the world:
look in mercy on the nations, who long for his justice.

Lord, have mercy.

All Christ, have prayer.

Father, your Christ, who was rich, for our sakes became poor:
look in mercy on the needy, suffering with him.

Lord, have mercy.

All Christ, have prayer.

Father, your Christ is the one in whom faithful servants find their peace:
look in mercy on the departed, that they may see your salvation.

Lord, have mercy.

All Christ, have prayer.

Father, your Christ is revealed as the one destined to be rejected:
look in mercy on us who now turn towards his passion.

Lord, have mercy.

All Christ, have prayer.

The president says

Lord God, you kept faith with Simeon and Anna,
and showed them the infant King.

Give us grace to put all our trust in your promises,
and the patience to wait for their fulfilment;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

The deacon says

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ:
'I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness
but shall have the light of life.'
Let us therefore bring our sins into his light
and confess them in penitence and faith.

cf John 8.12

All **Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
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 lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light.**
Amen.

The president gives the absolution

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.

All Amen.

¶ *The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

The Peace

The congregation stands.

The president introduces the Peace

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

Luke 1.78,79

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

The deacon says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

As the altar is prepared, the congregation remains standing to sing the offertory hymn



**New light has dawned, the Son of God is here,
a holy light no earthly light outshines;
the light has dawned, the light that casts out fear,
the light that evil dreads and love defines.**

**The light of glory shines to angels' song,
the shepherds run to where a baby lies;
a servant of the Lord, who waited long,
acclaims the light to lighten Gentile eyes.**

**And priestly men sit listening to a boy,
they see the dawning light within his face.
Such words they hear those Christ-child lips employ!
Amazing words of wisdom, truth and grace.**

**O Christ, the light who came to us on earth,
shine through the shadow cast by human sin;
renew the faith you gave at our new birth,
destroy the dark, and let your light come in.**

*Words, Paul Wigmore 1925-2014
Tune, WOODLANDS; Walter Greatorex 1877-1949*

Taking of the Bread and Wine

When the altar is prepared, the president says

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous;
accept the gifts we bring before you
and grant that Christ may shine in us
to the praise and glory of your name.

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The president recalls God's mighty acts

It is indeed right and good,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.

For on this day he appeared in the Temple
in substance of our flesh
to come near to us in judgement.
He searches the hearts of all your people
and brings to light the image of your splendour.

Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the nations
while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your redemption.
Destined for the falling and rising of many,
he was lifted high upon the cross
and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart
when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.
And now we rejoice and glorify your name
that we, too, have seen your salvation
and join with angels and archangels
in their unending hymn of praise:

The choir sings

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt cæli 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.*

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:



Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:



Bless - ing and hon - our and glo - ry and power



be yours for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The congregation sits.

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us,
each in our own language

All **Our Father,** Notre Père...
who art in heaven, Vater Unser...
hallowed be thy name; Onze Vader...
thy kingdom come; Padre Nuestro...
thy will be done; Ojcze Nasz...
on earth as it is in heaven. Baba Yetu...
Give us this day our daily bread. E to matou Matua...
And forgive us our trespasses, Ein Tad...
as we forgive those who trespass against us. Amen.
And lead us not into temptation; Breaking of the Bread
but deliver us from evil. Giving of Communion
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.

The president breaks the consecrated bread

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us,**
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.

The president says the invitation to communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

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

In the Cathedral, the president and people receive Communion.

If it is your custom to receive Communion in your own church, you are welcome to do so today. If you would rather receive a blessing, please bring this order of service with you so that we may know how to minister to you.

Communion is offered in both bread and wine, though you may wish to receive the bread only. For hygiene reasons, intinction (dipping the bread in the wine) is prohibited.

If you require a gluten free wafer, please tell the ministers.

Those watching the live stream may wish to use this prayer

Lord Jesus, you made yourself known in the breaking of the bread,
I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul:
since I cannot at this moment receive Communion,
come at least spiritually into my heart;
I embrace you as if you were already there
and unite myself wholly to you,
Never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.

The choir sings the 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 Choir sings the Communion motet

Maria, das Jung-fräuelein,
ihr liebes Jesulein,
in Tempel, wie gewöhnlich war,
den Herren stellet dar,
das Opfer, wie man pflegt,
willig erlegt,
damit sie das Gesetz
ja nicht verletz.
Hilf nun, du liebster Jesu Christ
Daß wir zu jeder Frist
an dir, wie auch der Simeon,
All unser Freude han,
Und endlich sein bereit
Wenn kommt die Zeit,
Fein sanft zu schlafen ein,
Und bei dir sein.

*When to the temple Mary went,
And brought the holy child,
Him did the aged Simeon see,
As it had been revealed.
He took up Jesus in his arms
And blessing God he said:
In peace I now depart,
my Saviour having seen,
The Hope of Israel, the Light of men.
Help now thy servants, gracious Lord,
That we may ever be
As once the faithful Simeon was,
Rejoicing but in thee;
And when we must from earth departure take,
May gently fall asleep
and with thee wake.*

*Words, Peter von Hagen
Music, Johannes Eccard 1553-1611*

¶ *The Conclusion*

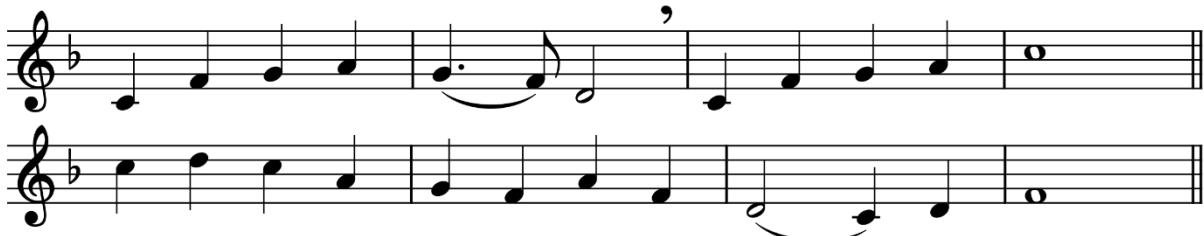
Prayer

The president says

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light,
pour into the hearts of your faithful people
the brilliance of your eternal splendour,
that we may have the darkness of our souls dispelled,
and so be counted worthy to stand before you
in that eternal city where you live and reign,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The procession moves to the West Nave, during which is sung



- 1. Faithful vigil ended,
watching, waiting cease;
Master, grant your servant
his discharge in peace.**
- 2. All the Spirit promised,
all the Father willed,
now these eyes behold it
perfectly fulfilled.**
- 3. This your great deliverance
sets your people free;
Christ their light uplifted
all the nations see.**
- 4. Christ, your people's glory!
Watching, doubting cease:
grant to us your servants
our discharge in peace.**
- 5. Glory to the Father,
Glory to the Son,
Glory to the Spirit,
God the three in one.**

*Words, Timothy Dudley-Smith 1926-2024
Tune, GLENFINLAS; Kenneth Finlay 1882-1974*

Final Responsory

The president says

Father, here we bring to an end our celebration
of the Saviour's birth.

All **Help us, in whom he has been born,
to live his life that has no end.**

Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.

All **Help us, who have received the bread of life,
to be thankful for your gift.**

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

All **Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple,
to trust in your eternal promises.**

Here we have greeted the light of the world.

All **Help us never to forsake the light of Christ.**

Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.

All **Help us, for whom Lent is near,
to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**

Here we bless one another in your name.

All **Help us, who now go in peace,
to shine with your light in the world.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

The congregation remains standing for the procession.

The organist plays

Ciacona in E minor, BuxWV 160

Dietrich Buxtehude c.1637-1707

Material in this Order of Service is taken from *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* and *Common Worship: Times and Seasons*, copyright © 2000–2006 the Archbishops' Council. The texts of the Scripture readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (Anglicized edition), copyright © 1989, 1994 the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. The words of copyright hymns and songs are reproduced under CCL 1299149. This compilation is copyright © 2025 The Chapter of Gloucester

Notices

Prayers for Peace and Justice

Tuesday 3 February, 12.00 noon, Lady Chapel and on Zoom

Twenty minutes of spoken and silent prayer for peace, justice, especially racial justice. The principal focus will be Racial Justice Sunday on 8 February. To join online, email reception@gloucestercathedral.org.uk and to submit a prayer, email clergy@gloucestercathedral.org.uk

Cathedral Community Coffee Morning

Wednesday 4 February, 10.30–11.30 a.m., Monk's Kitchen

All welcome for coffee and friendly conversation. Contact Barbara Merrick on 01452 504376 or congregation@gloucestercathedral.org.uk

Cathedral Book Club

Monday 9 February, 2.00 p.m.–3.00 p.m., Laud Room

This month we will meet for a discussion of *Jerusalem* by Simon Sebag Montefiore.

Sip and Study: Cathedral Lectio Group

Tuesday 10 February, 2.30 p.m.–3.45 p.m., Prinknash Abbey

Join our monthly gathering using Lectio Divina to reflect on Scripture. Arrive any time from 1.00 p.m. for lunch, coffee or cake. No previous experience needed. Contact Barbara Merrick on 01452 504376 or congregation@gloucestercathedral.org.uk

Lent Groups: save the dates!

The Lent Groups will run online on Tuesdays (24 February, 3, 10, 17 March) and in the Lady Chapel on Sundays (22 February, 1, 8, 15 March). Do mark the dates; further details and joining information will be published next Sunday.

Ministry of the Word and Eucharistic Ministry

We are looking to expand our team of readers, intercessors, chalice assistants and servers. If any of these ministries are of interest to you, please speak with Canon Craig or email precentor@gloucestercathedral.org.uk.

